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Narodnyi Rukh, today splintered, marks 10th anniversary of founding

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Narodnyi Rukh, the pro-democracy and independence movement that transformed itself into one of Ukraine's most potent political parties before splitting into two camps earlier this year, celebrated its 10th anniversary during the week of September 6 in a series of events that only emphasized how far the two sides are from re-union.

Reflecting both the disappointment of Ukrainians and the current bitterness and uncertainty within the two parties' political organizations that now exist due to the February split, observances were generally muted and the rhetoric more inflammatory than congratulatory.

At the only event attended by both wings of the divided party, a commemorative convocation held on September 10 at the Kyiv Polytechnical Institute, Dmytro Pavlychko, a member of the organizing committee of the original Rukh, summed up Rukh's current situation: "We are not the same fire-spewing volcano; today we only spew smoke."

After its birth on September 9, 1989, Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy, the Popular Movement of Ukraine for Perebudova, quickly became the vanguard for Ukraine's pro-democracy movement and independence, and then a significant political party in the fledgling state. It was an organization that often suffered from internal dissent, but found unity and a single overriding cause in the building of a democratic and independent Ukrainian state.

Internal bickering after the 1998 Verkhovna Rada elections finally reached critical mass at the beginning of this year, when a majority of members in the party's Verkhovna Rada faction decided to oust the party chairman, Vyacheslav Chornovil. Two wings formed after the long time leader was removed in a hastily called congress in February in an internal putsch led by Yurii Kostenko. Since Mr. Chornovil's death in a tragic car accident a month after his ouster, relations between the two groups have grown icy.

The two sides have had a difficult time finding common ground and language. They have thrown barbs and slung mud. Each wing has put forward its own presidential candidate. Although both sides have expressed the need for reconciliation, neither Rukh has shown a willingness to compromise.

Attendance was light at several public events held in celebration of Rukh's 10th birthday, most notably at a public meeting on St. Sophia Square on September 11. Mass meetings, as this one was supposed to be, were once the hallmark of Rukh. Before the split at least a thousand supporters could have been expected to show up at any rally called by the party. On Rukh's 10th birthday fewer than 500 people turned out. It was organized by the Rukh camp led by

Hennadii Udovenko, which has been recognized by Ukraine's Ministry of Justice as the only legal heir to the original Rukh.

The political party led by Mr. Kostenko, which has been denied the right to call itself National Rukh by a Supreme Court ruling, although it continues to do so — and is still recognized as such by the Verkhovna Rada — chose the Kyiv Polytechnical Institute for its commemoration because 10 years ago the first All-Ukrainian Congress of Narodnyi Rukh, which established the organization as a political force for restructuring the USSR, was convened there.

The Kostenko organization asked that the original organizing committee from 1989 re-convene and take control of the commemoration to give it an air of impartiality. It was the committee that decided to invite members of both Rukh organizations.

"It was an achievement that we could get both wings of Rukh together," said Ivan Lozovy, vice-chairman of the secretariat of Mr. Kostenko's party.

The organizing committee included many individuals who today do not belong to either Rukh camp. It was led by Volodymyr Yavorivskiy, who until recently led the Democratic Party of Ukraine, and Ivan Drach, Rukh's first leader, who today is a member of Mr. Kostenko's organization. It also included National Deputies Serhii Holovatii and Mykhailo Porovskiy, who are no longer Rukh members.

The commemoration attracted 1,200 people, most of whom, it seemed, were Kostenko supporters. Banners in support of the presidential candidacy of Mr. Kostenko dotted the hall and campaign literature was abundant, although both sides had agreed to keep the elections out of the celebration, according to Mr. Udovenko.

Mr. Udovenko told Interfax-Ukraine that he was disappointed the celebration had been transformed into a political rally and called the actions "unethical." The leader of the government-recognized Rukh also said that his group had received only 50 invitations out of the 1,500 extended.

However, during his address to the crowd Mr. Udovenko was restrained in his criticism and even suggested that Mr. Kostenko's organization draw up a program for a Rukh-led national renaissance that his organization would review. Those remarks were greeted with hearty applause.

Both Mr. Udovenko and Mr. Kostenko, who also addressed the crowd, underscored in their remarks the need for their individual political organizations to take the government reigns of power. Mr. Kostenko said that one of Rukh's main failures over the last 10 years was its cooperation with former Communists who retained power. He cited as another failure the inability of the democratic forces to present an integral Ukrainian political philosophy.

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22-nation summit in Yalta seeks end to division of Europe

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

YALTA — Fifty-four years after the leaders of the victorious Allied Forces of World War II configured the geopolitical map of post-war Europe, which ended with its eastern half artificially isolated from the rest of the continent and dominated by Soviet Russia, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma hosted a second summit here, attended by 22 European countries, to symbolically close the door on that part of history and express the singleness of Europe.

"It is greatly symbolic that we are gathered here, where our fate was decided for us in 1945. Today we are working to destroy those dividing lines," said Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus at the ceremonial opening of the summit at the lavish Livadia Palace, summer home of the 19th century Russian tsars and the place where U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin met at the infamous Yalta Conference more than five decades ago.

Officially called the "International Conference on Baltic-Black Sea

Cooperation: Towards an Integrated Europe in the 21st Century Without Dividing Lines," the summit set as its larger goal the further integration of the former Warsaw Pact countries and the new independent states of the former Soviet Union into mainstream European economic and political structures.

The agenda, however, was more specific than that. The subjects of discussion ranged from the continued development of a transportation corridor for oil and gas from the Transcaucasus region through Ukraine to the Baltic Sea, to the creation of an overall security structure for all of Europe.

A hot topic was how to resolve the practical problems that confront the Baltic-Black Sea countries that have emerged from behind the Iron Curtain but have yet to be included in NATO and have little hope of joining the European Union in the near future. Those issues include visa arrangements, border and customs regulations, and trade agreements. Ukraine's President Kuchma, whose country borders the three newest member-states of NATO, all of which are

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Joint Conferences present Gore with Friend of Ukraine Award

by Roma Hadzewycz

WASHINGTON — Vice-President Al Gore received the Friend of Ukraine Award conferred by the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations during a brief, off-the-record, meeting in his office at the Old Executive Office Building on September 15. The award recognized the vice-president's work in strengthening the

U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership.

Present were leaders of the Ukrainian American organizations that had played an integral role in the Joint Conferences held in Washington on June 23-27, as well as Mr. Gore's national security adviser, Leon Fuerth, who was the keynote speaker at the conferences' gala banquet.

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Holding the Friend of Ukraine Award, Vice-President Al Gore addresses Ukrainian American community leaders.

ANALYSIS

Giving Yalta a new meaning

by Paul Goble

Yalta, the place where Moscow and the West divided Eastern Europe in 1945, is now the symbol of the new and independent role the countries between Russia and Germany and the Baltic and Black seas hope to play in the future.

On September 10-11, 14 presidents and other senior officials from these and adjoining countries met there to promote cooperation among themselves, to denounce the emergence of any new dividing lines in Europe and to demand that no decisions about them be made without their participation.

This, the third international conference in a series launched in Vilnius in 1997, represented the latest and most dramatic effort by these countries to repudiate the great power politics that dominated thinking at the Yalta conference in 1945.

At that first Yalta conference, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, U.S. President D. Franklin Roosevelt, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill effectively created new spheres of influence in Europe – without consulting any of the nations affected.

From that decision – one that has many precedents in European and world history – many once-independent and proud peoples were consigned to Soviet rule for nearly half a century. And none of those affected has ever forgotten or forgiven either that meeting or its results.

