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**ХРИСТОС  
ВОСКРЕС!**



**CHRIST  
IS RISEN!**

## Kuchma blasts prime minister, Verkhovna Rada

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Leonid Kuchma gave his state of the nation speech before a full house in the Verkhovna Rada on March 21 and came down hard on the work of his prime minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, and the legislative body before which he spoke.

President Kuchma blamed the prime minister, who was present for failing to present a reasonable and workable budget to the Verkhovna Rada. "By what were the government and Pavlo Lazarenko guided when they submitted to the Parliament an absolutely unrealistic budget for 1997?" he asked. "It has long been clear that the budget was supposed to be based on a new tax code." He said that as far back as April 1995 he had instructed the ministers to develop budgets with tax reform in mind.

"Thus, we are now faced with the continuation of one of our worst traditions," the president continued. "Again the state begins the new year without a budget, and lives in uncertain conditions and a lack of revenues for several months. We are faced with financial chaos whose consequences we will very likely be unable to eliminate until the end of the year."

## UNA executives discuss Svoboda, new headquarters

JERSEY CITY, N. J. — The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association held its regular quarterly meeting here at the fraternal organization's Home Office on March 3.

Among the topics discussed were the future of Svoboda, the Ukrainian-language daily newspaper published by the UNA, the sale of the UNA building in Jersey City and relocation of the UNA Home Office, and the status of proposed mergers with two other Ukrainian fraternal organizations.

The executive officers also created a special committee to draft a mission statement for the UNA "setting forth with specificity the role the Ukrainian National Association intends to play within the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities" (as provided in a resolution adopted at the November 1996 meeting of the UNA General Assembly).

Among the grants approved at the meeting was \$5,000 for publication of a commemorative book on the 1947 Akcja Wisla, the forcible resettlement of Ukrainians from ethnically Ukrainian lands in eastern Poland to other areas of the country. The funds will come from the Buchynsky Fund, an endowment created thanks to the bequest of a deceased member of the UNA.

The Executive Committee meeting was

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It was a speech long on criticism of economic reform shortcomings, as well as party and corporate politics, and short — very short — on foreign policy. The only mention of international affairs was a statement referring to Ukraine as being at the bottom of the list of countries in terms of per capita foreign investment. Mr. Kuchma cited a figure of \$25 (U.S.) per capita. There was not a single mention of NATO, or Russia, or the United States, or Crimea and Sevastopol for that matter.

During the nearly one-and-a-half-hour speech before a Parliament audience that included most national deputies, the Cabinet of Ministers, Supreme Court and Constitutional Court judges and foreign diplomats, the president also criticized the Cabinet of Ministers' handling of back wages and pensions owed to millions of Ukrainians. Some people haven't been paid since August of last year.

"The enormous back pay is an economic

crime ... There is only one way out of the situation: to make the government accountable. If urgent steps are not taken, I will have to force the government to step down," said Mr. Kuchma.

He called the work of the ministers "unsatisfactory." He underlined, "Let there be less promises and decisions reached, if that must be, but by all means they should be abided by." He asked that a pension reform bill be ready to be submitted to the Verkhovna Rada by July 1 of this year.

He said it was time that the people in government showed their true colors. "Opposition within the government — isn't this nonsense? Whoever does not agree with the government's direction should leave for the opposition," said President Kuchma. He also criticized that opposition. "A civilized opposition is normal and needed. But it cannot be that one side is responsible for everything and the

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## Ukraine's securities commission focuses on bolstering marketplace

by Khristina Lew

NEW YORK — As more state property moves into the hands of the Ukrainian population through privatization, efforts to develop Ukraine's nascent stock market will take on greater significance in the coming year.

To date, securities trading in the Ukrainian market has been relatively low. But with government plans to privatize Ukraine's most attractive enterprises, notably utilities, in 1997, interest in corporate securities will grow, said Vladimir Ulyanov, director of the Corporate Finance Department at Ukraine's Securities and Stock Market State Commission.

The Ukrainian commission, created by presidential decree in June 1995, has been working with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission since its inception to establish, according to Mr. Ulyanov, "a strong government agency that is capable of protecting the civility of the marketplace, openness, transparency and the rights of the investor."

Mr. Ulyanov was a member of a four-person delegation from the Securities and Stock Market State Commission that held meetings in Washington and New York at the end of February. The delegation's visit was organized by Financial Markets International Inc., a United States Agency for International Development contractor.

The Securities and Stock Market State Commission (SSMSC), like the Securities and Exchange Commission, was created to protect the interests of investors in connection with the public issuance and sale of corporate securities. It regulates licensing and control over securities traders, and registration of share issues of joint-

stock companies, including companies created in the privatization process.

In the future the SSMSC will regulate municipal bonds and futures, and has been tasked with developing a system of independent registries and controlling their operation.

The commission has a structure similar to the SEC and is divided into five departments: regulatory, corporate finance, enforcement, registration and information. It has the right to impose fines of up to \$100,000 on violators. In December 1996 the SSMSC was expanded from five commissioners to seven; it has offices in 25 Ukrainian oblasts.

There are three stock exchanges in Ukraine: the Ukrainian Stock Exchange, the Kyiv International Stock Exchange and the Donetsk Stock Exchange. Ukraine also has a foreign market exchange created with the assistance of USAID.

The SSMSC has issued over 250 licenses for company registration on the various exchanges and some 600 licenses to brokers and dealers. According to Mykola Volkov, deputy chairman of the SSMSC, there are 200 brokerage firms registered on the Ukrainian Stock Exchange, 50 each on the Kyiv International and Donetsk stock exchanges, and 80 on the foreign market exchange.

Most Ukrainian securities are traded in the over-the-counter market, however, and the Verkhovna Rada has yet to pass laws on the creation of a national depository system and investment funds.

The Ukrainian stock market is slowly evolving, and the SSMSC has been taking pointers from institutions in the

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## NEWS ANALYSIS: Ukraine may be getting serious about reforms (again)

by Markian Bilynskyj

Ukraine is facing difficult economic challenges in 1997. A worse than expected economic performance in January (GDP dropped by 8.1 percent in comparison with the same period last year), a fall in budgetary revenues, and a jump in salary arrears have been compounded by the government's inability to make headway with the 1997 budget and the tax package that have been stalled in the Verkhovna Rada.

In response to a direct hint from President Leonid Kuchma that he was dissatisfied with the work of the so-called "economic bloc" of the Cabinet of Ministers, Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko recommended – and on February 25 the president moved forward with – the dismissal of four ministers (finance, the economy, machine-building, the military-industrial complex and conversion, and statistics). President Kuchma's chief economic adviser, Valerii Lytvynskyi, explained that the government had simply failed to take advantage of the favorable conditions created for its budgetary and tax policies by last year's fiscal successes.

As yet, there is no agreement among observers over the significance of these changes. Some, for example, have argued that the appointment of the chairman of the State Property Fund (SPF), Yurii Yekhanurov, as the new minister of the economy will prove detrimental to the former body (particularly since appointing the head of the SPF is now the Rada's prerogative) even as he brings considerable experience, including a former position as deputy economics minister, to his new post.

Others, on a more positive note, see the appointment of Ihor Mytiukov to the Ministry of Finance as heralding a greater degree of cooperation between that ministry and the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).

Some people were surprised by the removal of the Minister of Statistics Oleksander Osaulenko. Several national deputies from across the political spectrum are convinced he was removed for refusing to paint a rosier economic picture. However, the fact that the ministry's database included only 9,122 out of approximately 200,000 registered state enterprises does put into question the ministry's competence, let alone credibility.

However, there does appear to be something of a consensus that Vasyl Hureiev's transfer to the Ministry of Machine-Building is rather curious given his performance in the Finance Ministry; and, most importantly, that Viktor Yuschenko, chairman of the NBU, and Viktor Pynzenyk, vice prime minister for economic affairs, have strengthened their respective positions as key financial and economic players.

Along with changes to the Cabinet of Ministers President Kuchma issued a decree "On Measures for Ensuring the Collection of Budgetary Revenues and Increasing Financial and Budgetary Discipline" and a directive "On the Unsatisfactory Implementation of Means for Combating Crime." Despite their apparent incongruity, the two measures complement one another in a very important way: they both are a defacto vote of no confidence in the government by the president and his administration.

The decree on the budget revenues represents an implicit admission by the

*Markian Bilynskyj is director of the Pylyp Orlyk Institute, an independent public policy, research and information center located in Kyiv that is supported by the Washington-based U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.*

president that the 1997 budget is unlikely to be approved by the end of the first quarter – something the Verkhovna Rada signaled in December when it passed a constitutionally required resolution to extend the 1996 budget into the first quarter of 1997.

The budget controversy in Parliament centers on the fact that passage of the kind of budget that the president, the government and international multilateral lending agencies would like to see adopted requires substantial amendments to the existing tax system.

Essentially the original 1997 budget (ironically, the first one since independence to be submitted within the stipulated time frame) was calculated on the basis of yet-to-be adopted tax legislation. Despite veiled threats that the president might try to ram the budget through the Verkhovna Rada anyway, the government eventually had to concede that the "budgetary cart" could not be put before the "horse of amended, more rational tax laws."

The basic draft tax reform legislation, upon which the 1997 budget proposal was based, was presented as a package to the Parliament. The six laws that comprise this package are at various stages of passage. However, there is one major stumbling block: the law "On the Development of Domestic Enterprise and Balancing Budgetary Income and Expenditure." If approved the implementation of this law will require the abolition or reduction of numerous subsidies and privileges that affect large sections of the population. It also requires, as the title suggests, changes to customs, tariff and state investment policies. In total, approximately 60 other laws will have to be amended for this act to be adopted in more or less the form in which it was presented to the Verkhovna Rada. With parliamentary elections coming on the horizon, national deputies of all political stripes are reluctant to deal with such a potentially sensitive electoral issue.

Clearly, there are elements within the Rada that are only too happy to delay passage of the budget in the hope that any resulting popular discontent can be turned into a working majority following the next parliamentary elections.

However, the issue is not so straightforward. Speaking at a press briefing at the end of February, Viktor Musiyaka, deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada (hardly a radical), pointed out that work on the tax package was proceeding slowly primarily because of Rada doubts over whether the government had done everything possible to increase budgetary revenues in order to narrow the projected deficit. Instead, the government had in fact taken the easy way out and simply decided to lower taxes and cut social spending, and had failed to provide accurate budget calculations based on existing legislation.

It is, of course, possible to interpret Mr. Musiyaka's explanation as simply an exercise in shifting blame. However, despite the problems the presidential administration and government have had with the Verkhovna Rada, the dismissal of the Cabinet's "economic bloc" quite clearly points to the conclusion that the executive branch is no less to blame for the state of the budgetary impasse and the general economic malaise – and knows it. Moreover, the Cabinet changes again underscore the largely false nature of the "good executive- bad legislature" dichotomy often used to try to understand the goings-on in Kyiv.

Although it deals with the current budget, the title of the president's unusually

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### NATO warships visit Odesa

ODESA – A flotilla of NATO warships arrived on March 23 for a friendly four-day visit. Seven ships docked at the Black Sea port of Odesa, where they were met by the flagship of the Ukrainian navy, the Hetman Sahaidachny. The ships were welcomed by most locals, but a small group of about 10 protesters held banners reading "NATO go home!" and "Hands off Ukraine!" The ships' captains and crews were to meet with Ukrainian navy brass, local officials and religious leaders. The ships will allow local residents to come aboard and get a closer look at a British destroyer and frigates from the United States, Greece, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey. The unofficial visit is considered a gesture of goodwill toward Ukraine, a member of the NATO Partnership for Peace program. Russia has not publicly opposed the visit, but it has spoken out vehemently against plans for a U.S.-Ukrainian exercise, Operation Sea Breeze, planned for the Black Sea this summer. The exercise will have American forces landing on the Crimean peninsula. The Kremlin is incensed about the original Sea Breeze scenario, which was to have NATO peacekeepers break up a revolt by ethnic separatists backed by a neighboring state. The thinly veiled reference to ethnic Russians chafing under Ukrainian rule in Crimea was quickly scrapped, but Moscow still sees the operation as a threat and has refused an invitation to take part. (Associated Press, Reuters)

### Masterpieces stolen from Poltava museum

KYIV – Two paintings by European masters were stolen by masked gunmen who burst into the Poltava Museum of Fine Arts on March 21. The paintings – "Still Life with Lobster" by Klari Peters, a 17th century Dutch artist, and "Fight with Turks" by Eugene Delacroix, the 19th century French painter – are estimated to be worth \$800,000. Three masked men held museum workers at gunpoint and removed the paintings during the museum's regular hours, police said. (The New York Times)

### EC and Ukraine reach steel agreement

BRUSSELS – Negotiators from the European Commission and Ukraine have reached a new steel agreement that will allow Ukraine to increase sales to the European Union of certain iron and steel products up to the year 2001. The deal is linked to the introduction of normal competitive conditions in Ukraine, notably in the areas of competition policy, state aid and environment protection. This will ensure that Ukraine can enjoy stable growth for one of its major exports to the

European Union, while gradually bringing the competitive conditions of the Ukrainian steel industry more into line with those of the European Union. The agreement will be submitted for approval to the EU Council of Ministers and the Ukrainian authorities, and should enter into force on July 1. Total EU imports of Ukrainian iron and steel products – those subject to quantitative limits and those where trade has already been liberalized – rose from 660,000 tons in 1993 to 1.6 million tons in 1995. (European Commission)

### Belarus expels U.S. diplomat

MIENSK – Serge Aleksandrov, first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Belarus, has been declared persona non grata and asked to leave the country within 24 hours for taking part in an unsanctioned opposition demonstration on March 23. The rally of more than 10,000 people was held in Yakub Kolas Square in Minsk to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Belarusian Popular Republic. Scuffles with police broke out, and several policemen were reported to have been injured while dispersing the rally with truncheons and tear gas. Some 70 demonstrators, who smashed police car windows with chunks of ice, were detained. Mr. Aleksandrov was detained for "provocative actions." An Embassy spokeswoman said that Western diplomats often watch protests from the sidelines "to observe the political situation, but not to participate." Belarusian TV claimed Mr. Aleksandrov has been spying for the CIA. Two days earlier, the U.S. had cut off its \$40 million aid to Belarus because of the country's poor human rights record. Civic Union leader Henadz Karpenka and former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Zakharenka also were taken into custody on the day of the protest. Mr. Karpenka was arrested on March 25 as he left the residence of the Czech ambassador to Belarus, ORT reported. Mr. Karpenka is to be tried on April 1 for disturbing public order by taking part in recent protest demonstrations. The day before his arrest, several parties nominated him as head of a united opposition. RFE/RL on March 25 reported that the government has secretly tried and sentenced scores of protesters. Fines are as high as \$600, and jail sentences vary from three to 15 days. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### U.S. responds to diplomat's expulsion

WASHINGTON – The U.S. State Department issued a statement condemning the expulsion of Serge Aleksandrov, first secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, after he observed clashes

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## Ukraine's court system: the Court of General Jurisdiction

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

*The Court of General Jurisdiction (General Court), at the top of which stands the Supreme Court, handles criminal, civil and administrative matters in Ukraine. It consists of more than 800 raion (city and district) courts and 27 oblast courts (which includes separate courts for Kyiv and for Sevastopol). Although Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada has passed many laws on judicial reform, few have been implemented, particularly with regard to the General Court.*

*As the American Bar Association's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative noted in 1996: "In Ukraine the judicial branch has developed more slowly than the executive and legislative branches. The primary reason for this delay has been the reluctance on the part of the government of Ukraine to supply sufficient resources for the effective operation of the judiciary."*

*The passage of the Constitution in June 1996 may finally propel reform forward. It calls for the development of a jury-based system in the General Court and for the absorption of the Arbitration Court into the General Court, which is part of the plan for streamlining the court system based on specialization and territoriality.*

*This is the third and final installment in The Weekly's series on Ukraine's court system.*

KYIV – The district court in the Starokyivskiy raion of the city of Kyiv is located off the Khreschatyk, Kyiv's main thoroughfare, in an old building badly in need of a coat of paint.