Now, and largely as a result of the efforts of these nations themselves, they are once again in a position to be the active subjects of history rather than its mere objects.

And, thus, virtually all of the leaders there echoed in one way or the other the words of Ukraine's foreign affairs minister, Borys Tarasyuk, who said that "Yalta 99 has done away with the spirit of Yalta 45."

But that celebratory spirit was undercut not only by the tight security arrangements surrounding the meeting but also by expressions of genuine concern about whether the goals of Yalta II, as some of the leaders described it, were likely to be achieved any-time soon.

President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine, the host of this year's meeting, pointedly

Paul Goble is the publisher of RFE/RL Newline.

Lazarenko's home makes headlines

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Both The New York Times and MSNBC.com have reported in recent days on the posh California estate purchased for cash by Pavlo Lazarenko, the former prime minister of Ukraine who is seeking political asylum in the United States.

Mr. Lazarenko is currently being held in a federal detention center because he attempted to enter the United States on an invalid visa. Switzerland is seeking Mr. Lazarenko's extradition on charges that he embezzled Ukrainian government funds and funneled them through bank accounts abroad.

MSNBC reported that the mansion purchased for \$6.75 million in northern California is occupied by Mr. Lazarenko's wife and three children. A sales brochure for the 18-acre estate, once occupied by Hollywood star Eddie Murphy, lists five swimming pools, nine bathrooms, two helicopter pads and 2,100-square-foot master bedroom, reported MSNBC. The Times noted that the estate also has five dog kennels, a barn-sized ballroom, granite floors inlaid

with brass and gold-plated doorknobs in the 41-room mansion.

Where did he get the money to pay for it? "Obviously it was stolen," MSNBC quoted Dr. Roman Szporluk of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University as saying. "I cannot imagine any other source," he added.

Mr. Lazarenko continues to insist that he is a victim of political persecution in Ukraine. The Times reported that Michael Handwerker, an attorney representing Mr. Lazarenko, said his client contests the charges against him in Europe and dismisses them as politically motivated.

The Times also wrote that "questions have also arisen about how Lazarenko's own economic position has improved. As a political official who traversed the line between public authority and private deal making, Lazarenko made money buying and selling natural gas contracts when he was energy minister, U.S. authorities say. As prime minister, he may have pocketed millions of dollars from state programs, according to Ukrainian and Swiss authorities."

Such restrictions on the "free movement of law-abiding citizens of states aspiring for European integration," Mr. Kuchma suggested, could effectively divide the continent in ways that would make it difficult, if not impossible, for states once submerged in the Soviet empire to recover.

Then, Estonian President Lennart Meri called attention to one of the problems to which many of the other leaders only alluded. While the countries of this region are now the subjects of history, he said, "none of us are simply subjects."

As a result, the Baltic leader continued, his country and its neighbors "remain its objects as well, driven hither and yon by larger forces and larger states." Because of that, Mr. Meri said, the countries of this region cannot take anything for granted but must work together to defend their interests.

And finally, in words that confirmed both the fears and the appeals of Messrs. Meri and the others, the Russian representative at the Yalta meeting used the occasion to oppose the expansion of a Western institution that many of the countries in this region hope to join.

Speaking on September 10, Russian First Vice Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko argued that "NATO's further expansion – including the Baltic states – would lead to the creation of new dividing lines and would in no case assist in the consolidation of security."

Mr. Khristenko's appeal in itself reflects the continuing view of many in Moscow that it and no one else should play the dominant role in this region – a role that Stalin believed the West had ratified at the first Yalta conference.

But at the same time, Mr. Khristenko made these comments in a city that is now part of an independent Ukraine and to an audience consisting of leaders of countries who have either gained or regained their independence from Moscow.

And that fact demonstrates more clearly than anything else just how much the world has changed since 1945 and how significant Yalta II in fact was, both as a symbol of those changes and as an expression of hope for the future.

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine tightens security measures

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on September 13 signed a directive providing for measures to strengthen "public security and guard technically sensitive facilities" in connection with the growing number of terrorist attacks in Russia." Mr. Kuchma appealed to citizens to take in their stride any inconveniences they may experience in crossing the state border or participating in public events. (RFE/RL Newline)

Cabinet approves 2000 draft budget

KYIV – The government has approved a draft state budget for 2000 that provides for revenues totaling 37.4 billion hrv (some \$8 billion U.S.). The government expects to gain 2.5 billion hrv from the privatization of state property. A list of enterprises designated for sale in 2000 was submitted earlier to the Verkhovna Rada. (RFE/RL Newline)

NBU calm over recent hryvnia fall

KYIV – The hryvnia left the previously established exchange corridor of 3.4 to 4.6 to \$1 and was traded at 4.65-4.7 to \$1, Ukrainian Television reported on September 12. Commercial bank and currency dealers explain the hryvnia's fall by speculative demand for hard currency in expectation of the hryvnia's devaluation. They claim that the hryvnia will continue to fall unless the National Bank of Ukraine intervenes on the currency market. However, NBU press secretary Dmytro Rikberg said last week that "there will be no interference" on the part of the bank and that the situation will stabilize in the next few days once Ukraine has received foreign credits. (RFE/RL Newline)

Both Rukhs protest Soviet-era symbols

KYIV – Some 40 deputies from the two rival factions of Rukh walked out of a parliamentary session on September 9 to protest the rejection of their proposal to remove Soviet-era symbols from the Verkhovna Rada building. The walkout appeared to be the first demonstration of unity between Rukh legislators after the organization split into two factions earlier this year and nominated two presidential candidates. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma without real estate abroad

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said on September 8 that he does not possess or own real estate abroad. He added that in order to purchase real estate abroad a person would have to steal. (Eastern Economist)

Kazakhstan wants economic cooperation

ASTANA, Kazakhstan – Meeting on September 9 in Astana with a visiting delegation from Dniprodzerzhinsk, President Nursultan Nazarbaev advocated reviving traditional economic cooperation between the two countries, Interfax reported. Mr. Nazarbaev said that cooperation is currently hindered by the high railroad tariffs Russia imposes on foreign goods. Mr. Nazarbaev is scheduled to visit Kyiv for talks on the export of Kazak crude to Ukraine for refining at the Lysychansk refinery. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma details election platform

KYIV – Unveiling his election platform on September 6, President Leonid Kuchma said that if he had not sought re-election, "I would not have been able to respect myself," Interfax reported. The economic part of that platform, which Mr. Kuchma said was developed by the "cream of the production sector and academic circles," foresees a growth of 2 percent next year in the gross domestic product. Under his leadership, Mr. Kuchma said, Ukraine would continue economic reforms to become a "socially oriented" state. He added that the country's foreign policy would be based on integration with the European Union and at the same time close cooperation with the CIS. He stressed, however, that Ukraine would not join CIS supranational bodies. (RFE/RL Newline)

IMF approves next tranche for Ukraine

KYIV – The IMF on September 7 approved the release of an \$184 million tranche to Ukraine after the fund completed its third review of the country's economic policy under a three-year \$2.6 billion loan program, the DPA news agency reported. IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer commented that the IMF board of directors noted that so far in 1999 macroeconomic developments have exceeded expectations and that fiscal adjustment has been encouraging. Meanwhile, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yuschenko said Ukraine will be able to pay off its mounting foreign debts in 2000, provided the Verkhovna Rada approves a deficit-free budget and the IMF continues its aid. (RFE/RL Newline)

World Bank grants third tranche

KYIV – The World Bank has decided to grant Ukraine the third and final \$100 million (U.S.) tranche intended for the restructuring of Ukraine's financial sector.

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Delegation members share thoughts on press freedom in Ukraine

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK – A dozen members of a 16-person delegation from Ukraine, consisting of attorneys, judges and journalists, met at the offices of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) on August 24 to learn about the organization's efforts to defend journalists worldwide, as well as to offer their thoughts on the situation of press freedom in Ukraine. Chrystyna Lapychak, program director for Eastern Europe at CPJ, greeted the delegation with congratulatory remarks in honor of Ukraine's eighth anniversary of independence, after which she gave a presentation about CPJ's role as an international advocate for the rights of journalists and freedom of the press.

The CPJ functions as a "watchdog" of media freedom and is often one of the first organizations to alert international institutions, media and governments about press abuse. CPJ works to assist individual journalists who are being threatened and conducts reviews worldwide of the repression by governments of individual journalists in particular and media freedom in general.

The organization annually issues a "Top Ten Enemies of the Press". For a dramatic increase in the use of administrative methods (audits, fines, lawsuits, taxation, etc.) to suppress freedom of the press and for not sustaining a legal and political environment in which journalists can practice their profession without threat of physical harm, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma appeared sixth on this year's CPJ list, which was issued in May.

Members of the delegation included lawyers who defend journalists and media organizations, two journalists, as well as two judges who hear media-related court cases. As delegation members spoke about the problems in Ukraine, the issue of defamation and libel lawsuits surfaced as a major means by which the press is controlled.

Unlike many Western democracies in which public figures, especially elected officials, are held up to higher public standards of accountability and have less right to privacy than do private individuals, public officials in Ukraine appear not to believe that they need to be accountable to the electorate for their actions and resent the scrutiny of the media. Therefore, Ukraine has a series of laws that basically do not allow the media to criticize public officials or scrutinize their activities without running the risk of being sued, fined, even jailed.

Ihor Samsin, one of the judges in the delegation, noted that judges are frequently criticized for the decisions they make in libel cases that go against journalists. He noted that, "the laws may be bad, but it is our responsibility to make a decision in

accordance with the law. We can't be faulted for the bad laws – we can only be faulted if we do not adhere to them properly."

The lengthy discussion on suppression of press freedom in Ukraine brought out disparate points of views. Many of the delegation members claimed that much of the suppression is not political or ideological and does not come from the government – especially on the oblast level. Other factors, mostly economic, are more prevalent in the manipulation of the media, they argued. Examples included scenarios such as when a businessman will pay an editor to publish nasty articles about a competitor, or the situation in which a newspaper, in an attempt to destroy its competition and get advertisers and subscribers for themselves, will pay off government officials to levy a heavy fine against the competing publication.

Several lawyers also accused journalists and editors of being unfamiliar with the libel law, or of purposefully flaunting libel laws to gain notoriety. When the person whom they scandalized then sues, they scream suppression of free press, when the article really was irresponsible and illegal journalism, the lawyers noted.

They cited instances when editors turned to them for advice about publishing a certain article and were advised to not publish since the article would be libelous under existing law – but did so anyway. Noted a young lawyer from Vinnytsia, Viktor Andrushchenko, it's one thing when government officials scream libel in attempt to cover up their illegal activity, but private citizens have the right to expect protection and newspapers can't be allowed to run false, scandalous stories with impunity.

In response, Volodymyr Skachko, one of two journalists in the delegation, noted that, nonetheless, "it is the government's responsibility to maintain a political and economic environment where people don't feel as though they need to or can ruin other people to survive," and that it doesn't much matter if the manipulation and suppression of press freedom is done as a result of economic or political motivation – the end result is the same – a de facto suppression of free speech and no mechanism with which to counterbalance the power of officials over private lives.

As for remarks that "we just follow the law, it's not our fault if the laws are bad," Mr. Skachko replied that the judiciary would better serve itself and the people of Ukraine if it exercised a little more independence from the executive branch and showed a little more courage.

According to delegation members, the methods by which press freedom in Ukraine is suppressed can be broken down into several general types: the (negative or

positive) article which is paid for – the "zakazna" – in which the press is used to destroy economic or political competitors and thus threatens press independence and reliability of media as a neutral or objective voice; the article that is written as a result of a thinly veiled government "request"/directive, which also undermines the role of the press as an objective provider of information; and a variety of administrative methods used to meet political and economic ends.

In general, administrative methods appear to be the preferred form of harassment – for example, editors are not jailed for publishing articles critical of those in power, rather the entire newspaper is shut down for months so that a "tax audit" can be conducted. Other methods include the use of heavy fines for alleged, supposedly serious infractions of the law, for example, the use of the Russian language in an advertisement without running the same advertisement in Ukrainian.

On the oblast level, tax and fire inspectors often cite alleged infractions that carry heavy fines in order to solicit a bribe from the publication to cancel the citation. Other examples include the delay in approving certain legal documents, such as re-registration, until an editor "agrees" to fire a particular journalist.

Mr. Samsin, however, holds out great hope for the development in Ukraine of an independent judiciary that will carry more authority – one that ultimately will give more protection to journalists. He noted that Ukraine had no real history of case law and legal precedent since time is needed to

develop such a history. Only with legal precedent can a legal system develop consistency, he noted, which gives the judiciary legitimacy, and legitimacy over time gives authority. The Ukrainian legal system is only now beginning to have the time to develop an independent authority.

The Supreme Court is beginning to be the final arbitrator in cases from all the oblasts, he stated, and therefore is giving a final interpretation to certain laws. These interpretations will then trickle back into the oblasts and in this way, he noted, over time, judicial rulings should become more consistent throughout the republic.

Mr. Samsin also noted that more often courts are being used as final arbitrators – a departure from the "executive decree" of the past – and the more frequently major issues arise that give courts exposure, the more legitimacy they will achieve. He predicted, for example, that there will be great disputes surrounding the upcoming presidential election – accusations of violations of campaign and election laws that the courts will be asked to consider – and then the courts will be making decisions that will have to be followed. An independent judiciary is equally necessary for the well-being of a nation as an independent media, he noted.

The delegation was in the United States as part of a two-week media lawyers training program jointly organized by the Media Studies Center of the Freedom Forum Foundation of Virginia and the Squadron Program on Law, Media and Society, part of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York City.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Professional image-maker coming to Ukraine

KYIV – The situation in Russia, where over 95 percent of presidential, gubernatorial or parliamentary candidates are using the services of professional image-makers will repeat itself in Ukraine in the next three to four years, stated Director General Igor Mintusov of Nikollo M, a Russian image-maker firm. The company, which developed an image for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, prices its services for a Russian presidential candidate from \$200 million to \$500 million (U.S.). Since the company is unfamiliar with specifics in Ukraine, according to Mr. Mintusov, the firm is not going to participate in the coming presidential elections in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Germans to buy 52 percent of cargo transporter

KYIV – The State Anti-Monopoly Committee has permitted the German company Cargotransport Weiden to buy 52 percent of the shares offered by the open joint stock company KyivZovnishTrans. According to the committee, this deal will not result in competition restriction and in monopolization of commodity markets. KyivZovnishTrans specializes mainly in handling cargoes, including dispatching, transportation, and storage. (Eastern Economist)