The second-floor court offices are dimly lit and overcrowded. People loiter in the hallway or sit on worn benches waiting for their cases to be heard. The small courtroom is drab: a rostrum made of nondescript wood where the judges sit, two tables with chairs for the prosecutor and defendants, and about a dozen plank benches for witnesses and

visitors. There are no visible flags, photos or national symbols.

But remodeling has finally begun. Workers slap paint onto the walls and ceiling as the work of the court continues, while people enter from outside through a rear entrance because scaffolding covers the front entrance, where the facade is undergoing a facelift.

The court system, too, is being revamped. Vasyl Bilousenko, director of the Department of Judicial Reform in the Supreme Court, says that with the adoption of the new Constitution the long-awaited restructuring of Ukraine's courts will begin – provided that money is made available.

The most dramatic and substantial change will be the development of a jury system. During the Soviet era, civil, administrative and criminal infractions were handled by a three-judge tribunal along with two people's witnesses. Today only the judges remain at the raion level, although the oblast courts still use people's witnesses.

However, the new Constitution dictates that a jury option should be made available to defendants.

"We debated the issue of a jury system for a long time," explained Mr. Bilousenko. "We even had U.S. legal experts speak with us. They told us that juries often make decisions based on emotion rather than the law. But our Constitution calls for a partial jury system, and it shall be that way."

Ukraine's General Court now will give criminals accused of major crimes the choice of a jury trial or trial by a judicial tribunal. The jury system will be modeled after the French system. A judge will preside over the trial with six jurors present. The judge and the jurors will then render judgment after discussion of the case and a simple majority vote behind closed doors. "We feel this option is simpler and more efficient," said Mr. Bilousenko.

In the future the General Court also will accept guilty pleas by the defendant. In the past, trials were conducted

even after the accused pleaded guilty, even though findings of innocence were rare, whether the defendant entered a plea or not. "Today we still go through the process," said Mr. Bilousenko, "but why should we knock down walls when the door is open?" About 60 percent of defendants in Ukraine plead guilty before the court.

However, the courts will not be allowed to accept plea bargains, as is widely done in the United States, where the defense counsel, on behalf of the defendant, can make deals to plead guilty to lesser offenses to get lenient sentences. Judges in the U.S. use the plea bargain to move cases along and keep their dockets under control. Ukrainian judges will not have that option.

With the sharp rise in crime that has come with a more open society, the court's case load will continue to increase. Today this is a major concern for those working to restructure the court system. The largest impediment, as always, is money.

The lack of money also will dictate how the streamlining of the court system will take place. Although the end result will be a more efficient judiciary, money is needed up front to consolidate the Arbitration Court into the General Court, which is mandated by the Constitution. "To do this properly we would need another 800 raion judges, 27 additional oblast judges and an additional collegium in the Supreme Court," said Mr. Bilousenko.

"Because it is cost-prohibitive with our economic situation today, the administrative system will be absorbed within the current General Court system as is. But this will cause a shortage of judges."

When the money is finally found, the Arbitration Court of Ukraine will become the Commercial Court. It will remain the court of commercial transactions with the expanded responsibility of ruling on complaints by citizens regarding improprieties by government administrative officers and bureaucrats. Appeals will be

handled by a Higher Commercial Court, with final appeals going to the newly created Commercial Collegium in the Supreme Court. The new collegium will bring the number of such bodies in the Supreme Court to four.

Today the Supreme Court consists of the civil, criminal and military collegiums. Each collegium consists of Supreme Court judges who specialize in that area of the law. The civil collegium has 30 members, the criminal 43 and the military 10 (currently there are some vacant positions). In all, the Supreme Court consists of 85 judges, all of whom are members of the Supreme Court Plenary Assembly.

The Plenary Assembly is the highest judicial ruling body in the land on civil, criminal and military law. It reviews only those cases handed up from the collegium, and decisions are made by a majority vote after debate by the full body. Cases that are to be handled by the Plenary Assembly are first re-investigated and considered by two or three judges assigned to investigate the matter by the chairman. Collegiums receive cases from the oblast courts after recommendation for review by either the Procurator General's Office or the chairman of the Supreme Court.

The court that handles the brunt of civil and criminal complaints is the raion court. Raion courts are found in all the administrative centers of Ukraine. Judges are responsible for their own dockets, which are assigned by a geographic division of the raion among the judges. Judges hear civil, administrative and most criminal cases.

A criminal matter comes before a judge after it has been investigated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Procurator General's Office. A representative of the Procurator's Office must be present at a trial. The defendant has the option of having defense counsel, which occurs in about half the cases.

There are cases when defense coun-

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## Republican Christian Party formed by members ousted from the URP

by Irene Jarosewich

JERSEY CITY, N.J. – Mykhailo Horyn, Mykola Porovskiy and Mykola Horbal, all of whom had recently been ousted from the Ukrainian Republican Party, announced on March 25 in Kyiv the formation of a new political party, the Republican Christian Party (RCP), according to Respublika news agency. The mission of the RCP is to carry on in the spirit of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and original Ukrainian Republican Party, and its founding congress will take place on May 1.

The Ukrainian Republican Party (URP), one of the first non-Communist parties to be established in Ukraine during Mykhail Gorbachev's era of glasnost, underwent a radical and fundamental split in its ranks during the past few weeks.

According to URP-*Inform*, the organization's information bulletin, on March 15 five of the original founders of the Ukrainian Republican Party, Mykhailo Horyn, URP's honorary chairman, as well as National Deputies Bohdan Horyn, Oles Shevchenko, Mr. Horbal and Mr. Porovskiy, were ousted from the party's roster of members by the current party leadership, headed by Bohdan Yaroshynskiy, at a executive council meeting at the Teacher's

Building in Kyiv.

In a unanimous decision, the executive council, which acts with full administrative and policy authority between the party's congresses, voted to dismiss the above five, as well as 26 other regional party leaders for "destructive actions, which are geared towards de-stabilizing the situation within the party, and for undermining the image of the URP," reported Respublika.

The ouster occurred after Mykhailo Horyn, Mr. Horbal and Mr. Porovskiy walked out of the executive council meeting as a sign of protest against the direction in which the party is heading under the current leadership, which was elected last year.

Those dismissed from the party have recently accused, on several different occasions, the current leadership of turning towards the extreme political right and instigating conflicts among national-democratic organizations.

According to reports from UNIAN, in a press conference on March 7, Mykhailo Horyn stated that the new leadership of the URP was attempting to "reorient the party from a centrist [organization] into an ultra-nationalist and totalitarian [organization]," and accused the current party chairman, Mr. Yaroshynskiy, of "transforming the internal party democracy into a party of

one-person authoritarian rule."

Mr. Horyn had been the chairman of the URP for several years, and, since Ukraine's independence, had defined the party's role as "nation-building" and increasing Ukrainian consciousness within the power structures of the new state. He advocated working within the system, in a coalition with other centrist, national-democratic parties and organizations.

A conflict had been developing within the URP as the leadership of the party was transferred from the founders of the URP to generally younger members who articulated a pronounced preference for alignments with political organizations that represent the extreme political right.

The URP was established in April 1990, and included among its founders many members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, an activist, human-rights watch organization that had been established in 1976. Well-known former political prisoners such as Stepan Khmara, Levko Lukianenko, Mykhailo Horyn, Mr. Horbal, Levko Horokhivsky and Mr. Shevchenko spent decades in the Soviet gulag as punishment for protesting Soviet totalitarian rule.

The URP experienced its first split in 1992, when Mr. Khmara established a separate faction, and then split from the

URP to form the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party.

In response to questions about the most recent split and the dismissal of well-known URP leaders, Mr. Yaroshynskiy stated at a press conference on March 19 that the political strategy proposed by the ousted members meant that the URP would have remained a minor "pocket change" party. According to Respublika, he added that "the talents of yesterday's destroyers of the (Soviet) empire are no longer needed. Now we need to have other, more constructive talents."

Mr. Yaroshynskiy continued that the present leadership of Ukraine, including President Kuchma, "cannot solve the many issues of military, external and internal affairs" that confront Ukraine, therefore the present position of the URP is to be in "strident opposition" to President Kuchma and his administration.

Mr. Yaroshynskiy spoke in admiration of the recent victory of Slava Stetsko, the head of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, in a parliamentary by-election and confirmed that the Ukrainian Republican Party would now work in a political coalition with Ms. Stetsko and other organizations in the recently formed political bloc, the National Front.

## \$1.2 M grant supports economics program at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

WASHINGTON – The Economics Education and Research Consortium (EERC) received a \$1.2 million contribution from the Starr Foundation in support of a landmark educational program in Ukraine, the EERC's master of arts program in economics at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (UKMA).

This donation, announced on March 15 by EERC Chairman and Eurasia Foundation President Thomas R. Pickering, makes the Starr Foundation the newest member in a multi-donor consortium, including the World Bank, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Institute/Soros Foundations, The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Eurasia Foundation.

Ambassador Pickering, who took over as the Eurasia Foundation's president and the consortium's chairman in December 1996 after a three-and-a-half year tour as U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, expressed thanks John Roberts, to Starr Foundation board member and vice-chairman of the American Insurance Group (AIG), and to Starr Foundation President T.C. Hsu, for their generosity and vision for Ukraine. "Your contribution reaffirms the consortium's deeply held belief that it is meeting a critical need in independent Ukraine," said Ambassador Pickering.

"A key long-term element of the economic recovery of the new independent states lies in strengthening the tech-

nical knowledge base of those professionals who, entering both government and the private sector, will ultimately be dealing with international trade and domestic economic policy issues. When an astute charitable organization such as the Starr Foundation deems the EERC effort worthy of this large-scale contribution, it is a welcome vote of confidence in the program. We are deeply grateful and pleased to welcome them to our collective consortium effort," Ambassador Pickering added.

Dr. Robert Campbell, EERC Ukraine Program director, upon learning of the news in Kyiv, said, "This gift is an important recognition and endorsement of the role the EERC program will play in creating a new generation of economists and policy-makers in Ukraine."

The EERC effort was launched in 1995 to strengthen economics education and research capabilities in the new independent states of the former Soviet Union, and will initially focus on Russia and Ukraine.

The consortium's founders recognized that a key to successful economic reform in the NIS is greater knowledge and understanding of market-based economic systems, particularly at the policy-making level. The EERC addresses this need by building sustainable in-country institutions that provide reform of education and policy-related resources over the longer term.

EERC's master of arts program in economics at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy will promote standards of excellence in the discipline of economics, and has established an international-calibre graduate teaching program in Kyiv. The two-year master's level curriculum prepares its graduates to work effectively as economists in policy-making positions in Ukraine, or to pursue further studies abroad, enabling them to further the economics discipline in Ukraine through teaching and research.

The Eurasia Foundation was established in 1993 with a major grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, and with backing from the Congress and the executive branch. The foundation works to promote economic reform and democracy in the NIS and has awarded more than 1,700 grants to support projects at the grassroots level in the 12 NIS countries. Grants support management and economic training, local government reform, development of civic organizations and free access to information through a free press and the Internet.

Mr. Kyzuk said the SSMSC needs to focus specifically on developing and implementing an efficient system of settlement and clearance, and cautioned that the achievement of a flourishing marketplace is a timely and lengthy process.

The Ukrainian commissioners also had meetings with Deutschebank, AIG and the Bank of New York, the only depository bank for Russia and Eastern Europe. That meeting resulted in a March 14 seminar in Kyiv on "Accessing Global Equity with Depository Receipts" conducted by Thomas Sanford, Bank of New York vice-president, and Tetiana Golubenko-Sierant, assistant treasurer.

Foreign investors are beginning to take notice of the Ukrainian market. The Ukrainian commissioners said 28 foreign offices operate in Kyiv, and counted among Ukraine's foreign investors Credit Suisse First Boston and Merrill Lynch.

## Kuchma blasts...

(Continued from page 1)

opposition for nothing."

He emphasized that the political ambitions of individuals or corporate interests would be frustrated by the legal norms that have been established in the country.

The oil and gas industry, to which Prime Minister Lazarenko is closely tied, was not spared the president's venom. Neither were the sugar and alcohol industries. He said that these industries pay barely a smidgen of their fair share of the tax burden, using legal and illegal loopholes. "If they paid their amount we could pay wages and pensions. You do not think that the government knows or sees this. It knows it, and it sees it," said Mr. Kuchma.

He said Ukrgazprom, the energy conglomerate, alone owes \$99.6 million in taxes. He said the government is owed some 3 billion hryv from dividends on its share of ownership of semi-privatized firms such as AvtoZAZ, the Zaporizhian auto-builder.

He blasted the Verkhovna Rada equally for doing all in its power to upset the budgetary process and said he had not eliminated the option of dismissing the legislative body if it eventually proved unable to pass a 1997 budget. "The price of such political games is extremely high," the president underscored. He said he would not be cornered into putting a budget into place by presidential decree. "They will not be able to instigate me into resorting to an unconstitutional action. Everyone is responsible for fulfilling his duties and will remain accountable for failure to do so. The Constitution will put everything into its rightful place."

In the economic sphere, President Kuchma said 1996 was not an outright economic success in terms of reforms, but neither was it a total failure. He cited the almost completed process of privatization, monetary stabilization and the introduction of the hryvnia. He said the immediate needs in 1997 are a new tax system that will bring firms out of the gray market and a balanced budget.

He said that if reforms were properly completed, economic growth could hit 4.8 percent in 1998.

The president also called land reform an essential ingredient for attracting foreign investment. "I understand the complexities involved here. But we must allow foreign investors to purchase the capital and the land," he emphasized, to jeers from some deputies.

He also blamed the Verkhovna Rada deputies for placing party politics over state politics and put the blame for the failure of economic reform thus far at their feet. He said most of the 23 bills he vetoed last year had played only to individual party or corporate interests.

The reactions from the national deputies to President Kuchma's speech were predictable and often severe. Viktor Suslov, the chairman of the Finance and Banking Committee, said that as far he was concerned Mr. Lazarenko and the current Cabinet of Ministers are through.

"I, personally, have drawn the conclusion that it is inevitable this government will be fired," Mr. Suslov told a group of reporters outside the Parliament chambers after the Friday morning speech. "It seems to me that contradictions inside the executive branch and between the president and the prime minister have been exacerbated to the utmost."

Leonid Kravchuk, the national deputy and former president, said Mr. Kuchma's threat to fire the Cabinet is the correct and moral thing to do should wage and pension arrears not be settled soon.

However, an arch-rival of the president, Natalia Vitrenko of the Progressive Socialist Party, said she did not foresee the sacking of Prime Minister Lazarenko. She said it was simply the executive branch "letting off steam."

Her partner in the Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Marchenko, said the text of the speech supports his belief that Mr. Kuchma is a puppet of the International Monetary Fund. "He does not pursue an independent policy in the best interests of an independent state," he said.

The president's speech was delivered as part of his responsibility as delineated within the Constitution to annually inform the Verkhovna Rada and the people of Ukraine of the status of the government. The full text of the report runs to more than 100 pages. It was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada along with a more than 500-page text on the status of Ukraine's economy prepared by Mr. Lazarenko.

## President Kuchma declares 1996 income of \$7,300

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has declared a 1996 income equivalent to just over \$600 a month, Interfax-Ukraine reported on March 15. Mr. Kuchma sent a declaration to tax authorities that stated he earned 13,355 hryvni (\$7,300 U.S. at current exchange rates) last year.

He also declared a dacha, or country home, worth \$8,000 near his eastern industrial hometown of Dnipropetrovsk. The average salary in Ukraine is about \$80 to \$90 per month. The president "had no other income except that connected to carrying out his main duties. He has no incomes linked to business activities or from abroad," the agency said.

## Ukraine's securities...

(Continued from page 1)

United States to improve its function.

During their February visit, Messrs. Volkov and Ulyanov, and Commissioners Serhii Biriuk and Aleksei Romashko, met with SEC and NASDAQ officials in Washington, and participated in a one-day program at the New York Stock Exchange, the world's largest.

The NYSE program, organized for the Ukrainian commissioners in part by Andrew Kyzuk, managing director of International Listings at the New York Stock Exchange, provided instruction in floor operations, market surveillance, settlement and clearance, and listing and trading requirements. The program culminated with a visit to the floor, where the Ukrainian commissioners spoke with traders.



A delegation from the Securities and Stock Market State Commission visits the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York on February 28: (from left) Vladimir Ulyanov, director of the Corporate Finance Department, Commissioner Serhii Biriuk, Deputy Chairman Mykola Volkov and Commissioner Aleksei Romashko.

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA executives...

(Continued from page 1)

chaired by Ulana Diachuk, UNA president, and attended by Vice-President Nestor Olesnycky, Director for Canada Peter Savaryn, Vice-Presidentess Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, Secretary Martha Lysko and Treasurer Alexander Blahitka. Also present as an observer was Stefan Hawrysz, chairman of the UNA Auditing Committee, as well as the editors-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, who prepare reports on the proceedings for their respective newspapers.

First on the agenda were officers' reports, and the first to speak was Mr. Blahitka.

### Treasurer's report

Mr. Blahitka began his report by noting that the UNA's annual statement for 1996 had just been delivered from the printer on February 28. He gave a brief outline of its contents.

The UNA's ledger assets amount to \$67,768,351 – a decline of \$7,766,879 from a year earlier. This is a result of a letter received from the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance in October 1996 (which was discussed at the previous Executive Committee meeting). The insurance department threatened to non-admit the entire amount of the UNA's \$13 million loan to the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. (UNURC) due to investment limits.

The UNA disagreed with that position and, after consultation with its actuary and outside accountants, proceeded to reduce the amount of the loan from its ledger assets by the exact amount of the surplus set aside due to valuation of the building corporation. This accounting transaction resulted in a decrease of ledger assets and an equal decrease in liabilities for the deficit net worth of the UNURC. Thus, Mr. Blahitka explained, the UNA's surplus was reduced only by approximately \$560,000, which is the amount over that allowable under the insurance department's investment regulations. The insurance department has not responded to the UNA's repeated requests for a meeting to iron out differences.

Next the treasurer looked at operation results, which showed a net income from all of the UNA's insurance business of \$989,322. This compares with last year's net of \$1,246,711 from the insurance business. The resulting \$257,389 decrease in net income is due to the drastic decrease in annuity sales from \$1,628,739 last year to \$490,084 this year. A good sign is that the collection of dues increased by \$713,667. However, this increase was basically brought about by the Additional Insurance Program initiated by Secretary Lysko.

Mr. Blahitka continued by pointing out that the UNA made progress in reducing the losses incurred by its fraternal operations: 1996 showed a net loss of \$1,512,010, which represents a decrease of \$179,441 from 1995 when the loss was \$1,691,4510. The UNA's subsidy to

its official publications decreased by \$179,512. Expenses of Soyuzivka were reduced by \$196,004 from a year earlier, and the closing of the Washington Office saved \$147,913, he added.

Earned receipts from Soyuzivka increased by approximately \$29,000. Even though UNA publications' income increased by \$191,116, the resulting profit on an accrual basis was only \$24,325. This compares favorably with last year's loss of \$106,391, Mr. Blahitka underlined, marking an improvement of approximately \$130,000.

The preponderance of good news regarding operations does not compensate, however, for the continued loss of surplus in the total of \$2,134,255, the treasurer continued. Of course, there are acceptable reasons for the decrease in surplus, for example, the net realized capital loss of \$1,465,504 comes from transferring Canadian funds to the U.S. and the resulting loss on the exchange rate. The UNA has received advice to slowly start transferring Canadian funds and bank the losses, since they go against surplus anyway as unrealized capital losses. Another \$1,142,923 charge against surplus was the result of operations of the building corporation, Mr. Blahitka noted, adding that this is another reminder that the sale of the UNA's headquarters building is necessary.

Regarding the sale of the UNA building located at 30 Montgomery St. in Jersey City, Mr. Blahitka said the UNA's real estate agent, Cushman & Wakefield, printed a marketing book at the end of January. The UNA has since received about 10 purchase offers, ranging from \$16.5 million to \$19 million, which is very encouraging. The UNA anticipates more offers soon. Upon receiving what is considered a serious offer, the executives shall inform the special committee formed by the General Assembly to review the offer.

The UNA's attempt to locate a new building focused on a few buildings in Morris County, N.J.; however, the UNA is unable to purchase a new building prior to selling the one it now occupies. Mr. Blahitka added that the UNA should investigate some type of lease with an option to buy (with regard to its new headquarters) in order to lease the space it now occupies at 30 Montgomery St., thus increasing the rent roll and giving more value to the property. It also would be wise to not delay obtaining a new building, since the market is extremely hot right now and prices of buildings are increasing almost weekly, he added.

The UNA treasurer then reported on the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp., noting that there was an increase in assets of \$294,678 as a result of tenant build-outs that are capitalized. Rental income received was reduced by \$73,000, or 2 percent. In operating expenses there was a larger decrease in commissions paid to real estate brokers due mainly to the extension of leases or leasing additional space to current tenants. Heating and air-conditioning maintenance doubled for last year, Mr. Blahitka reported, explaining that, as the building ages, more problems occur.

### Report of UNA secretary

Mrs. Lysko reported that the UNA closed 1996 with a total membership of 59,083 members, as compared to 61,126 in 1995. This downward spiral has been seen since 1970, when UNA membership reached its zenith at 89,107 members. Every year since 1970, she explained, the UNA has consistently lost members, or rather failed to replace the deaths, cash surrenders and endowments that occur annually. In terms of percentage, the loss in 1996 was smaller than in previous years, she added.

At year's end, the UNA had 54,369 members in the U.S. for a total amount of insurance of \$142,749,954; in Canada there are 4,714 members insured for the amount of \$31,163,263.

In February, Mrs. Lysko said the UNA had reported all data regarding membership, insurance amounts and types of insurance to the various state insurance departments as required by law. As of December 31, 1996, the UNA had 8,795 juvenile members; 19,838 adult members; 4,739 with accidental death and dismemberment policies; plus 25,711 juveniles and adults with paid-up policies – a total of 59,083.

The Universal Life policy developed in 1991 is increasing in volume: 321 policies for \$13,385,842 have been sold. The most popular policy in the adult department remains the P-20, while endowment policies remain the product of choice for children. Mrs. Lysko said that in December the UNA concluded the Additional Insurance Program started in September of 1995. The UNA gained 2,290 active members and \$604,500 of new premiums through the program.

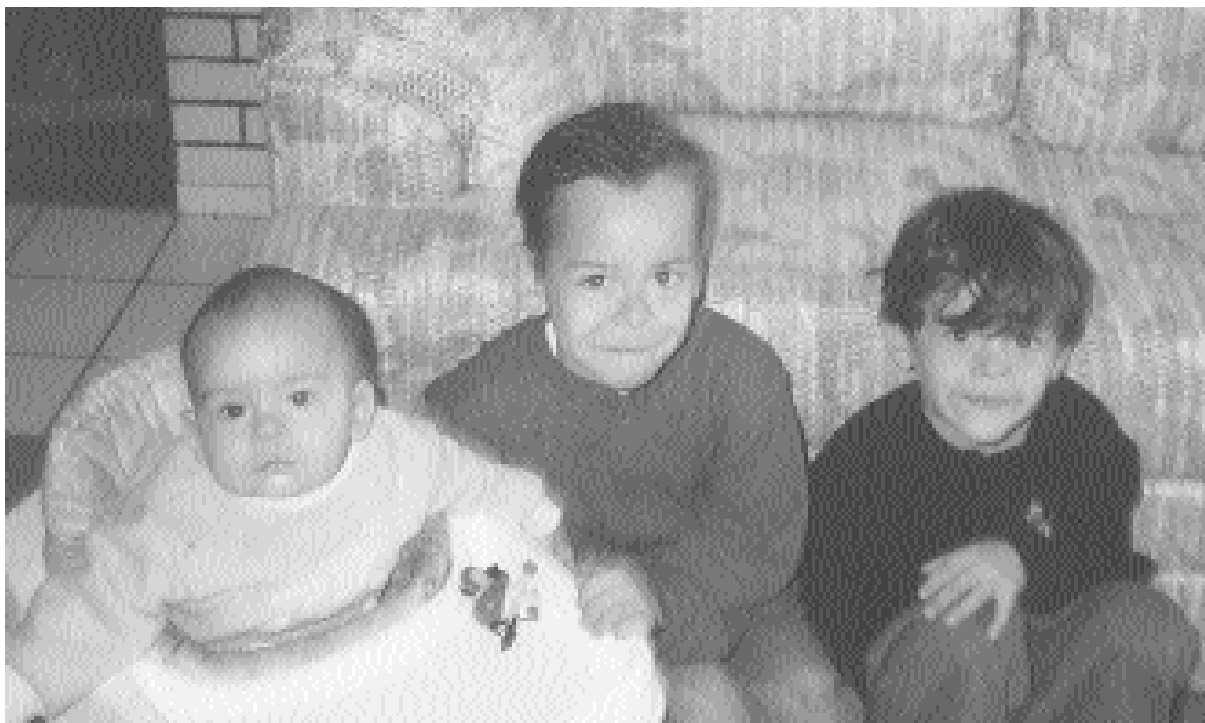
The secretary continued by reporting that the UNA has tried many ways to increase membership: it hired regional organizers, created an executive position and now is trying to recruit a professional sales force. None of these alone are sufficient to reverse these losses, and the UNA still must rely on the strong cooperation of branch secretaries, Mrs. Lysko explained.

Unfortunately, a record number of experienced older secretaries are retiring due to age or disability; each month there are a few who pass away. At the same time, she continued, it is difficult to recruit new people. Mrs. Lysko added that the UNA must learn to use its two newspapers more effectively to talk about itself and to encourage new people to join its ranks.

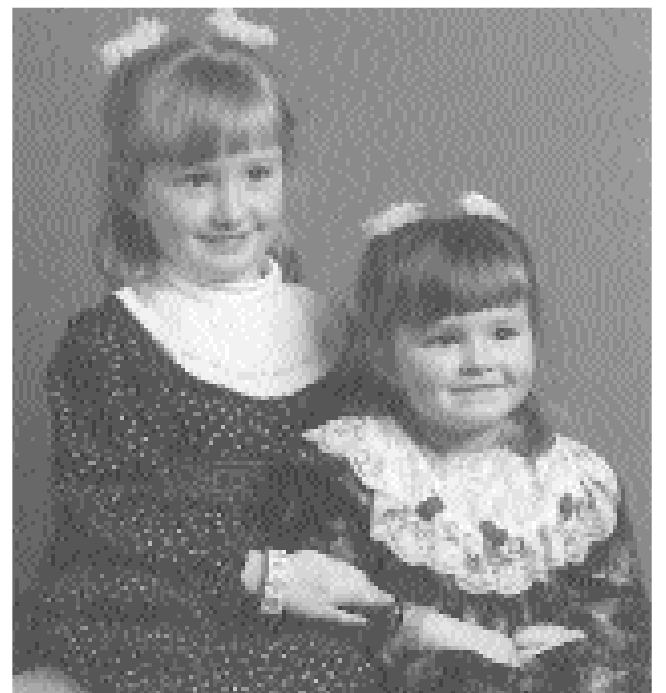
Mrs. Lysko also said that she had started two new programs in January that are now in the process of development. One of these is a new insurance program for Ukrainian parochial schools which works through their parent clubs. Thus far this approach has been tried with St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J. Another program being developed is selling term insurance to members of Ukrainian credit unions. This program would be offered to those who recently purchased a home and therefore have the greatest need for life

(Continued on page 12)

## Young UNA ers



Nicholas Alexander, Michael Anthony and Joshua Andrew Sandoval, children of Jorge and Laura Leigh Sandoval, are new members of UNA Branch 292 in Fontana, Calif. The three brothers were enrolled by their great-grandparents Zinovia and Michael Ogrodnik.



Larysa and Tamara Caris, children of Marta and John Caris, are new members of UNA Branch 434 in Montreal. They were enrolled by their grandfather Dmytro Myron Plawiuk.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### A community celebration...

Apart from the religious meaning of Easter, there is another significant aspect of this holy day. It is a time for our families and our communities to come together: in prayer before and during Easter, on Holy Saturday for the communal blessing of our Easter baskets filled with traditional foods, and on Easter Sunday for our family meals of "sviachene" (the blessed Easter food). The "sviachene" ritual has been transformed also into a community-wide feast, as our parishes and various organizations hold such Eastertime gatherings for all of their members.

Easter is indeed a feast of great joy that unites the entire community in celebration; in Ukraine the celebrations continued into Monday and Tuesday ("Svitlyi Ponedilok" and "Svitlyi Vivtorok" — Bright Monday and Tuesday). It is a time to cherish not only our family and friends, but our community as well. It is a good time, too, to reflect on the community's value and ponder its future.