EU imposes anti-dumping duty on pipes

BRUSSELS – The European Union Commission has imposed a 56.5 percent preliminary anti-dumping duty on Ukrainian pipes, said the director of the Mahistr & Partners law firm, Oleh Riabokon. According to Mr. Riabokon, the duty became effective August 19 and any duty over 10 percent actually closes the market to the manufacturer. The anti-dumping inquiry was initiated in November 1998 by the European Association of pipe manufacturers when Ukrainian manufacturers exported nearly 120,000 tons of pipes to the EU. It concerns the products supplied to the European market by Nyzhniodniprovskiy pipe-rolling works as well as Nikopol-based Pivdennotrubnyi and Dnipropetrovsk-based pipe works. (Eastern Economist)

Mexico reacts to Ukrainian steel dumping

MEXICO CITY – The Mexican Trade Ministry (Secofi) announced that it is slapping compensatory duties on imports of hot-rolled steel sheet from Russia and Ukraine, claiming that these countries had dumped steel on the Mexican market at unfairly low prices. Thus, provisional duties of 20.07 percent were slapped on hot-rolled steel sheet from Russia and a staggering 46.66 percent on Ukrainian steel sheet. The ministry said its probe, based on complaints from the Mexican producers Hylsa SA and Altos Hornos de Mexico, during the first half of 1998 proved that an increase of imported hot-rolled steel sheet from Russia and Ukraine at discriminatory prices had damaged the national steel industry. The ministry said its investigation into the dumping complaint would continue. (Eastern Economist)

U.S. cancels anti-dumping on magnesium

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Court of Appeals on September 1 canceled the anti-dumping duty that had been imposed on magnesium imported from Ukraine. The duty was

Independent TV station sued for tax evasion

KYIV – The State Tax Administration has sued the independent television station STB for evading taxes, overestimating its expenses and concealing incomes, the Associated Press and the Eastern Economic Daily reported.

RFE/RL Newswire reported that, according to the tax administration, STB paid 19,000 hrv (\$4,200 U.S.) in taxes on advertising income in June, instead of some 1 million hrv. According to tax authorities commercials brought in a total of 3.23 million hrv including taxes. STB denies these accusations, saying tax inspectors have incorrectly calculated its income. It claims that both the tax inspections and the freezing of its bank account are intended to put pressure on the station before the presidential elections.

Eastern Economist had previously reported that the bank account of STB, considered the country's most independent

newscaster, was frozen on August 26 with all transactions suspended by order of Kyiv's Radianskyi District Tax Police for "failing to deliver documents related to calculating and paying taxes."

STB has an audience of about 30 million, employs 3,000 nationwide, and is now compiling and purchasing new programs and video materials for the approaching TV season. STB is the only station broadcasting Verkhovna Rada sessions on a daily basis on its program Vikna-Parliament (Window to Parliament) and after the central state channel, UT-1, stopped airing the legislature's activities the ensuing fall-out revealed the full extent of non-cooperation between the country's legislature and executive branch.

"Considering the trend in Ukraine in recent years to shut down independent

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OUR COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

LaJolla, Calif.

by Dr. Jaroslaw Pikolcky

LA JOLLA, Calif. – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer met with Ukrainian Americans from San Diego and Los Angeles during a luncheon at the La Jolla Country Club, while he was here on vacation visiting his family.

It was an honor to meet with the ambassador, who requested a meeting with members of the Ukrainian American community. It was most interesting to be updated on latest policies towards Ukraine in its pursuit of economic growth eight years after celebrating its independence from Soviet domination.

Ambassador Pifer said he is a career diplomat, having served 21 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. He served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton and senior director for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council in 1996-1997. He arrived in Kyiv in January 1998.

Ambassador Pifer said he is optimistic that Ukraine has all the resources necessary to maintain its independence, build a strong democracy and institute a strong market economy. Ukraine has disarmed itself of one of the biggest nuclear arsenals in the world. Ukraine is an American ally in peacekeeping in Eastern Europe and a supporter of NATO, and Ukrainian troops are stationed in Bosnia and other hotspots.

When asked how the Ukrainian community in the United States can help Ukraine and how it can influence U.S. policy, Mr. Pifer replied: "The Ukrainian commu-



Ambassador Steven Pifer (fifth from right) with Ukrainian Americans in LaJolla, Calif.

nity can communicate to the U.S. government its concerns and priorities. Ukrainian Americans have many talented, experienced and knowledgeable individuals that can help Ukraine."

"There are ways to expand exchanges to get more Ukrainians into organized programs in the United

States where they can spend more time learning how the U.S. tackles various political and economic problems, and then come back and apply some of those ideas in Ukraine as Ukraine goes through its own difficult transition process," the ambassador commented.

Maplewood, N.J.

by Andrew Keybida

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. - Mayor Gerard W. Ryan signed and read a proclamation on August 3 at Maplewood Town Hall that designating August 24 as Ukrainian Independence Day in honor of the eighth anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Mayor Ryan presented the document to Andrew Keybida and then ordered that the Ukrainian flag be raised in front of the Maplewood Town Hall on August 24 alongside the American flag to "pay tribute to the Ukrainian people for their courage and fortitude in the struggle for freedom and independence of Ukraine."

Mr. Keybida accepted the proclamation, stating that the Ukrainian American community is grateful for the proclamation and extends its thanks to the leaders of Maplewood for always supporting Ukraine's struggle for freedom.

On August 24 members of the Maplewood's Ukrainian American community gathered at 9 a.m. at the Municipal Building.

The Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of Newark, N.J., opened the ceremonies with a prayer. He stated: "We proudly honor Ukraine on its eighth anniversary of independence and happily acknowledge to the world that, of all the former Soviet countries, it is Ukraine that has had the most peaceful transition from totalitarianism to democracy. There has been no bloodshed, no armed conflict or political repression. Ukraine has had peaceful elections and prepares itself for another democratic election, it

has become a responsible country in world affairs and has provided an example to other countries by being the first to remove its nuclear warheads. It has ensured the human and civil rights of all its citizens."

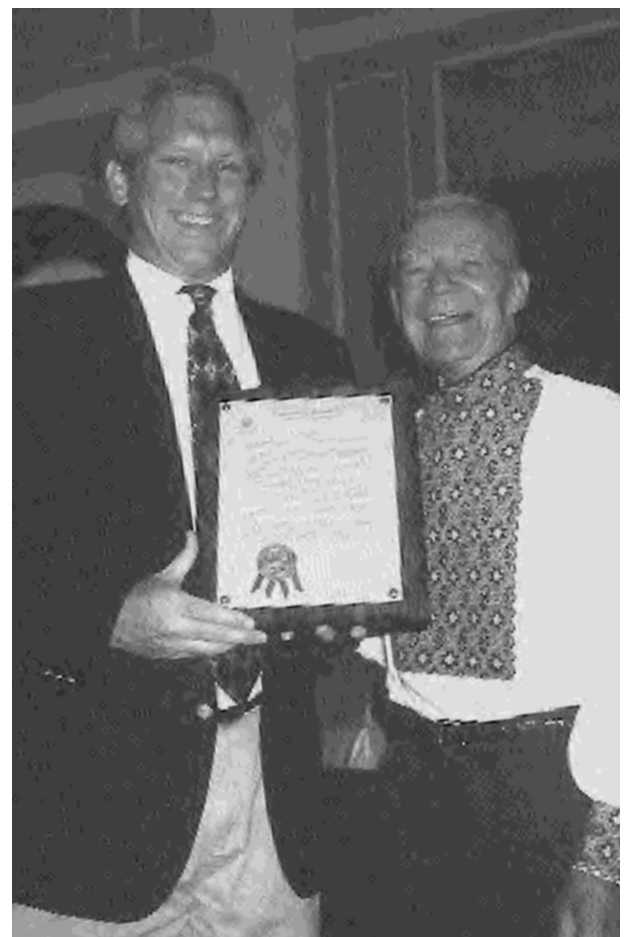
"... we offer our prayerful support and promise to help Ukraine become the prosperous and successful country it has the potential to be. Much has been accomplished already and, with God's help and our help, Ukraine is ensured of a healthy, peaceful future," he said.