In doing so, perhaps we should begin with the simplest of questions: What does "community" mean to you? What is it about our community that you value most? And how is that community bound together? What are the ingredients of the "glue" that keeps us together, that makes us want to be a part of the whole?

What have you done lately for our community? Have you contributed to its activity, or have you been content to let others do the work — from which you derive benefit? How many times have you complained about our community, yet done nothing yourself to improve the situation? Finally, there is another set of questions: Are we fair-weather friends of our community, joining in the fun, but not the work? Are we the type of Ukrainian who takes part in community events only during a special event, a holiday or a holy day? (As one parish priest in New Jersey recently noted upon seeing a church overflowing with people on Palm Sunday [known in Ukrainian as Kvitna, or Verbna, Nedilia]: "I would like to have Kvitna Nedilia once a month!") Herein lies a danger: that someday, sooner than you would expect, that special event or holiday will not be celebrated by our community — because it will have withered away due to lack of involvement. And then who will you blame?

Perhaps these thoughts are too somber for some on this joyous Easter holiday. But, dear readers, as you enjoy the company of your fellow Ukrainians, consider this: What would it be like without that community? Perhaps then the words above will be seen as sobering, and necessary, introspection. We have so much to lose ...

If only we could take a branch of the verba (pussy willow) and do to our community as we do to each other on Verbna Nedilia: tap gently and say the words "Be as tall as the willow, as healthy as the water, and as rich as the earth" — thus bidding our community hardiness, health and wealth. If only it were that simple.

April  
5  
1847

### Turning the pages back...

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's arrest for writing revolutionary anti-imperial verse.

After the national bard's freedom was bought by a group of friends in April 1838, he continued to live in St. Petersburg, where his landowner Pavel Engelhardt had brought him. In the 1840s, Shevchenko traveled extensively. Most importantly, he returned to Ukraine on a number of occasions, and the ravaged state of his homeland made a profound impact on him.

After graduating from the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg in 1845, Shevchenko joined the Kyiv Archeographic Commission and conducted expeditions during which he sketched historical and architectural ruins and monuments, and collected folklorica and other ethnographic materials. He also met prominent Ukrainian intellectuals, including the writer and scholar Panteleimon Kulish, the historian and folklorist Mykhailo Maksymovych, and the writer and critic Mykola Kostomarov.

Shevchenko also wrote some of his most viciously satirical and politically subversive poems, including "Son" (The Dream), "Velykyi Liokh" (The Great Vault) and "Kavkaz" (Caucasus).

In November 1846 a student, Oleksii Petrov, eavesdropped on the poet Mykola Hulak, a member of the Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, and decided to insinuate himself into his company. Hulak read Petrov some of Shevchenko's poetry, which had begun to circulate among Ukrainian activists. Petrov sent a letter to the tsarist police denouncing the brotherhood as a secret political society and Shevchenko's works as "clearly expressing illegal sentiments," adding that the poet "vehemently expresses his hatred for the imperial family" and "incites Ukrainians to an uprising."

In mid-March 1847 Aleksei Orlov, chief of the Third Section of His Majesty's Own Chancery (which Tsar Nikolai I established as his secret police), ordered the arrest of Hulak and a search for those mentioned in Petrov's denunciation and in Hulak's correspondence. On March 26 Kostomarov's apartment in Kyiv was searched and fragments of the "Great Vault" and a full text of "The Dream" were found. On April 3 gendarmes in Warsaw took an entire booklet of Shevchenko's poems from brotherhood member Vasyl Bilozersky.

From late January to early March, Shevchenko was traveling through the Chernihiv region, and just before Easter (which fell on March 23 that year) he stopped at an estate near Sedniv to spend time with the Lyzohub family, before continuing on to Kyiv where he was to be best man at Kostomarov's wedding.

Arriving at the railway station in Brovary with baggage containing six portfolios of sketches, many letters, poems and other papers, he changed into formal dress, then boarded a ferry to cross the Dnipro River to the Ukrainian capital. When the ferry reached the other side, the police were waiting for him. It was April 5, 1847.

In the arrest report, Kyiv's Governor Ivan Funduklei wrote: "Among the papers a book of [Shevchenko's] poems have been found, some of them rebellious and criminal."

Source: Pavlo Zaitsev, "Taras Shevchenko: A Life," edited and translated by G.S.N. Luckyj (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988); "Shevchenko, Taras," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 4 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

## EASTER PASTORAL LETTER

### Christ is "our Resurrection and Life"

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious and Our God-Loving Faithful: Peace in the Lord and our archiepiscopal blessing!

Christ is Risen!

St. John the Evangelist affirms that when our Lord Jesus Christ came to Bethany, to raise from the dead his dear friend Lazarus, the older sister of Lazarus, Martha, tearfully set out to meet him, lamenting, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus comforted her with the words, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" And Martha replied, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One who is coming into the world" (John 11:21-27).

We too believe, that Christ, our Divine Savior, is "our Resurrection and Life," for in confirmation of this truth, He "rose from the dead, conquered death by death and granted life to those in the tombs." Christ's Resurrection from the dead, therefore, is a guarantee of our resurrection, and thus we "look for the resurrection from the dead, and the life of the world to come" (Nicean Creed). The holy apostle Paul assures us, "We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus" (2 Cor. 4:14).

The Resurrection of Christ, therefore, is the basis of our faith in eternal life, for "if Christ has not been raised, our faith is vain, we are still in our sins" (1 Cor. 15:17). The apostle has no doubt whatsoever that Christ "is risen indeed" (1 Cor. 15:20), and as proof cites a long list of trustworthy persons who were eyewitnesses of his glorious Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-9). The holy apostle Peter, consequently, in his first sermon, proclaimed the Resurrection of Christ in these words, "God raised up Jesus — we are all witnesses of that" (Acts 2:32).

This is confirmed by the other apostles as well, also eyewitnesses to the presence of the risen Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 1:22), who ate with him, touched him and examined his wounds. Sacred Scripture confirms for us that "they gave testimony to the risen Lord with great power" (Acts 4:33), and afterwards, did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives for Christ.

This great feast of the Resurrection of Christ, beloved in the Lord, provides the occasion, through this Easter pastoral letter, to encourage you to deepen and revitalize your holy faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who "having risen from the dead, will never die, for death no longer has power over Him" (Rom. 6:9). We are all aware that as Christians we are to live a life "of faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself up for us" (Gal. 2:20). It is only in this manner, in virtue of our faith, "being rooted in Christ Jesus" (Col. 2:7), that we can expect in due time a resurrection to eternal life. Therefore, we are to "celebrate this Pascha with faith" (Heb. 11:28).

The observance of the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ provides us with the special motivation to deepen and renew our faith, for we are rapidly approaching the second millennium of the Incarnation of the Son of God. We recite these words in the Creed, "For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven ... and became man." To prepare us for this unprecedented celebration, our holy father, John Paul II, has inaugurated

a three-year period of spiritual preparation. The holy father has designated this year of 1997 as a time of strengthening our faith and knowing our Lord Jesus Christ more closely, who remains "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

The first step, to deepen our faith and come to a better knowledge of Christ, is to achieve a better appreciation of the life and teaching of our Divine Savior, so that "Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Eph. 3:17). This can be achieved by reading Sacred Scripture regularly, especially the New Testament. We should study the life of Christ and of His saints, and review the catechism of the Catholic Church, inspired by the Second Vatican Council. There, we shall find in its entirety and fullness the teaching of the Holy Church on the faith and morality. Then, having a fundamental knowledge about Christ and imbued with his teaching, our Lord will become the center of our lives, we will mature into true Christians for then we shall direct our lives according to the teaching of our faith, revealed to us by Christ.

We shall not gain salvation merely through a nominal acknowledgment of our faith. We shall gain salvation by living according to the norms of this faith, fulfilling the will of God in our daily lives. Our Lord reminds us, "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Mt. 7:21). Our faith must inspire us to action, for this faith is thereby "perfected by deeds" and without deeds "our faith is dead" (James 2:26). A living faith also directs us to prayer, through which God's grace comes to us in abundance.

As we meditate on the mystery of the Son of God becoming man, we cannot but remember the Blessed Mother of God, Ever Virgin Mary, in whom "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (John 1:14). She became the Mother of our Divine Savior because she "believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Luke 1:45). In this manner, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as St. Irenaeus (+203) observes, "through her faith she cooperated in the salvation of mankind" (Against heretics, III, 22). Offering herself in service to the Son of God, the Blessed Virgin not only "heard the world of God, but faithfully observed it" (Luke 11:28). Thus she became the ideal exemplar of a living "faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6). The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council did not hesitate to affirm that by knowing the Blessed Virgin Mary and venerating her, "her Son is rightly known, loved and glorified, and all his commands observed" (Dogm. Constitution on the Church, 66).

On this Feast of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, beloved in the Lord, may the Risen Savior fill our hearts with happiness and blessings, and guide us in a spiritual renewal and an increase in faith, which will assure our salvation and resurrection into life eternal.

Christ is Risen! — He is risen indeed!

† Stephen — Metropolitan  
† Walter — Auxiliary Bishop

Given in Philadelphia at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on this the third Sunday of the Great Fast, the 2nd day of March in the year of the Lord 1997.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let's support our shrine in D.C.

Dear Editor:

The former ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Tanzania and Norway, Thomas Byrn, and his wife, Margaret, attended an English-language divine liturgy at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington on December 15, 1996. "I am leaving soon for Ukraine on a humanitarian mission, and I would like to learn more about the Ukrainian Catholic rite," explained the former ambassador.

It was a great honor to welcome such guests to our shrine. Aristida Staruch met them at the door, introduced them to some parishioners and escorted them into the hall for the liturgy.

During the liturgy the Rev. Donald Latrick welcomed the distinguished guests, and afterwards the former ambassador and his wife joined the parishioners for coffee and some friendly conversation.

Yes, you read it correctly, the liturgy was celebrated in the hall, because the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family is not completed yet.

Our trustee Walter Keyes and his wife, Linda, accompanied the ambassador upstairs, but the upper church stood empty and desolate. It did not reflect the rich heritage of the Ukrainian Eastern rite, because there aren't enough funds to complete it.

How proud we could have been if the ambassador and his wife could have really seen the richness of our Ukrainian rite, with all its icons and Eastern spirituality. But for the time being, we have to do with what we can.

Many hundreds and thousands of Ukrainians have already contributed to the erection of this symbol of Ukrainian Christianity in the capital of the United States where many dignitaries, Ukrainian and foreign, come more often now to visit since Ukraine has become a free nation.

If you have not contributed to Campaign 2000 to help finish the shrine, please do. The campaign is in its third year of a five-year plan. We are all very proud of our heritage, let's help show it off in all its beauty.

**Theophil Staruch**  
Washington

*The writer is a deacon at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington.*



In front of the National Shrine (from left) are: Linda and Walter Keyes, Ambassador Thomas Byrn and his wife, Margaret, and Aristida Staruch.

### Canadian Ps&Bs deserve recognition

Dear Editor:

I welcome the continuing coverage by The Ukrainian Weekly of significant events that pertain to Ukraine. The excellent article of February 9, headlined "Investment forum explores Ukrainian market," is an excellent example of the kind of event I am referring to.

The 1989 Canadian Trade Mission was organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation. The president of the federation at that time was Dr. Peter Zakarow, a dentist and community leader from Oshawa, Ontario. This organization even provided the initial \$2,000 to help ensure the success of the historic inaugural Canadian trade mission to Kyiv. Bohdan Onyschuk served as the chair of the organizing committee of this important business mission/conference.

Keep up the good work.

**Mykhailo Wawryshyn**  
Toronto

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## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Ethnic massacre of '88 still haunts GOP

Regardless of what one believes about President Bill Clinton, there's no denying he's a superb campaigner. That's why he won the ethnic vote in 1992 and again in 1996. While Bob Dole's people didn't get around to appointing an ethnic campaign chairman until October 1996, President Clinton had his ethnic team in place and rolling by the end of 1995.

What ever happened to the GOP ethnic lock of the 1980s? I believe it started to unravel during the 1988 Bush/Dukakis campaign when eight ethnic activists (including two Ukrainians) were dumped from the Bush election team for what Bush people themselves called "unsubstantiated allegations." In my column of October 16, 1988, I called the development "an abomination."

The debacle began in July 1988, when GOP candidate George Bush attended a dinner sponsored by the Captive Nations Committee of Detroit and the American Friends of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations at the Ukrainian community center in Warren, Mich. In his introduction of Mr. Bush, Bohdan Fedorak, a Bush campaign activist appointed by Ukrainian campaign chairman Taras Szmagala, stated: "It is important that the United States stand firm and not allow [the Soviet Union] to influence and defame our communities, achievements and the heroic struggle for national independence which many of our people have fought for. Specifically, the Justice Department Office of Special Investigations and their collaboration with the Soviet authorities, and deportation of people to the Soviet Union are two issues which we strongly oppose."

That statement helped convince Bush campaign strategists that Mr. Fedorak should resign from the campaign along with seven others, including then-UCCA President Ignatius Bilinsky. All had been active in the National Republican Heritage Groups Council (NRHGC), for years an effective grassroots arm of the Republican National Committee (RNC).

The GOP response was in part the result of years of defamatory books and articles by such Ukrainophobes as Allan A. Ryan, author of the 1984 book "Quiet Neighbors," Charles Higham, author of "American Swastika," Scott and John Lee Anderson, authors of "Inside the League," and Charles Simpson, author of "Blowback." A series of articles in The Village Voice in 1985-1986 alleging Nazi collaboration by Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists leaders Jaroslav Stetsko and Mykola Lebed contributed to the anti-Ukrainian hysteria of the time.

The definitive publication, however, was "Old Nazis, the New Right and the Reagan Administration" by Russ Bellant. Published by Political Research Associates (self-described as "an independent research institute which collects and disseminates information on right-wing political groups and trends"), it argued that all of the old "Nazis" and "fascists" were still influencing U.S. foreign policy through their activity in the NRHGC and the Bush campaign. It was they, presumably, who were urging Mr. Bush to maintain Ronald Reagan's "roll-back" policy against the evil empire, an approach that "endangered peace."

First to run with the defamatory Bellant "research" report was the Washington Jewish Week, which published a three-page article on September 8, 1988, titled "Bush Campaign Committee Contains Figures Linked to Anti-Semitic and Fascist Backgrounds." According to Jewish Week,

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, called the presence of this minority "a shocking revelation ... I'm sure George Bush is personally unaware of the sordid personal history of these people. But now that he has been made aware of them, we have every right to expect him not only to remove these people but to repudiate what these people stand for."

**Mr. Bush did exactly what the Jewish leadership demanded, and the ethnic activists resigned "for the good of the party."**

The smear campaign continued, however. An editorial titled "The Fascist Connection" in the September 14 issue of the Boston Globe lauded the Bellant report and commented: "The fascists who led the Heritage Groups Council have had constant contact with party leaders for 20 years."

"More Nazi sympathizers and persons with anti-Semitic ties have surfaced in the Bush camp than at any place since the last Curt Jurgens film," wrote Steve Neal of the Chicago Sun-Times, labeling the group the "Bush Bund." For Pete Hammill of the New York Post, it was "George Bush and his Fascist Fan Club."

In the September 27 Boston Herald, columnist Alan Dershowitz praised the Bellant report for its "basic factual points" and denounced President Reagan's meeting with Jaroslav and Slava Stetsko, especially the president's welcoming statement: "Your struggle is our struggle, your dream is our dream." Others who joined the mud-slinging chorus were the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Larry Cohler of the Washington Jewish Week, and the notorious Charles R. Allen, a longtime Soviet apologist whose article in The Village Voice on November 1 argued that it was during Mr. Stetsko's two-year "regime" in Ukraine that "more than 100,000 Jews were exterminated in the Galician capital of Lvov [sic] ..."

The scourging of anti-Communists in the Republican National Committee (RNC) continued after the election. In a New York Times op-ed piece on November 19, 1989, Mr. Bellant demanded that George Bush disband the 20 year-old NRHGC because it "was founded and continues to be led by people and organizations that collaborated with the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe during the second world war."

As I pointed out in a column on November 26, 1989, the defamation campaign was a smashing success. During an October 19 meeting with NRHGC Chairman Anna Chennault, Benjamin Ginsberg, chief counsel of the RNC, demanded that the "taint" over her organization be addressed immediately. The "burden of proof is on the NRHGC to clear its name," emphasized Mr. Ginsberg. At the time, the NRHGC had no monies to combat Mr. Bellant's well-financed calumny.

Nine years later, the "taint" remains. The NRHGC exists on paper only, while Mr. Ginsberg, I was informed recently, "hasn't been with the RNC for quite some time." Meanwhile, the Captive Nations agenda has been vindicated, John Demjanjuk was found innocent, and the OSI has been exposed as little more than a nest of malevolent scoundrels devoted to the use of illegal tactics against innocent people.

Will the GOP win back the ethnic vote? Not if the tracks Mr. Ginsberg left behind are still visible.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is: 73753.3315@compuserve.com

## Lviv's Stefanyk Library in crisis, appeals to diaspora for assistance

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — The Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Lviv has issued an urgent appeal to Ukrainian organizations, institutions, businesses and the diaspora community at large for financial aid to ensure the continued functioning of the library.

The library, which finds itself in dire financial straits, is an important research institution and information resource center, noted especially for its extensive periodicals collection.

Among its collections are rare books, a significant collection of old manuscripts and documents, incunabula (books printed before 1501), extensive archival material of prominent leaders, cultural figures and scholars, among them: Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky (1865-1944); members of the Galician literary group Rus'ka Triytsia (late 1830s); Markian Shashkevych, Ivan Vahilevych, Yakiv Holovatskyi; foremost western Ukrainian writer, political and civic leader Ivan Franko (1856-1916); the composer Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912); the literary scholar Mykhailo Vozniak (1881-1954); noted Slavic ethnographer Volodymyr Hnatiuk (1871-1926); philologist, museologist/director of the National Museum in Lviv (1905-1939), later the Lviv Museum of Ukrainian Art, and art historian Ilarion Svientsitsky (1876-1956).

Today the library functions as an important academic/research library, with 12 general and eight scholarly divisions. Its collections, which number some 7 million volumes, are housed in seven separate buildings. It provides interlibrary loan

services with 59 other libraries. The library has 320 employees and is visited by some 100,000 people a year.

In her appeal Dr. Larysa Krushelnyska, the library's director, stated outright that the financial crisis is of such proportions that it poses a threat to the library's existence. The lack of funds will force the institution to close down. Operating expenses reportedly are 600,000 hrv (about \$300,000) annually. This includes everything from bills for heating and electricity to the salaries of employees, proper upkeep of the collections and expenditures on acquisitions (which have been curtailed).

Library employees, who haven't been paid for the past six months, went on strike in mid-January after repeated appeals to the government by Dr. Krushelnyska met with no response.

It should be noted that the Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library, unlike the Vernadsky Library in Kyiv, which is also a branch of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Library, does not have the status of a national library. National status qualifies an institution for government funding and confers depository status on the library, whereby the institution receives complimentary copies of every publication issued in Ukraine. Dr. Krushelnyska had previously applied for national library status for the Stefanyk Library.

As part of the general campaign to solicit funds for the library, the Society of Friends of the Stefanyk Library was created in Lviv, with Dr. Krushelnyska as head.

In response to the appeal made on behalf of the library by Dr. Krushelnyska in January, the Ukrainian National Association, jointly with the Ukrainian Historical Association, formed an ad hoc initiative committee, lending official support to the project and launching an extensive campaign to come to the immediate aid of the Stefanyk Library.

Ukrainian fraternal, civic and scholarly organizations were contacted by Ulana Diachuk, Ukrainian National Association president, and Prof. Lubomyr Wynar, Ukrainian Historical Association president, an official appeal was issued and published in the Svoboda Ukrainian daily on January 29, strongly urging both institutions as well as individuals to contribute to this very important cause.

### Historical background

The Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library was established in 1940 as a unit of the central library of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, a year after the Soviet occupation of Galicia, when all existing public and scholarly libraries were nationalized and reorganized.

The library was formed on the basis of the holdings of over 80 libraries in Lviv, among them, the Shevchenko Scientific Society Library (established in 1894; which by 1938 housed 200,000 volumes, including 1,500 manuscripts, and was an internationally recognized center for depository material and bibliographical research, with interlibrary loans with all leading university libraries in Europe); Narodnyi Dim Library (established 1849; the first Ukrainian library in Lviv, it housed a large collection of Ukrainian literature, including 100,000 volumes and many manuscripts and documents), the Ossolineum Institute (established 1817, with 298,000 volumes), and the partial holdings of the Stavropegiion Institute (1788).

When Ukraine was occupied by German troops in 1941-1944, many collections were destroyed during the hurried evacuation of the Soviet authorities, and remaining collections were seriously depleted by the

(Continued on page 11)

## Our traditions

### The symbolism of the "verba"

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Are the pussy willows out where you live? One sign of spring is the pussy willow, the blooming "verba," whose leaves appear later. It is the most beloved tree in Ukrainian folk culture, and its symbolism goes back to the earliest human existence in Ukraine.

Come to think of it, every aspect of nature — every tree, plant, bird and animal, as well as forces of nature such as fire and water — goes back in symbolism to those earliest times. It is fascinating to ponder the meaning in every folk song, proverb and custom. Behind each word of a folk song, for example, lies symbol upon symbol.

The first line of a song usually begins with a description of some aspect of nature, which would relate to the human story following in the rest of the song. For example: "Vysoka verba, vysoka verba shyrokyi lyst puskaie; velyka liubov, tiazhka rozluka, serdenko znyvaie" (The tall willow grows a wide leaf; a great love, a difficult parting, the heart is devastated). In this song, the willow is the symbol of sadness.

Not only is the willow celebrated in song, it is actually used as a symbol. After church services on Palm Sunday (Kvitna, or Verbna, Nedilia — Blooming, or Willow, Sunday), branches of the willow are used to symbolically tap a person for strength, happiness and health. This is after the pussy willow branches have been blessed in church and distributed after the service. (Except along the Black Sea, palms do not grow in Ukraine, and thus would be inappropriate for this holy day).

On the way home from church, the catkins were swallowed as a precaution against fever and sore throats. They were also mixed into kasha (porridge) in the belief that all the willow's spring potential and energy will pass into the person eating the kasha. We now know from world folk medicine that the inner bark of the willow contains the same painkiller found in aspirin.

After the blessed verba is brought home — even today in North America — the branches are placed behind the icons hanging on the walls, to keep away the "nechysta syla" (the unclean, i.e., evil spirit). This seems redundant, because isn't an icon's power enough for that? But what this practice shows us is that the belief in the willow's power is much older than the fairly recent (well, only 1,000-year-old in Ukraine) power of Christianity against evil.

The blessed willow branches also are planted in the garden, for the good future of young adults. If the willow takes, the young folks will marry and be healthy. That's no problem, because rarely does a willow not take root. A friend of the family, a religious man, later bemoaned the moment he stuck his verba branch into the soil near his garage. Within a few years, his backyard was a willow woods — but it was "blessed," and he hesitated about cutting it down!

The blessed willow branches were carried around the homestead after liturgy around the barn and the beehives, to ensure fertility of the animals and a good yield of honey. On the Feast of St. George, the cattle were first sent out to pasture with a willow branch, being tapped lightly for strength.

It was believed that holding a blessed



willow branch in the direction of threatening clouds would prevent lightning, hail and storms. Willow branches were thrown into fires, because this was believed to lessen the fire's destructive powers. In some areas catkins were buried into the first furrow, so that the grain would come up as quickly as the willow does.

Water wells were surrounded by willows to protect them from evil powers, and to ensure that the water remained pure and strength-giving. The ponds in which clothing was washed also were surrounded with planted willows, to keep away illness and to keep the water clean.

The previous year's blessed willow branches were used to light the oven for baking paska and babka (the Easter breads). In many localities, blessed willow branches were placed into the caskets of the dead. Midwives especially had such branches in their caskets, to keep away the souls of those children who dies before being baptized.

The verba's branches and roots represent the ancestors and the family and clan tree. It was considered the ideal tree, and a poetic image of the whole family. It also stood for the symbol of a mother and married woman. As well, it denoted a worried girl, or sadness in general.

It was also believed that the willow is the sky holding up the sun. Because it grows so quickly, it was believed to have magical properties. For this reason pieces of the willow were placed in the water in which a woman about to give birth was bathed. After the birth, the midwife washed her hands and the new mother's hands in water with willow pieces in it so that the baby would grow as quickly as the willow.

The willow bears no fruit, so it is also a symbol of infertility. The phrase "to hide in the willows" (which really do hide someone) meant to lead a loose or immoral life. Since it is so difficult for a willow to dry out or die, just such a willow must be the place of the devil it was thought, because only his intervention could cause such a thing.

This Kvitna Nedilia, we may just look at the pussy willow in a different light, and show it even more respect.

With the hope that winter is finally behind us, I wish that you may be "tall as the willow, healthy as the water, and wealthy as the earth." (Budte velyki iak verba, zdorovi iak voda, i bahati iak zemlia).

## Oleksander Kobasa, major donor to library

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Oleksander Kobasa of Williams-town, N.J., recently donated \$50,000 to help the Stefanyk Library. Born in Matsyna Velyka, in the western part of the Lemko region, he went to school in Horlytsia and took correspondence courses at the Ukrainian Technical and Husbandry Institute in Podesbrady in the present-day Czech Republic.

During World War II he was forcibly deported to Germany as a laborer by the Nazis. After the war, while in a displaced persons' camp, he headed the Ukrainian section in a German bookstore and was instrumental in the publication of several books.

He and his wife, Olha, emigrated to the U.S., settling in Chester, Pa., where Mr. Kobasa found work and became an active member of the Ukrainian community. A resident of Williams-town, since 1963, Mr. Kobasa has been active in the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and has continued to work for his favorite cause: promoting the history and cultural heritage of the Lemko region and the Lemko people.

In 1955 he founded the Karpaty Foundation in Presov (Priashiv), Slovakia, and set up Oko Publishers, with the aim of fostering "research and furthering the development of Rusyn-Ukrainian culture of the Carpathian region by providing financial support for publications in the sphere of Carpathian studies."

Mr. Kobasa took part in the World Congress of Lemkos held in Lviv in 1994.



## DATELINE NEW YORK: In praise of pysanky

by Helen Smindak

In ancient times, they were considered talismans and perceived as the source of life, the sun and the universe. Now viewed as beautiful folk art objects, Ukrainian pysanky still hold people in thrall with their radiant hues and exquisite ornamentation. Small wonder, then, that the Easter season has brought a parade of pysanka exhibits, workshops and how-to demonstrations in New York and around the nation.

This year, the White House will have a Ukrainian Easter egg to show off; it will appear in an exhibit of Easter eggs from 49 states during the first week of April. The work of Lynn Spear of Franklin Township, N.J., it represents the state of New Jersey and bears four motifs: the sun and seashore, birds, the observatory at Cape May, and an orchard symbolic of New Jersey's fruit and flowers. Ms. Spear, who is of Ukrainian ancestry, has been decorating Easter eggs pysanka-style for 25 years.

New Yorkers and out-of-town visitors have been flocking to The Ukrainian Museum in recent weeks to take in egg-decorating workshops and demonstrations and an impressive exhibit of over 450 pysanky. The exhibit of decorated eggs, featuring designs typical of various regions of Ukraine, is augmented by reverse glass paintings by Yaroslava Surmach Mills depicting Easter scenes in old Ukraine and a collection of embroidered rushnyky (ritual cloths) bearing symbols similar to those on the Easter eggs.

A display of eggs in various stages of decoration illustrates the step-by-step process of decorating pysanky using the wax-resist or batik method, a technique akin to the Indonesian method of hand-printing textiles by coating with wax the parts not meant to be dyed.

Viewers spend an hour or more examining pysanky covered with delicate, fine-line motifs, studying illustrations and meanings of symbols, and viewing a video of Slavko Nowytski's award-winning film "Pysanka" before moving on to browse in the gift shop. The exhibit will continue through the end of April, in line with the Ukrainian church calendar, which sets Easter Sunday on April 27 this year.

Egg-decorating workshops and demonstrations, held almost daily at the museum in past weeks, have been led by such experienced decorators as Sofia Zielyk and Anna Gbur, museum director Maria Shust and staffers Christina Pevny and Daria Bajko. A newcomer to the ranks of museum artisans was Emily Robbins, who told Dateline, "it was really neat to go back and teach where I learned the craft." The spring schedule included a bead-stringing workshop, with Tania Keis as instructor.

Ms. Robbins, who is editor of The Green Book, the New York City government's official directory, gave instruction in Ukrainian egg decorating for a group of associates during a lunch-hour seminar at the New York City Department of Social Services. This weekend she is demonstrating the art at an outdoor Easter show near the Bethesda Fountain in Central Park.

Lida Prokop, representing the Ukrainian Institute of America, appeared on NBC-TV's "Weekend in New York" show on March 23 with a collection of pysanky crafted by Ms. Zielyk, including an ostrich egg with Ukrainian motifs that took 40 hours to complete. Ms. Prokop presented a concise explanation of the steps involved in creating a Ukrainian pysanka.

Stephanie Charczenko, the institute's executive director, who arranged the television interview as well as a story in the Daily News, informed Dateline that the institute was to hold a pysanka demonstration on March 26 for the general public and students of Abraham Lincoln School, with Ms. Zielyk as instructor.

One of New York's premier pysanka

craftspeople, Mrs. Mills taught the sills of decorating eggs to 58 sixth-graders on March 14. Mrs. Mills, an artist and author who is currently teaching Celtic illumination and icon painting in Rockland County and completing the decoration of stained-glass windows in St. Demetrius Church in Toronto, directed the students in a workshop at St. John the Baptist Academy in Hillcrest, N.J. She also gave a pysanka-decorating demonstration at the Rockland Center for the Arts in West Nyack, N.Y.