Mayor Ryan then greeted those assembled and read the proclamation commemorating the eighth anniversary of modern Ukraine.

The Rev. Taras Fedorovich concluded the indoor ceremony with a solemn prayer. He also noted: "Having lived all my life in Ukraine, I, as a Ukrainian Catholic priest, was among the millions who rejoiced that our country chose to become totally independent of the Communist Soviet system. How happy we were on August 24, 1991, when we announced to the world that we had become a free country without the expected bloodshed. And for this we give thanks to God."

He continued: "We must, however, forever remember the millions of Ukrainians who were persecuted, who were tortured and who were martyred by the Communist totalitarian regime over the past 70 years. Their struggle and fight for an independent Ukraine, their bloodshed and their lives were and are the foundation of our free statehood."

The Ukrainian flag was brought to the aisle in the center of Town Hall while the audience sang the Ukrainian national anthem. The flag was then carried out to the flagpole and was raised together with the American flag while those gathered sang the American anthem.



Maplewood Mayor Gerard Ryan (left) presents proclamation to Andrew Keybida.

OBITUARY: Rev. John Stuchlak, assistant pastor in Newark, 70

NEWARK, N.J. – The Rev. John Stuchlak CSsR, the assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Newark, N.J., died on September 15 while recuperating from a lengthy illness in Holy Family Manor in Bethlehem, Pa.

He was blessed to have his family and the pastoral staff of the nursing home praying with him as he shared his last priestly moments on earth.

The Rev. Stuchlak was born on February 8, 1929, in Atlas, Pa., and was ordained a Redemptorist priest on May 11, 1958, by Bishop Isidore Borecky. He

served in many Ukrainian parishes throughout Canada and the United States; however, much of his priestly ministry took place in St. John's in Newark. Last year he celebrated the 40th anniversary of his priesthood.

The funeral parastas will take place on Sunday, September 19, at 6 p.m. and the pontifical funeral liturgy will be celebrated on September 20 at 10:30 a.m. in St. John's Church, Newark.

The funeral liturgy will take place at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Mount Carmel, Pa., at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 21.

Independent TV station

(Continued from page 3)

media," Tim O'Connor, director of IREX ProMedia, a press-supporting organization, told Eastern Economist, "I would have to be suspicious about the grounds upon which the actions were taken." The station's Administration Board chair, Volodymyr Syvkovych, connected the tax police actions to the station's earlier statement that it "will not support any presidential candidate during the campaign," and a subsequent statement that "STB will not change its position on the matter."

STB President Dmytro Prykordonnyi suspected that another reason is the station's "objective coverage of the campaign activity of every presidential candidate."

In addition, STB is a popular station in

the regions. According to director of the European Institute for Free Media, Alivtina Boretska, "regional TV stations, supporting various presidential candidates, would receive a big chunk of extra air time if STB were closed."

The 1 million hrv fee imposed by the inspectors must be paid within two weeks, or STB will be cut off the air. With the fall TV season just around the corner, STB had planned to double its newscasts.

Eastern Economist reported that STB was preparing for talks with the Radianskyi District Tax Police. If talks fail, STB will take the tax collectors to court, and possibly to international courts. Station management plans to turn to IREX ProMedia for legal consultation. "We will use all of our powers and knock on every door to bring our station's operations back to normal," concluded Mr. Syvkovych.

Ukrainian battalion celebrates Independence Day in Bosnia-Herzegovina

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – A Ukrainian battalion that is part of the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, celebrated Ukrainian Independence Day (August 24) in grand style in Mostar.

The event, which was attended by numerous military VIPs and invited guests, was given enthusiastic coverage in the German-language army newspaper *Der Keiler* (August 30), which serves Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The article was penned by 1st Lt. Boris Propping. [Photos of the event were provided to *The Weekly* by Maj. Yurij Holowinsky of the U.S., who is stationed in Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Force.]

Der Keiler reported that the eighth anniversary celebrations began with the commemoration of the 52 Ukrainian soldiers who died during the war in Bosnia in 1991-1995. It was followed by a review of soldiers of Ukrainian Battalion 240 of the SFOR, under the commander of Col. Hryhoriev. Receiving the review were Gen. Maj. Schwerdorffer, commander of the multinational South-East Division, and Brig. Gen. Johann Berger, commander of the Central Brigade.

The review, which was termed “exemplary,” was followed by a demonstration of the skills and fitness of the Ukrainian paratroopers as variously exhibited in unarmed combat, the use of bayonets, and AK 47 assault rifles.

Onlookers invariably winced as bottles or bricks, balanced precariously on the backs of fellow soldiers, were broken with the blow of fists, bodies crumbled on the concrete floor of the fighting ring, and knives flew through the air – the whole at times verging on a Kozak bravura performance, noted the German newspaper.

The exhibition was deemed most impressive in terms of military and physical prowess, with the Ukrainians leaving “no doubt as to the high level” of their skills, *Der Keiler* observed.

The exhibition cum show was followed by a recep-



Yurij Holowinsky

Ukrainian Battalion 240 passes in review.

tion characterized by legendary Ukrainian hospitality – featured was such delectable fare as champagne from Crimea, vodka and caviar, smoked fish and lobster – which provided a conducive atmosphere for fraternizing

and contributed in no small measure to participants’ reluctance to part.

The final, resounding words of parting were: “Druzhiba Ukraini!”



Private Petro Melnyk from Zhytomyr standing in a BTR-70 armored personnel carrier.



A combat exhibition.



Col. Hryhoriev, commander of Ukrainian Battalion 240, on the tribunal with foreign military VIPs.



Memorial to the 52 Ukrainian soldiers who died during the war in Bosnia (1991-1995) while serving as peacekeepers.

22-nation summit...

(Continued from page 1)

also strong candidates for membership in the EU, said the potential for a divided Europe remains.

"I must tell you that with the Iron Curtain down there still exists the danger of a far more humane, but no less dangerous, paper curtain being put up between Eastern Europe and Western Europe," said Mr. Kuchma.

Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski also addressed the divisions that still exist on the European continent in his address to the summit. He stated that it is not up to the EU to determine who belongs to Europe and who does not.

"There should be no open or subtle dividing lines in Europe," said Mr. Kwasniewski. He also called on Europe to accept Ukraine into its free trade association after it gains status in the World Trade Organization.

Another key issue was the continued effort by the Baltic and Black Sea neighbors to have gas and oil from the Caspian Sea Basin routed through the Black Sea and Ukraine to Central Europe. Western oil and gas conglomerates are blocking any plans for a new routing, as is the U.S. government, even as Azerbaijan's President Haidar Aliyev, whose country controls many of the recently discovered oil fields, has expressed support for it.

President Aliyev met with President Kuchma to discuss the Ukrainian transport corridor soon after his arrival in Yalta.

The summit participants also addressed ecological issues and communications technologies in the region, as well as problems with illegal migration, drug smuggling and arms trafficking.

Presidents or prime ministers of 14 of the 22 countries attended "Yalta II," as it has been dubbed, while others sent



President Leonid Kuchma welcomes President Waira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia.