Ukrainian pysanky continue to find favor everywhere — a chapter on Ukrainian Easter eggs is included in a book recently printed by Sterling Publishing of New York. The title of the book is "Decorating Eggs: Exquisite Designs with Wax and Dye." The author is Jane Pollack, a non-Ukrainian.

### In other spheres

Our artists and performers have continued their appearances on stage and in art galleries. Here's an update on some of them.

### The dance world

Stephanie Godino Kulyk, who has been performing for years with the New York City Opera's ballet ensemble, is appearing through April 26 at Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," a tapestry of Gregorian chant, medieval parable and brilliantly choreographed movement. The new NYCO production is being presented in a double bill with Kurt Weill's "Seven Deadly Sins." Ms. Kulyk, who directs the choir at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Manhattan, is the choreographer for a production of Jules Massenet's opera "Thais," which will be performed by the South Regional Opera Company of New Jersey and the Western New Jersey

Symphony in Montclair, N.J., on April 19.

The Tamburitzans of Duquesne University, currently touring the U.S. with a special 60th anniversary program, include nine performers of Ukrainian ancestry in this season's roster. They are Laryssa Halawy, Andreja Kalyta, Mark Kalyta, Lydia Kurylas, Roman Lewkowicz, Andrei Pidkivka and Taras Posewa, all American-born, and Alexandre Fedoriouk and Peter Osyf, who came here from Ukraine two years ago. An ensemble of 35 accomplished student-performers, the Tamburitzans brought a spectacular show of folk music and dance to New York's Fashion Institute of Technology last fall. The program, which includes a Transcarpathian wedding dance and virtuoso improvisations on Ukrainian melodies performed on the shepherd's flute and tsymbaly, will be seen in more than 60 cities before the group winds up its season in California on May 25.

### The art scene

Catch 22 Gallery, located on St. Mark's Place in the East Village, exhibited a collection of 40 pieces of work by the Lemko primitive artist Epiphani (Nikifor) Dvorniak. The gallery, which also showed photographs of 100 other works said to be available and certified authentic, referred to Nikifor as a "Polish visionary painter" in its publicity releases. Although the exhibit was to run until April, it was wrapped up in January because of protests from members of the Ukrainian community. The artist grew up in poverty, the illegitimate son of a deaf-and-mute woman. Born in the Lemko-area resort town of Krynica (Krynysia) in southeast Poland, his grave is located in a cemetery there. Ukrainians consider him to be one of their own. Self-taught, he became known for his luminous watercolors and

drawings of resort buildings, towns, mountain landscapes and wooden Orthodox churches, which were eventually exhibited in Warsaw and Paris. His work is displayed in two museums in Poland, the Gothic House in Nowy Sacz and the Nikifor Museum in Krynica. The Ukrainian Museum in New York, which owns 50 Nikifor pieces, held an exhibit of its Nikifor collection in 1978.

Landscapes of Bessarabia, southern Ukraine, Boykivschyna and Hutsulshyna, painted by Lviv-born artist Valerij Hnatenko before his untimely death at the age of 40, were exhibited at the Atelier 14 Gallery in Manhattan. Seriously ill for 10 years, Mr. Hnatenko repeatedly asked the Soviet government for permission to travel to the U.S. for medical assistance, to no avail. The exhibit, comprising oil paintings and ink and pencil drawings, was organized by sculptor Juan Puentes, the gallery curator, the artist's widow, Stephania, and his son, Nazar. Poetry readings and music performances were held at the gallery during the exhibit's 10-day run.

Stephanie Hnizdovsky of New York reports that an exhibit of 25 woodcuts created by her late husband, artist Jacques Hnizdovsky, is presently touring Ukraine. Sponsored by America House in Kyiv, the exhibit has been on the view in Kyiv, Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi and Kamianets-Podilskyi. Following a showing in Ivano-Frankivsk, the woodcuts will be displayed in galleries in eastern Ukraine.

### The musical milieu

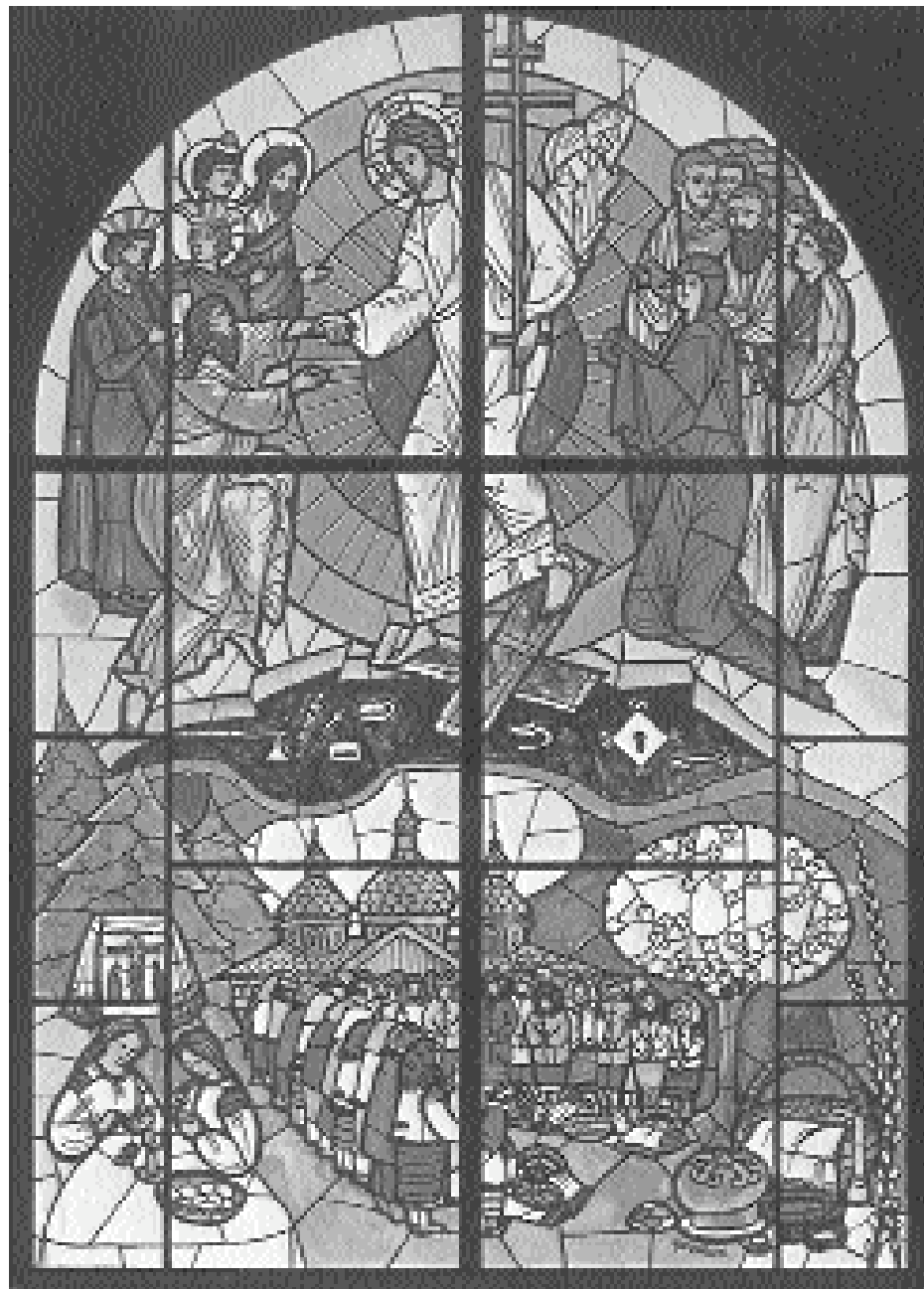
Pianist Thomas Hrynkiw, back from a concert tour in Mexico, is happy with the great reviews he received after his eight concerts there. He is now preparing to conduct a workshop dealing with performance anxiety, to be held in April at Wilkes University in Pennsylvania, and is looking forward to doing a program for public radio and summer appearances at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Hunter, N.Y., and the Newport Music Festival in Newport, R.I. Mr. Hrynkiw, the director of the Ukrainian Music Institute's New York Branch, teaches piano and voice at Wilkes University coaches students at the Kennedy Center and the Lincoln Center, and is the artistic advisor and vocal director for the Newport Festival. The pianist has just recorded his second CD with Met Opera star Paul Plishka and his second solo disc for the Yamaha Disklavier, titled "Russian Romantics."

### The vocal view

The New York City Opera's spring season has brought soprano Oksana Krovtytska back to the stage of the New York State Theater, where she is singing in Mozart's marvelously funny and exciting "Don Giovanni." Ms. Krovtytska, in the role of Donna Elvira, a noble lady of Burgos, will take her final curtain calls in this season's "Giovanni" on April 2. Later in the month, she will appear as the young slave girl Liu in "Turandot," the vibrant opera that many consider to be Puccini's consummate achievement.

At the Metropolitan Opera, basses Paul Plishka and Vladimir Ognovenko have been alternating this past month in the same role — that of Prince Gremin in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin." Messrs. Plishka and Ognovenko will continue their performances in "Onegin" until April 19.

Still to be heard are bass Sergei Koptchak, who's scheduled to perform in Dvorak's "Rusalka" on May 3 (matinee), 7 and 10. Lviv-born mezzo-soprano Susanna Poretsky and American-born bass Stefan Szkafarowsky are ready to cover roles in the new production of Giordano's "Fedora" on April 22 and 26, and may perform on the Met stage this season, if fate so rules.



"The Resurrection," Yaroslava Surmach Mills' design for a stained glass window in St. Demetrius Church in Weston, Ontario.

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## Ukraine's court...

(Continued from page 3)

sel is mandatory and assigned by the court: when the accused is under age; or does not understand the language (Ukrainian or Russian); or has a disability; or if one among several defendants has already obtained legal counsel.

When serious criminal charges (where a sentence of 10 years or more could be handed down) are leveled at a defendant, he is tried by the oblast court and assigned defense counsel. Currently the defendant is still tried by a three-judge tribunal and two people's witnesses, although soon the option of a jury will be available.

The raion courts handle civil matters, with certain exceptions, including inter-confessional religious disagreements, which fall under the jurisdiction of the oblast court.

Generally, lawyers need not be present at civil affairs and judges encourage that issues be settled out of court. Courts hold consultation hours when the public is allowed access to judges to confer and consult on civil issues. Although a judge is not allowed to give his opinion of the outcome of a case, he can review documents and give procedural advice.

Judge Tatiana Kozur, chairperson of the Starokyivskiy Raion Court in Kyiv, agreed that this is where the judges are most susceptible to bribes. "Yes, there is the opportunity to cut a deal during consultation. But the judges are picked because of their high moral and ethical standards, and we believe they continue to act in such a manner. If they are found to take bribes, they are dismissed," said Judge Kozur.

The raion court handles administrative complaints also. These are lesser legal matters in which there is usually no harm done to another person: prostitution, minor hooliganism, public drunkenness, unruly behavior, etc.

Parties in criminal or civil matters have the ability to file appeals on judgments rendered by the raion courts to the oblast court. In civil matters, the appealing party has seven days to submit all relevant documents; in criminal matters 10 days are allowed.

The oblast court's responsibility is to review matters on appeal from the raion

courts for their legal and procedural soundness. Oblast judges can abandon the verdict of the lower court and return the case for retrial, they can uphold the verdict, or they can change the verdict. The court cannot however, hand down a harsher ruling. "Decisions are not often changed. There have to be unusual circumstances," said Judge Kozur.

In 1996 only four outcomes were changed in the more than 3,000 civil and criminal cases heard in the Starokyivskiy Raion Court.

The oblast court hears criminal complaints of the first instance in serious crimes as well, which includes murder, burglary, rape and treason, among other charges.

Decisions by oblast judges are subject to review by an oblast court oversight review board. The Oblast Procurator's Office or the chairman of the oblast court can ask that a matter go to the board for review, which puts much authority in the hands of the two bodies.

The Supreme Court is considering a change in the appeals process away from a system of cassation to give oblast level judges the ability to do more than simply review procedural and legal matters, according to Mr. Bilousenko. It would like to give judges the authority to hear additional testimony on appeal with original and other witnesses, and to allow judges to hand down their own rulings, even ones harsher than the lower court's original decision, while still allowing them to uphold judgments and return cases to the raion court.

Cases reach the Supreme Court only on recommendation of either the Procurator General's Office or the chairman of the Supreme Court. Because this puts too much power in their hands, according to Mr. Bilousenko, the reform envisaged for the court would create a board of second cassation. This would consist of three Supreme Court judges assigned to review applications for appeal and decide whether a basis for review exists. Appeals accepted by the board would be assigned to the proper collegium and begin their journey through the Supreme Court process.

Mr. Bilousenko says that, in the long term, Ukraine would also like to establish a patent court and a monopoly court, but that requires one thing: money.

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## Lviv's Stefanyk Library...

(Continued from page 8)

Germans.

In 1971 the library was named for the noted prose writer Vasyl Stefanyk (1871-1936), master of the short story/novella, who was a native of Pokuttia, western Ukraine.

### Donations

A major contribution, made at the very outset of the campaign, was by Oleksander Kobasa of Williamstown, N.J., who is originally from the Lemko region of western Ukraine. Mr. Kobasa made a donation of \$50,000 in memory of his wife, Olha, establishing the Lemkivshchyna Foundation as a separate fund to enable the Vasyl Stefanyk Scientific Library to continue its work as one of the leading libraries in Ukraine. (See sidebar on page 8.)

To date, for the period from mid-January through the beginning of March, \$12,262.90 has been received in contributions from individual contributors and organizations.

Tax-deductible contributions, with checks made out to: "Ukrainian National Foundation — V. Stefanyk Library in Lviv," may be sent to: Ukrainian National Association, 30 Montgomery St., P.O. Box 17A, Jersey City, NJ 07303.

The list of contributors and sums

donated will appear in forthcoming issues of Svoboda.

\*\*\*

Among the organizations and institutions as well as individual scholars who have lent their support to the campaign are:

- Ukrainian National Association, Ulana Diachuk, president;
- Ukrainian Fraternal Association, John Oleksyn, president;
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Dr. Askold Lozynskyj, president;
- Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ulana Diachuk, president;
- Self-Reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, New York, Bohdan Kekish, president;
- First Security Ukrainian Savings Bank, Chicago, Julian Kulas, president;
- Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., Dr. Wasyl Omelchenko, president;
- Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S., Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, president;
- Dr. Roman Szporluk, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute;
- Ukrainian Historical Association, Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, president;
- Ukrainian Studies Program at the University of Illinois, Dr. Dmytro Shtohryn;
- UCCA Educational Council, Dr. Evhen Fedorenko, president;
- Ukrainian Association of University Professors, Dr. Oleksander Sydorenko, acting president.