President Gejdar Aliyev of Azerbaijan with the Ukrainian president.

ambassador-level representatives. The participating countries were, for the most part, members of either the Council of Baltic Countries or the Organization of Black Sea Cooperation. They included Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Sweden.

Also present were representatives of the foremost European geopolitical struc-

tures: the European Union, the European Commission, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and NATO.

The group agreed on two joint statements. One was an expression of sympathy and solidarity with Turkey and Greece, which were recently hit by a series of earthquakes, while the other declared the need for a joint effort and cooperation by all of Europe in resolving the continent's problems in the 21st century. It reaffirmed "the inherent right of

all states to choose the means to ensure their own security," while expressing the need to promote beneficial cooperation among the countries; to undertake joint efforts for the resolution and prevention of conflicts; to develop economic cooperation through joint projects in the fields of energy, transport, communications, ecology and other spheres; to deepen cooperation in humanitarian fields; and to combat terrorism

(Continued on page 12)

To mark the end of this millennium
and the beginning of a new one, *The Ukrainian Weekly*
will publish a book, tentatively titled

"The Ukrainian Weekly 2000"

chronicling significant events in history
as published in *The Ukrainian Weekly*
from 1933 through 1999

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President Arpad Goncz of Hungary.



President Lennart Meri of Estonia.

Belarus dis-invited?

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

YALTA – A decision by the Kuchma administration not to invite Belarusian President Alyaksander Lukashenka to the Black Sea-Baltic Summit in Yalta has angered the Belarusian government.

On September 9 a Belarusian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson said that Ukraine had withdrawn the invitation it had originally extended to Mr. Lukashenka and criticized the act as an "unfriendly gesture," according to Interfax-Ukraine.

"The revoking of the invitation by Ukraine is, from a Belarusian viewpoint, a clearly inconsistent step," said

the official, who was not identified.

Leaders and representatives of 22 countries attended the September 10-11 conference in Yalta at the Livadia Palace, which called for an end to the political divisions in Europe that still exist 54 years after the continent was divided by the Allied powers.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk said in Yalta that invitations were extended to the nations that belong either to the Organization of Black Sea Cooperation or the Council of Baltic Countries. Also asked to attend were the three countries of the Visegrad Treaty.

(Continued on page 15)

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Seniors conclude 25th anniversary conference

by Anne Chopek

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The 25th anniversary conference of Ukrainian National Association Seniors was held at Soyuzivka on June 13-18.

The weather was great as registration began Sunday afternoon in the lobby of the Main House, ably handled by Olga Paproski, Dr. Stefania Baranowskyj and Mary Bobeczko. After dinner members gathered at the Veselka Bar for a no-host cocktail party, the perfect place to socialize, and to have the annual Ukrainian sing-along led by Olga Liteplo.

On Monday morning, members participated in a divine liturgy and panakhyda (requiem service) in memory of deceased UNA seniors at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

The conference was opened by President Anna Chopek. The American and Ukrainian anthems were sung, the "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited, and the business session began.

Dr. Chopek was elected conference chairman, Mrs. Liteplo, English-language secretary, and Larissa Dijak, Ukrainian-language secretary.

Appointments to committees were made as follows: Nominating Committee – Eva Uzych and Olga Shatynsky; Committee on Donations – Estelle Woloshyn, Volodymyr Diachuk, Alice Orlan and Helen Chornomaz; Auditing Committee – Tatiana Rishko and Myron

Pastushenko.

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of deceased UNA Seniors. Dr. Oleh Wolansky led members in the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" for Dr. Roman Baranowskyj on the occasion of his 94th birthday. Dr. Baranowskyj is not only an active and longtime member of the UNA Seniors, but is well-known in the Ukrainian community for his work on various Ukrainian causes.

Minutes of the 1998 seniors' conference were read by the English-language secretary, Mrs. Liteplo. Ukrainian-language minutes were not read due to the absence of Dr. Jurij Swyschuk, who was unable to attend the conference. Reports were given by Dr. Chopek, president; Alice Orlan, executive vice-president; Sam Liteplo, vice-president, Ms. Paproski, treasurer; and regional representatives: Connecticut – Ms. Paproski; New Jersey – Maria Mandzij; New York City – Mrs. Liteplo; Ohio – Mrs. Bobeczko; Kerhonkson, N.Y. – Dr. Baranowskyj; Pennsylvania – Ms. Uzych. Irene Russnak of Rochester, Anne Remick of New England – and John Lopic of Pennsylvania, were unable to attend the conference because of personal reasons.

Controllers reported that the treasurer's books were in order, and a vote of confidence was passed.

The Nominating Committee presented



The UNA Seniors executive board.

the slate for 1999: President – Dr. Chopek, Executive Vice-President – Ms. Orlan, Vice-President – Mr. Liteplo, Treasurer – Ms. Paproski, English-language Secretary – Mrs. Liteplo, Ukrainian-language Secretary – Larissa Dijak, all area Representatives who served in the previous year, including Ms. Uzych for Pennsylvania. The vote approving the slate was unanimous.

On Monday evening, the lobby of the main house was transformed into a beautiful cocktail lounge, where the UNA Seniors' 25th anniversary party was held. Wine and canapes were served. Music was provided by Yuriy Trenkler. Dr. Baranowskyj entertained participants with readings from the writings of Edward Kozak.

Bingo night, which was well attended and enjoyed by all, was very efficiently conducted by Nicholas and Mary Bobeczko, Mr. Liteplo, and John and Helen Laba. Prizes were donated by the Ukrainian National Association, the Soyuzivka gift shop and the UNA Seniors.

The UNA Seniors also enjoyed an exhibit of photographs taken of them over the years. The exhibit was prepared by Oksana Trytjak of the UNA Home Office.

Ms. Orlan showed a video of a cruise on the Dnipro River in Ukraine, and the various places visited along the route. She also spoke about the tour she is planning for the year 2000 in Ukraine which will include the cruise. The presentation

(Continued on page 14)

UNA Seniors Certificates for Service

**President, Conference Chairman
and Honorary Member**
Stefan Kuropas
Anna Chopek

President and Honorary Member
Eugene Woloshyn

President and Treasurer
Mykola Avramchuk

President and Secretary
Dr. Oleh Wolansky

**President, Conference Chairman
and Publicity Chairman**
Dr. Roman Baranowskyj

President
Dr. Wolodymyr Sawchak

Vice-President and Secretary
Daniel Slobodian
Alice Orlan

**Vice-President
and Conference Chairman**
John Laba

Vice-President
Sam Liteplo

(Continued on page 14)

Branch 161 sponsors golf outing



WAMPUM, Pa. – UNA Branch 161 sponsored annual golf outings for members on June 12 and August 21 at Stonecrest Golf Course. Over 50 members participated in the all-day events. Many members dedicated their time in organizing these annual events and special thanks goes to John Sradomski for all his efforts in overseeing the coordination of the golf outing. Above are the branch's die-hard golfers (from left) Lou Oleski, Pete Roman, Jim Barnes and Al Prisker.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Members of the Ukrainian National Association who are 79 years or older and are still paying premiums on their insurance with UNA are entitled to a fraternal benefit. The UNA will pay the annual premiums for policies issued in classes 1, 5, 6, 21, 51, 26, or 56. This payment is automatic and members do not need to do anything. Any member who has insurance in any other class is not entitled to this benefit. All members 79 years and over who have dividend options other than cash must continue to pay their insurance premiums. With Dividend option 2 or 4 (accumulation of interest on the dividend or additional paid-up insurance), the UNA will pay their dividend option but not the premium. Members may cancel their dividend option if they wish to have the UNA pay their premiums. Please contact the UNA Home Office or your branch secretary.