### Re: Mail delivery of The Weekly

It has come to our attention that The Ukrainian Weekly is often delivered late, or irregularly, or that our subscribers sometimes receive several issues at once.

We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

If you are not receiving regular delivery of The Weekly, we urge you to file a complaint at your local post office. This may be done by obtaining the U.S. Postal Service Consumer Card and filling out the appropriate

## VENTURE CAPITAL IN UKRAINE

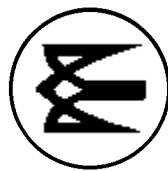
### INVESTMENT OFFICER

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, an early stage venture capital fund, seeks an investment officer to join the investment staff in the Fund's main office in Kyiv, Ukraine. Candidates should have three to five years experience in corporate finance, an MBA or equivalent, and an interest in working with local managers to develop growth strategies for their companies. Responsibilities would include identifying investment projects, structuring and negotiating transactions, monitoring investments, and recommending exit strategies. Work experience in emerging markets would be an advantage.

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MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## UNA executives...

(Continued from page 5)

insurance protection.

The UNA secretary noted that since November 1996 five secretaries had passed away: Stella Ryan, a longtime employee of the UNA and secretary of Branch 3 died in Jersey City in December; Michael Marchuk, Branch 106, Dmytro Prystaj, Branch 43, Anne Mandziuk, Branch 143, and Myron Siryj, Branch 281, all died in January of this year.

The following branches have new secretaries: 10 - Lubov Streletsky; 86 - Nadia Demczur; 106 - Maria Pelych; 123 - Edward Chomko; 143 - Luba Mosner; and 399 - Andriy Skyba.

Roman Prychan, Branch 399, Sophia Holyk, Branch 123, and Ivan Sierant, Branch 86, retired from their duties as secretaries. Mrs. Lysko added that the UNA appreciates their efforts in recruiting new secretaries for their branches and thanks them for their years of dedicated service to the UNA. She also thanked the president of Branch 106, Andriy Iwaniuk, for finding a new secretary for his branch upon the death of Mr. Marchuk.

The secretaries of Branch 10, Konstantyn Chilchenskowsky, and Branch 95, the Rev. J. Kovalchuk, decided to merge their two branches and to resign their positions as branch secretaries. The secretary of the newly merged branch is Ms. Streletsky.

Branch 167 in Toledo, Ohio, merged with its parent branch, 165. At the last meeting of Branch 167, Secretary John Welgan, in agreement with the branch's members, donated \$2,000 to the Ukrainian National Foundation. Mrs. Lysko commented: "We want to thank Mr. Welgan and his members for this act of loyalty to UNA. This example should be followed by all UNA branches. Often we see branches donating money to many worthy causes, but forgetting that the UNA, its publications and its various funds should be supported primarily by its membership."

In January, 19 small branches merged; this completes all branch mergers, Mrs. Lysko reported. The existing branches now have the required minimum of 15

adult active members. This process of merging branches that had fewer than 15 members had started three years ago; it served to strengthen the existing branches and gave a vote to those members who for years were locked into branches without a vote or representation. Coming into the convention year, the UNA will have fewer branches with greater representation of all members, the secretary observed.

### VPs' and Canadian director's reports

Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko reported that, as usual, she is focusing her efforts as a UNA officer on preparing summer entertainment programs for Soyuzivka. Though there are budget constraints, she said there is a strong possibility that the rock group The Ukrainians from Great Britain, which will be touring North America, will perform at the upstate New York resort. She added that several Canadian groups, including the well-known Shumka dancers, have expressed interest in appearing at Soyuzivka.

The vice-presidentess noted that she had attended the ethnic luncheon, held as part of the inauguration ceremonies of President Bill Clinton, as a representative of the UNA. She also reported that the Ukrainian American community in Arizona is interested in hosting a visit by a representative of the Ukrainian National Association. She added that such a visit could be combined with visits to California and other states in the western U.S. in order to promote the UNA and its fraternal activities.

Dr. Savaryn reported that he continues to work with branch secretaries in Canada to find younger assistant secretaries. He also said that schools in Canada should be approached with a program similar to the one offered in New Jersey, and he proposed that a series of articles about the UNA be written specifically for the Canadian press prior to the May 1998 convention in Toronto.

Mr. Olesnycky noted that he is working once again on the By-Laws Committee that is preparing amendments and revisions for the 1998 UNA convention. Some of the proposals being considered include: establishment of a corporate board whereby UNA officers would be hired/fired, not elected; and the use of modern technology

in the UNA's marketing. Mr. Olesnycky added that he also represents the UNA as legal counsel.

### President's report

Mrs. Diachuk began her report by reviewing organizing achievements during 1996: 859 new members were enrolled, and 1,627 persons took advantage of the Additional Insurance Program, for a total of 2,486 new certificates. New insurance written totaled approximately \$18 million. Thus, the yearly quota, which had been set at 2,220 new members, was fulfilled by 120 percent.

The UNA's top organizers during the report period were: Miron Pilipiak, Branch 496, who enrolled 47 new members. He was followed by Eugene Oscislawski, Branch 234, 25 members; Mr. Hawrysz, 15 members; Paul Shewchuk, Albany District chairman, 13 members; Dr. Atanas Slusarczyk, former secretary of Branch 174, 12 members; Christine Gerbehy, Branch 269, Advisor Stefko Kuropas, Branch 176, and Michael Turko, Branch 63, 11 members each; and Michael Kihiczak, Branch 496, 10 members.

The UNA's professional salespersons in the United States enrolled 148 new members insured for \$6,235,011 and sold 137 annuities totaling \$270,352. In Canada, the professional sales force signed up 130 new members for \$8,073,561.

As regards organizing results for this year, the president stated that the first two months were not very successful, as 60 new members were enrolled during the month of January and 64 during February. The quota for 1997 has been lowered to 1,000 new members in keeping with a recommendation of the UNA General Assembly.

Mrs. Diachuk remarked that the UNA continues to look for new secretaries, who are being trained via courses held either at Soyuzivka or in their districts.

Turning to the matter of UNA publications, the president said that, as of the end of 1996, Svoboda had 8,177 subscribers, while The Ukrainian Weekly had 7,551. Both newspapers lost subscribers during 1996: Svoboda - 1,403; The Weekly - 1,138. The losses now appear to have stabilized as they had

decreased during the last quarter of 1996, Mrs. Diachuk added.

The publishing house's deficit in 1996 stood at \$273,302, but that figure does not include medical benefits, pensions and group insurance, which would bring the total deficit up to approximately \$500,000. The 1996 budget had foreseen a deficit of \$227,120, but turned out to be \$46,182 higher than projected, she continued.

The UNA Almanac for 1997 was well received and some \$32,000 in payments/donations were received. The press funds of both newspapers received an additional \$40,630 in donations.

The president also reported on changes in editorial staffs: at Svoboda, Roman Yurevych retired; at The Weekly, Associate Editor Marta Kolomayets left for another position. Mrs. Diachuk emphasized that thanks for many years of dedicated service are due to Ms. Kolomayets, who was the first Weekly correspondent to serve in the Kyiv Press Bureau and was instrumental in its establishment.

At the UNA's upstate New York resort, the president reported income of \$1,013,592, a figure 3 percent higher than in 1995 (\$983,069). Expenses totaled \$1,546,894, which includes capital improvements and repairs (\$68,955), salaries and payroll taxes (\$464,802), and state taxes, (\$145,899). In 1995 expenses were \$100,000 lower, but the increase in 1996 may be explained by the costs of remodeling the Q-Café. Other expenses not included in the aforementioned total were liability and property insurance, plus medical benefits and group insurance. The president said that prices at the resort this year will be raised by 5 percent; this is necessitated by federally mandated wage increases.

Mrs. Diachuk also noted that the long-time manager of Soyuzivka, Walter Kwas, had passed away in December 1996 and that his funeral was attended by many of the resorts' employees and guests, as well as UNA colleagues.

The final matter on which the UNA president reported was the status of proposed mergers with the Ukrainian Fraternal Association (UFA) and the Ukrainian National Aid Association of

(Continued on page 13)

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Please be advised that Branch 395 will merge with Branch 176 as of April 1, 1997. All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Stefko Kuropas, Branch Secretary.  
  
Mr. Stefko Kuropas  
126 Williams Dr.  
Schaumburg, IL 60193  
(708) 294-7858

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 17**  
**In Chicago, IL**  
As of April 1, 1997, the secretary's duties of Branch 17 in Chicago, IL will be assumed by Mr. Peter Bylen. We ask all members of Branch 17 to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance, as well as their membership premiums to the address listed below:  
  
Mr. Peter Bylen  
Westchester Place  
11034 Westminster Drive  
Westchester, IL 60154-5601  
(708) 409-0994

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## UNA executives...

(Continued from page 12)

America (UNAAA). She began by noting that there had not been much progress toward the mergers, but added that, hopefully, now that the UNA's annual report for 1996 had been completed and its loan to the UNURC re-figured, there might be some forward movement.

As regards the UFA, the president said the association's president, John Oleksyn, had erroneously stated in an article in Narodna Volya that the UNA was forcing the UFA to sell its resort, Verkhovyna, in Glen Spey, N.Y. In fact, Mrs. Diachuk underlined, it is the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance that is calling for the sale as the UFA's entire reserve is tied up in the resort. As a result, the UNA had to withdraw its merger offer until this matter is rectified. Meanwhile, a five-year projection of the effects of the UNAAA's merger with the UNA has been completed and that merger is now more probable.

Turning to the topic of UNA donations in support of various projects and causes, Mrs. Diachuk noted that \$9,500 had been paid out of the Ukrainian National Foundation as the first installment to cover publication in Ukraine of a new children's book, "Ivasyk Telesyk," by Ivan Malkovych. She also noted that the UNA had agreed to support the U.S. tour of the Ukrainian folk dance ensemble directed by Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky. The first performance, scheduled for May 11, Mothers' Day, at New York's Alice Tully Hall, is sponsored by the UNA and the Self-Reliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of New York.

Finally, Mrs. Diachuk reported on requests for donations that had been received by the UNA. A decision was made to allocate \$500 to a camp being organized in Cherkasy by the Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM), and to award a \$5,000 grant to the Federation of Ukrainians in Poland for publication of a commemorative volume on Akcja Wisla.

### Miscellaneous matters

Under the rubric of "miscellaneous," Mrs. Diachuk proposed that Svoboda be

published as a daily, but only two times per week at a savings of \$216,000 per year. She suggested that three days' issues could be published in one edition and that two issues could be published in another; thus, five issues per week would still appear, but they would be printed and mailed only twice per week.

After a lengthy discussion the motion was tabled.

Mr. Blahitka mentioned that he needs guidance on a building, referring to the issue of whether the UNA's new office building should include space for a print shop. Mr. Olesnycky made the following motion: that the UNA's new building not have a print shop on site. He added, however, that it could be located elsewhere. The motion passed with four votes for (Mmes. Diachuk and Lysko, Messrs. Olesnycky and Blahitka) and one abstention (Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko).

Other matters raised during the "miscellaneous" agenda item were the creation of a special committee on the UNA's mission statement and the hiring of EMI Associates, whose president is Eugene Iwanciw, a UNA advisor and former director of the UNA Washington Office, to lobby for U.S. foreign aid to Ukraine.

The special committee is to prepare a proposal for a mission statement that will be discussed and adopted at the General Assembly meeting in November. Selected to serve on the committee were: Mr. Olesnycky, Dr. Savaryn, Ms. Dydyk-Petrenko, Advisors Taras Szmaga Jr., Ms. Hadzewycz, Walter Korchynsky, Nick Diakiwsky, Mr. Iwanciw and Stefko Kuropas.

After a brief discussion it was decided to hire Mr. Iwanciw for a six-month period, with the stipulation that the General Assembly will review the matter at its November meeting and then decide whether to hire Mr. Iwanciw for a longer period of time. It was emphasized that this proposal does not imply re-opening the UNA Washington Office, but that all efforts would be made to ensure that the UNA is given the credit for such lobbying activity on Ukraine's behalf. The motion made by Mrs. Diachuk was approved by all present.

agencies reported on March 24. The council is headed by leading reformist Vice Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk and will deal with tax reform, wage and pension arrears, and government bureaucracy. The move follows President Leonid Kuchma's sharp criticism of Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's government in his annual address to the nation and the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Kuchma has appointed liberal economist Volodymyr Lanovyi to head the State Property Fund, Ukrainian TV reported. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Azerbaijan's president in Kyiv

KYIV – On arrival in Kyiv on March 24 for a two-day official visit, President Heidar Aliev of Azerbaijan held talks with President Leonid Kuchma on bilateral cooperation, the planned Transcaucasus transport corridor, European security and the future of the CIS, ITAR-TASS reported. President Aliev told journalists that after the existing Baku-Batumi oil pipeline is repaired and extended to the Georgian Black Sea port of Supsa in 1998, Azerbaijan's Caspian oil will be shipped from Supsa to Ukraine for export to the West. Azerbaijani and Ukrainian representatives signed a series of bilateral inter-governmental agreements, including several on military cooperation, but Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko stressed that the latter are not directed against any third country. (OMRI Daily Digest)

## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

between demonstrators and police. Spokesman John Dinger said the U.S. is considering retaliatory measures. U.S. Ambassador to Belarus Kenneth Yalowitz protested the incident to the "highest level of Belarusian authorities." Several days later, Ambassador Yalowitz was recalled to Washington to report to Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, as relations between the two countries worsened. The Belarusian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement saying that "S. Aleksandrov's activities fall outside the 1961 Convention on Diplomatic relations." Law enforcement agencies in Belarus say they possess materials proving that Mr. Aleksandrov is a career CIA officer working under cover. Meanwhile, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said during a meeting with new Belarusian Ambassador to the U.S. Valerii Tsepkalot that it is important to increase cooperation with the U.S. He said that despite some difficulties in relations, there is no anti-American campaign in Belarus and that the expulsion of a U.S. diplomat was aimed against a specific person. (OMRI Daily Digest)

### Oversight council to tackle economic crisis

KYIV – Ukraine's government has set up an oversight council to tackle the country's economic crisis, international

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**BOYS AND GIRLS CAMP SATURDAY JULY 12- SATURDAY JULY 26, 1997**  
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Featuring hiking, swimming, games, Ukrainian songs and folklore, supervised 24 hr.  
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**CHEMNEY FUN CENTER SUNDAY JULY 27- SATURDAY AUGUST 2, 1997**  
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**UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP SUNDAY AUGUST 10 - SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 1997**  
Traditional Ukrainian folk dancing for beginners, intermediate and advanced  
Room and board: **UNA MEMBERS \$265.00/Non-Members \$315.00** for full session  
Instructor's fee: \$190.00. Director: Roma Pryma Bohachevsky  
**\*\* No one will be accepted for a shorter period than the full session, unless it is with the approval of the director \*\***  
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## Ukraine may be getting...

(Continued from page 2)

long decree on budgetary revenues implicitly acknowledges Mr. Musiyaka's criticism of the government's sloppy work at the Cabinet level in preparing the 1997 document. Its contents also point to a more fundamental obstacle to Ukrainian reforms than just plain carelessness and lack of professionalism: the overwhelming lack of discipline and accountability.

Apart from ordering the imposition of measures to hold down expenditures, pay salaries and pensions regularly, and increase revenues within the state sector, the decree goes further than any of its predecessors by clearly identifying accountability for failure to comply.

Thus, Article 1 ordered the Cabinet of Ministers to create by March 10 temporary implementation commissions. These are to be headed by the chairmen of state administrations at the various levels who, according to Article 5, will be held "personally responsible for the development and steadfast implementation of the decree."

The decree also addresses the sheer size of the government bureaucracy, something that bears critically on its functional and operational capabilities. The Cabinet was instructed to prepare within a month a plan for reducing the number of ministries as well as the number of staff by no less than 25 percent. Several previous prime ministerial attempts, including one by Mr. Lazarenko, to deal with this problem simply withered on the vine as a result of the prime minister's inability or unwillingness to expend the necessary political capital grappling with this Soviet-era behemoth.

In some respects even more interesting is the second measure, the presidential directive on combating crime.

Article 1 of this measure instructs the Cabinet to "comprehensively spell out the uncompromising position on abuses, arbitrariness, mismanagement and carelessness in the management of state property, on the dissipation of funds, their improper use and the avoidance of paying taxes ... uncovered by the financial bodies, audit services and tax administrations, and law-enforcement bodies, and to investigate ways of making every guilty official personally accountable." The Cabinet is also called upon "to use exhaustive means for imposing discipline in every state body and to close all channels for the illegal enrichment of individual operators and criminal groups."

Article 2 calls for a review within ministries and other central executive bodies of implementation of the laws on the civil service and the fight against corruption, while Article 8 instructs the Ministry of Justice and other appropriate executive ministries and agencies "to complete by March 1 the development of the Clean Hands program for combating corruption."

This latest attempt to get serious about reforms could evoke a weary sense of déjà vu were it not for the significant fact that this time it seems to have been accelerated by external intervention. External criticism – whether public or private, but particularly the former – is difficult to ignore, particularly if delivered by parties deemed crucial to Ukraine's development. For too long corruption was an issue that seemed to be avoided for reasons of diplomatic tact. Now, however, the Kuchma administration appears to have been prompted into further action by the fact that institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and genuine strategic partners, like the United States, are no longer prepared to let

issues like official corruption pass without comment. In fact, this kind of constructive oversight is perhaps one of the best assurances that the current initiatives – particularly the unprecedented "Clean Hands" program – will not be allowed to run out of steam.

In fact, taken together, the president's two recent measures quite reasonably could be interpreted as a de facto vote of no-confidence in the government. Speaking at a February 26 press briefing, Volodymyr Horbulin, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, declared that more Cabinet changes should be expected soon.

Not surprisingly, against such an unflattering backdrop, rumors have begun to circulate over the prime minister's future. Yet, high-level officials in the president's administration have denied that he is under any threat. For example, asked recently whether the prime minister's fate had been discussed in presidential circles – or at meetings with certain Rada national deputies – the president's chief of staff, Yevhen Kushanariov, responded that "this question has not been raised and is not being discussed." Moreover, at the above-mentioned press briefing, Mr. Horbulin stressed that he agrees with the prime minister's assessment that his position is stable, stressing that the matter of Cabinet changes should not be personalized.

The prime minister's position does appear to be safe for the time being. What was expected to be a stormy "Government Day" – these are held once a month – in the Verkhovna Rada on March 12 actually turned out to be relatively successful for Mr. Lazarenko. He made no overt concession to any faction and, probably mindful of the impending nationwide strike on March 18, stressed that the mining sector's plight had nothing to do with the budget, but was caused by the failure of utilities to pay for their coal. He also promised that pensions would be paid up in full by March 20, that the government was meeting its current obligations and that all other debts would be cleared within six months after the budget is adopted.

But, as the late former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson noted, a week is a long time in politics. There is a feeling that Mr. Lazarenko will be dismissed following President Kuchma's address to the Verkhovna Rada, on March 21. However, there are those who counter that Mr. Lazarenko could stay in office well beyond then, if only because having him possibly return to his parliamentary seat might complicate the situation in the Verkhovna Rada for the president. It could also help launch a presidential candidacy that would compete for Mr. Kuchma's electorate.

But there are real concerns on the horizon for Mr. Lazarenko that could eventually make even the president's "negative" support for him inexpedient. A soon-to-be-released report by a temporary committee of the Rada investigating the state of the Ukrainian energy market – a sphere in which Mr. Lazarenko has been known to dabble – is said to attack the prime minister and other high-level energy sector officials by claiming that the market structure they developed and nurtured effectively exempts favored wholesale importers from taxation and places them under what amounts to a policy of "administrative protectionism."

Moreover, Mr. Horbulin's council is due some time soon to also examine the workings of the energy market. Interestingly in this respect, on March 4 while vacationing in western Ukraine, President Kuchma met with the head of Russia's Gazprom. Reportedly, the two discussed yet another restructuring of the Ukrainian gas market.

### ALLENTOWN, PA., DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of the

### UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1997 at 2:30 PM**

**at the Ukrainian Catholic Church**

**1826 Kenmore Avenue, Bethlehem, Pa.**

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers,

Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**44, 47, 48, 137, 143, 147, 288, 318, 369, 438.**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

**MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:**

**Alexander G. Blahitka, UNA Treasurer**

**Anna Haras, Honorary Member of UNA General Assembly**

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## First group of Basilian Associates initiated

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – In an initiation ceremony celebrated at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great here in December 1996, the first group of Basilian Associates was welcomed to the order by the sisters.

The group of six completed a yearlong preparatory program that began on November 20, 1995 – the Eve of the Feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple. Over the past year, the group met regularly to pray and learn about the Basilian spirit, identity and mission.

The program offers Christian men and women of varied circumstances the shared experience of coming together and engaging in the spirit and mission of the Basilian Sisters. The Basilian Associates will devote time daily to Scripture reading, and Psalm recitation, participate in the celebration of the divine liturgy and liturgical services, pray the Divine Office during group gatherings and join the local Basilian community in liturgical worship and days of prayer.

Initiated as Basilian Associates were: Tess Bury and Elizabeth Wolfrum of Philadelphia, whose sister, Sister Chrysantha, is a Sister of St. Basil the Great; Mary DeChiara of Philadelphia; Maria S. Harmaty of Philadelphia; Florence Marie Heckler of Bensalem; and Helen Reiche of Philadelphia.

According to the new Basilian Associates, being an associate helps them deepen their spiritual relationship and personal spiritual growth. Most have been active within their Church and with the Sisters of St. Basil; several have attended St. Basil Academy and Manor Junior College, both operated by the order.

For more information on the Basilian Associate Program contact: Sister Laura Palka OSBM, director of the Basilian Associate Program, or Sister Elizabeth Bertoldi OSBM at the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046; telephone (215) 379-0628.



Sisters of St. Basil the Great celebrate the initiation of the first group of Basilian Associates. Pictured (from left) are: Basilian Associates Tess Bury, Philadelphia; Florence Marie Heckler, Bensalem; Maria S. Harmaty, Philadelphia; Mary DeChiara, Philadelphia; Helen J. Reiche, Philadelphia; and Elizabeth Wolfrum, Philadelphia; Sister Elizabeth Bertoldi and Sister Paula Jacynyk; front row: Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, provincial superior; and Sister Laura Palka, director of the Basilian Associates Program.

## New book is expression of love

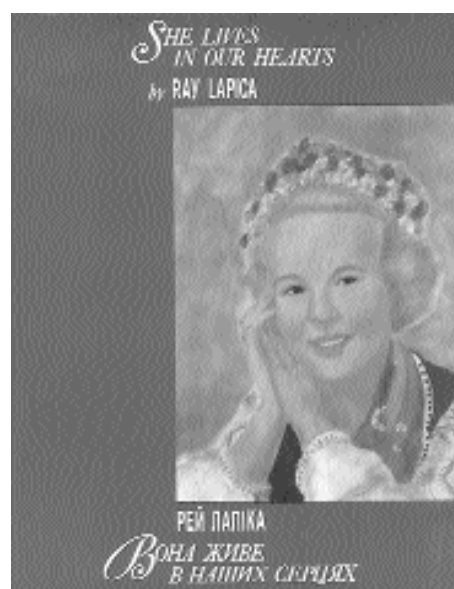
RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The Helen Sherban Lapica Education Fund Inc., has announced that a panegyric about Helen Sherban Lapica titled "She Lives in Our Hearts" ("Vona Zhyvev Nashykh Sertsyakh") has been published in Kyiv in two languages – English and Ukrainian.

The 121-page book was edited by Ray Lapica, president of the non-profit fund. It contains 55 letters from Mrs. Lapica's friends; 24 paintings, mostly of Mrs. Lapica, by Sylvia Dinkel and Mr. Lapica, 33 poems about Mrs. Lapica, two commentaries by Ronnie and Larry Lapica, a eulogy by the Rev. Bill Davis; and two "Dear Helen" letters by Mr. Lapica.

In "A Letter to an Angel," Mr. Lapica says Mrs. Lapica will long be remembered as a co-star in "Marusia," the first Ukrainian film produced in America, and by her family and many friends she inspired with her life.


Mrs. Lapica was born in Krydor, Saskatchewan, and died March 9, 1989, in Fontana, Calif.

The text was translated into Ukrainian by Nadia Naumova. The poems were translated by Solomia and Stanislav




Zinchuk. The executive editor was Yaroslav Romaniuk.


The book is available through the Helen Sherban Lapica Education Fund Inc., 7418 Whitegate Ave., Riverside, CA 92506, for \$3 plus \$1.50 postage. (The fund owns the copyright on the book; no fund money was used to publish it).



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<b>BLACK SEA &amp; DNIPRO CRUISE</b> <i>Lufthansa Airlines</i> from NEW YORK	Depart: May 15 Return: May 22 Depart: May 22 Return: May 29	\$775 \$825 \$825 \$875	Includes: Round-trip airfare, hotel, breakfast, and ground transportation. Visa required.
<b>HUTSULKA</b> <i>via Czech Airlines</i> from NEW YORK	Depart: May 15 Return: May 22 Depart: May 22 Return: May 29	\$475 \$525 \$525 \$575	Includes: Round-trip airfare, hotel, breakfast, and ground transportation. Visa required.
<b>ROXOLANA</b> <i>Lufthansa Airlines</i> from NEW YORK	Depart: May 15 Return: May 22 Depart: May 22 Return: May 29	\$475 \$525 \$525 \$575	Includes: Round-trip airfare, hotel, breakfast, and ground transportation. Visa required.
<b>POLTAVKA</b> <i>Lufthansa Airlines</i> from NEW YORK	Depart: May 15 Return: May 22 Depart: May 22 Return: May 29	\$475 \$525 \$525 \$575	Includes: Round-trip airfare, hotel, breakfast, and ground transportation. Visa required.
<b>CHAIKA</b> <i>via Czech Airlines</i> from NEW YORK	Depart: May 15 Return: May 22 Depart: May 22 Return: May 29	\$475 \$525 \$525 \$575	Includes: Round-trip airfare, hotel, breakfast, and ground transportation. Visa required.
<b>SULTANA</b> <i>Turkish Airlines</i> from NEW YORK	Depart: May 15 Return: May 22 Depart: May 22 Return: May 29	\$475 \$525 \$525 \$575	Includes: Round-trip airfare, hotel, breakfast, and ground transportation. Visa required.

### MICHAEL TERECH SCHOLARSHIP IN JOURNALISM STUDIES

This award is open to undergraduate full-time students of journalism of Ukrainian heritage at a U.S. university starting their junior year in Fall 1997. Areas covered include reporting, editing, feature writing and mass media. A 3.0 grade point average is required.

The number and amount of scholarships is not fixed with \$5,000 available in 1997.

Candidates should submit a brief autobiography as well as 500 word essay on a contemporary Ukrainian topic; a transcript of all undergraduate work; two references and a letter of recommendation, preferably from a faculty member. Representative work by the candidate should also be included in the application.

For an application form contact by letter or FAX:

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday-Monday, March 30-31

**NEW YORK:** The Roman Marynowych Ukrainian Melody Hour/TV presents a Ukrainian Easter program to be telecast on WNYE-TV, Channel 25, at 4 p.m.; and to be heard on radio WNYE-91.5 FM on March 31 at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 6

**CHICAGO:** The Northwest Chicago Symphony Orchestra String Quartet will perform works of Myroslav Skoryk and Antonin Dvorak in a concert program at Wright College, 4300 N. Narragansett, at 3 p.m. For additional information call (312) 777-7900.

Monday, April 7

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is holding a lecture by Andrii Danylenko, professor of Ukrainian linguistics, Kharkiv Pedagogical University, and visiting scholar, HURI, “On the Internal Historical Periodization of the Ukrainian Language.” The lecture will be held in the HURI seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

Saturday, April 12

**NEW YORK:** Music at the Institute presents a concert program of works by Brahms. Performed will be the String Quintet in G Major, Op. 111, with Todd Phillips, violin; Catherine Cho, violin; Paul Coletti, viola; Daniel Panner, viola; and Suren Bagratuni, cello; Zwei Gesänge, Op. 91, Nos. 1 and 2, with Melanie Sonnenberg, mezzo-soprano; Mr. Coletti, viola; and Mykola Suk, piano; and Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25, with

Mr. Suk, piano; Mr. Phillips, violin, Mr. Panner, viola, and Mr. Bagratuni, cello. The concert, which is sponsored by an anonymous donor, will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 8 p.m. Concurrently, there will be an exhibition of pastels by Christina DeBarry. Donation: \$20; senior citizens, \$10; students, \$5.

Sunday, April 13

**NEW YORK:** The St. George Ukrainian Post 401 of the Catholic War Veterans will hold its annual corporate communion luncheon with the Rev. Lawrence Lawryniuk OSBM as guest of honor. The luncheon will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the East Village Ukrainian Restaurant, 140 Second Ave., following the liturgy at noon at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, 30 E. Seventh St. The public is invited. Luncheon: \$15. For additional information call Cmdr. Harry Polche, (718) 446-8043.

ONGOING

**TEXAS CITY, Texas:** The exhibit “Artists from Ukraine: Works on Paper,” curated by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutruk and Sandria Hu, which opened on March 17, is currently on view at the College of the Mainland Fine Arts Gallery through April 15. The gallery is located at 1200 Amburn Road. Gallery hours: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.; other times by request. For information call (409) 938-1211 or (713) 280-3991, ext. 354.

**NEW YORK:** An exhibit of pastels by Olga Kitt, which opened on March 28 at Blackout Books, 50 Ave. B, is on view through May 1. For information call Alice, (212) 260-4754.

PLEASE NOTE: Preview items must be received one week before desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Preview items will be published only once (please indicate desired date of publication). All items are published at the discretion of the editorial staff and in accordance with available space.

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