The Executive Committee



UNA President Ulana Diachuk addresses the anniversary banquet. Seated are President Anna Chopek (center) and English-Language Secretary Olga Liteplo of the UNA Seniors.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Back to "Ridna Shkola"

One of the hallmarks, and linchpins, of the Ukrainian American community for several generations is its network of "Ukrainian schools" – Saturday classes for children where Ukrainian language, history, geography and culture are taught. The classes, held in a various types of locations – including church basements, rented classrooms in public and parochial schools, community halls and even private homes – are part of the dual commitments Ukrainian families make on weekends: school on Saturday, church on Sunday.

In many cities, the Saturday classes are often followed by meetings of youth groups, choir practice, religious instruction, sports competitions or piano, dance or singing lessons. While providing children with a one-day-a-week total immersion into their Ukrainian heritage, the venue of Saturday school is also a trusty network used by parents to meet, socialize, exchange information, gather funds, lobby elected officials, plan community events.

The Ukrainian schools in the United States grew out of the "Ridna Shkola" model that was established in Halychyna at the beginning of the century. Dr. Myron Kuropas, in his book "The Ukrainian American Citadel," cites archives that record a fund-raising drive among Ukrainians in the United States as early as 1912 that raised \$9,400 to be sent to Ukraine in support of the Ridna Shkola network.

However the Ridna Shkola system only began to evolve rapidly during the interwar period. In attempt to offset mandatory Polish instruction in state schools and increasing "Polonization" and assimilation of youth, Ukrainians maintained a network of private schools, the main organizers of which were the Ukrainian Pedagogical Society and the youth movement Plast. By the mid-1930s, 60 percent of the secondary schools in Halychyna were part of the private Ridna Shkola network.

On a much smaller scale, there were also a few schools in the United States that paralleled the Ridna Shkola structure in Ukraine – in particular, a network maintained by the Orthodox Church. However, the face of the modern Ridna Shkola in the United States is a product of the post-war immigration.

Various established and funded by parishes, credit unions, political parties and community organizations, the fledging network of Ukrainian schools strung out in immigrant communities in cities and towns between New York and Chicago was pulled together in March 1953 under a coordinating body – the autonomous Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Over the years, the council has developed a core curriculum to be used in the various schools, published handbooks and textbooks, developed a standardized cumulative test format – the often-dreaded final-year "matura" – and lobbied state educational boards to provide school credits for Ukrainian instruction.

According to Dr. Eugene Fedorenko, head of the Educational Council, there are now 36 schools throughout the United States that belong to the council that include 2,500-2,700 students between grades one and 12. In addition, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Soyuz Ukrainok) coordinates the pre-schools (svitlychky) that enroll several hundred youngsters. One of the most recent schools to become a member of the council is a school in Sacramento, Calif., where almost all of the 250 students are from the fourth wave of immigrants from Ukraine.

Among the generations of children that attended the Ukrainian schools, almost all no doubt dreaded and resisted the Saturday morning wake-up call for another day of classes. While most of their peers watched cartoons, played sports or got to go shopping, they spent Saturday mornings staring at maps, memorizing poems and conjugating verbs. However, as adults they understand that these Ukrainian classes were integral to the formation of their identity, allowed them to form lifelong friendships and gave them knowledge and skills they can now use professionally. And that's why another generation continues to drag their poor kids out of bed on Saturday morning.

Sept.
20
1876

Turning the pages back...

Yakiv Stepovy (né Yakymenko), who helped establish the Ukrainian "national school" of composition, had an older brother who also was very musically gifted. While an émigré in Paris, elite musical publishers such as Leduc and Rouart-Lerolle vied

for the honor of issuing the elder sibling's compositions.

Fedir Yakymenko was born in the town of Pisky, just outside Kharkiv on September 20, 1876. At the age of 10 he was sent to the Russian imperial capital, St. Petersburg, to sing in the court kapelle.

Yakymenko studied piano under Mylii Balakirev and was in the same composition class at the St. Petersburg Conservatory as Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (who later taught Yakiv, and who conducted the premiere of Fedir's concert overture in November 1899). He graduated in 1900, and in October of that year his "Fantasia" orchestral suite was conducted by Aleksandr Glazunov.

By now known as "Akimenko," he was lured to Georgia in 1901 to serve as director of the Tbilisi Music School, which he did for two years before decamping for Paris.

In 1903-1906 Yakymenko taught; worked on compositions such as his elegy for cello and piano (1903), sonata for violin and piano (1905) and various solo piano pieces; and established himself as a concert pianist.

In 1906 he decided to return to Kharkiv and spent a further eight years teaching and composing. He produced an opera (published in 1914) based on Hans Christian Andersen's story "The Ice Queen," and began contributing articles in musicology to the St. Petersburg-based journal *Russkaya Muzikalnaya Gazeta*. In the interim, he privately tutored one of this century's great composers, Igor Stravinsky, the first to offer the titan classes in composition.

In 1914 he was invited to join the faculty as a lecturer at his alma mater in St. Petersburg, and then remained in the city as civil war engulfed the former Russian empire, rising to the position of professor (from 1919).

(Continued on page 15)

NEWS AND VIEWS

School of Ukrainian Studies marks half century of service

by Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj

For half a century the School of Ukrainian Studies, sponsored by the Self Reliance Association in New York, has been a mirror of the Ukrainian American community it serves. In its academic program, its students' extracurricular activities and in the nature and activities of its faculty, the Saturday day school reflects the evolution, within two generations, of Ukrainian Americans from the status of political émigrés, to full participants in the social, political and economic life of the United States.

A study of the archives of the school from 1949 to the present clearly shows the gradual changes that occurred in Ukrainian American society in New York during the 50 years, changes that can be roughly divided by decade.

The 1950s: looking back

The memoirs of students of the 1950s illustrate that the school was a refuge for the children of the political émigrés of the post-World War II era who founded the school, a place where students could find comfort and familiarity in the still "foreign" American society and be with other children who had shared the trauma of the war and post-war years.

For faculty, too, the school provided a sense of continuity with the past, a place where they could promote the concept of Ukrainian nationhood, where they could reflect on the lost hopes of the 1940s, and indeed of the 20th century.

The program of the school in the 1950s was full of assemblies commemorating significant, often tragic, events in Ukrainian history. Not only were students expected to create and participate in the school program on these themes at Saturday assemblies but, according to the school director's memos to parents, they were also expected to participate in community-wide "akademii" commemorating these events held on Sundays.

Reflecting a more religious society, in the 1950s liturgies were frequently held in the first hour of school, followed by "panakhydy" (requiem services) for fallen political heroes. Other liturgies were services celebrated in honor of various religious feast days.

"Loyalty parades" were also an important feature of Ukrainian American life in the 1950s. The students were expected to participate with their parishes or youth organizations.

The 1960s: search for new directions

As those born in the United States

became members of the student body of the 1960s, we see changes occurring.

The students of the "1960s generation" began to compare Ukrainian school to the American educational system and they found Ukrainian school wanting. There are frequent references in the principal's memos of complaints by students that "teachers don't understand the American way of life." The faculty was aging and youth was becoming more Americanized and less docile.

In 1967, the school principal worried that "Our youth is endangered. We are living midst America's Hippie-land."

The concept of "roots" and ethnic pride that began in American society in the 1960s had not yet seeped into the Ukrainian American community and Ukrainian youth was rebelling against its ethnic heritage.

It is an interesting fact that of all the 50 years we studied, the school archives, otherwise quite rich, are the most meager for the 1960s. (In the school's 50th anniversary commemorative book, for which memoirs were actively solicited from all alumni, the decade of the 1960s is the least well represented.)

The 1970s: a celebration of heritage

As the 1960s turned into the 1970s, the dissatisfaction apparent among the students had affected the parents as well. To try to better understand their children's grievances, the parents organized panel discussions by older youths at which the students voiced their complaints about Ukrainian school and Ukrainian American society, and parents listened. In the records of the Parents' Committee, we find dissatisfaction with teachers and their teaching methods, which the parents claimed were outmoded and unsuitable for modern youth.

The 1970s were a transitional decade for the school's faculty, with many of the older teachers, educated in Ukraine, beginning to retire, replaced ever more frequently by recent college graduates educated in the United States.

In spite of lingering dissatisfaction, the 1970s, when seen from a distance, appeared to be a decade of hope, of renewed ethnic pride in the Ukrainian American community in New York, among students, faculty and parents. Indeed, the 1970s were a decade when American society saw an ethnic revival among many of its "hyphenated" communities.

The revival of the Ukrainian American community in the 1970s was spurred by the residual effect of the cultural revival in

(Continued on page 17)



A geography class taught in the 1950s by Stepan Stecyk at the School of Ukrainian Studies in New York.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

UNA's Soyuzivka: a fine family resort

Dear Editor:

With encouragement from cousin Helen, nine of us cousins decided that we would have our annual reunion at Soyuzivka. The third week of July found members of the Timo, Silvestri, Silver and Fill families enjoying the amenities of the result.

A highlight for me was Hutsul Night. First, I was impressed as to how smoothly the dining and kitchen staff move and served outdoors. The evening was further enhanced with the participation of the children who were at a camping program at the time. On another night the children entertained guests with a talent show that was very well done.

I would also like to complement the staff and those responsible for the gift shop. It has a fine cross-section of articles for sale, and at reasonable prices. The glaring disappointment here is that many of the embroidered Ukrainian shirts were made in China!

So, from the care of my room to Tanya's trek to the waterless waterfalls and everything in between, we enjoyed our holiday at Soyuzivka. We plan to return next year and recommend this place to The Ukrainian Weekly readership as a fine family resort.

The Rev. Michael Fill
Lake Ariel, Pa.

Travel to Ukraine reveals needs, projects

Dear Editor:

I have just recently returned from Ukraine and wish to inform readers of The Ukrainian Weekly of three events that I became aware of while touring Ukraine for a new video that I intend to produce in the fall, titled "The Ukrainians."

1. In Zaporizhia, I met Oleksander Pretula, otaman of the Boyovi Kozaky of Ukraine, who is involved with a school in Zaporizhia teaching teenage boys Ukraine Kozak martial arts (Spas). These martial art secrets were passed on to him by his uncle, who in turn learned from his Kozak relative, and so on.

Otaman Pretula has expressed an interest in recruiting teenage boys from the diaspora to Zaporizhia in the summer of the year 2000 and summers thereafter to teach them Spas. The Boyovi Kozaky of Zaporizhia would be in charge of the training, accommodations and food for the recruits. The cost has not yet been established.

Should any of your readers be interested in sending their teenage sons for this summer training, they could contact the writer of this letter.

2. In Kyiv I had the pleasure of meeting the honorary past hetman of the

Ukrainian Kozaks, Gen.-Maj. Volodymyr Muliava, who was recuperating at home from a stroke. I was quietly informed by his aides that because of the financial situation in Ukraine, Hetman Muliava does not have resources to pay for his medicines, doctors and hospital stay. I was extremely saddened, made a small contribution and decided to share the hetman's plight with your readers. Should anyone wish to contribute to the hetman's recovery, please mail a check to Mir Huculak Law Office – in trust for Mr. Muliava, and I will ensure payment to Hetman Muliava and an acknowledgment. My address is: No. 807-938 Howe St., Vancouver, British Columbia, V6Z 1N9.

3. Also in Kyiv, I found out from my Ukrainian colleagues that Ukrainian school resources are non-existent and that the schools primarily need small presses for the printing of various school manuals, books and literature for distribution to students. These miniature printing presses cost in the range of \$3,500 to \$9,000 (Canadian). I was informed that one Ukrainian American, Gregory Malynovsky, has contributed to this worthwhile cause by funding the purchase of several of these presses and presenting them to some high schools in Ukraine, where they have been most enthusiastically received.

Should any of your readers be in a position to support this most worthwhile cause, contact the firm of Veta Ltd., at 71 Honchar Street, Kyiv 54, Ukraine, or this writer.

Mir Huculak
Vancouver

A voice in support of Natalia Vitrenko

Dear Editor:

It was refreshing to read in The Ukrainian Weekly's "Quotable Notes" (August 29) Natalia Vitrenko's election program statement. Ms. Vitrenko is correct in calling for the integration of Eurasian and Eastern European countries into a single economic and political program. As Western Europe has already formed the EU and NATO, Eastern peoples must establish a union that will advance our needs.

As a Marxist, Ms. Vitrenko will defend the interests of Ukrainian workers and farmers who make up the majority of Ukraine's population. Her vision goes beyond the narrow nationalism of other "democratic" candidates to include other fraternal countries with a socialist orientation. Ukraine must forge a path of development away from Western capitalism and build socialism!

Michael Step
Garwood, N.J.

Jersey committee aids orphanage

by Victor Babanskyj

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – The Committee for Aid to Ukraine, Central New Jersey Branch, has decided to support an orphanage in Ukraine. The orphanage is located in Dnipropetrovsk and houses 120 orphans, who are also handicapped physically or mentally.

Support will be provided for a period of one to two years. During this time collections will be made in parishes, business establishments, credit unions.

To assure all contributors that 100 percent of their contributions will go to aid this orphanage, the transfer and disbursement of all contributions will be done through Fidel Suchonis, editor-in-chief of the literary periodical Boresten, which is headquartered in Dnipropetrovsk.

Contributions may be sent to: Ukrainian Orthodox Credit Union, 35 Main St., South Bound Brook, NJ 08880. Please mark donations for Account No. 663501.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A death too soon

I never really had an opportunity to get to know John Panko Jr. on a personal level, but I was very much aware of his presence. Everyone at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Church in Palatine, Ill., knew him.

John served seven years as our parish council president, a position that few parishioners want, let alone enjoy. Given the nature of some of our people, there must be a special place in heaven for those courageous individuals who take leadership positions in Ukrainian parishes.

How many Ukrainians do you know who recite the rosary these days? How many men do you know who recite the rosary? How many men do you know who lead the recitation, before the liturgy, every Sunday? John was one of those men. A devout Catholic, he had a special love for Padre Pio of Pietrelcina and was involved with pilgrimages to Medjugorje.

John Panko was born on October 1, 1936, in Youngstown, Ohio, to John Sr. and Ann Betts Panko. It was the height of the Great Depression and, like many families of the time, the Pankos struggled to make ends meet.

After completing high school, John became one of the earliest Ukrainian Americans to be accepted by the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he played on the varsity baseball team and sang in the Catholic choir. An excerpt from his West Point bio reads: "He was a friend to all, and we who knew him well, appreciated the qualities which made us proud to know him. As a friend and soldier, he will be remembered always." Upon graduation, John was commissioned a second lieutenant and assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Following military service, John Panko spent 37 years with DuPont, retiring last April. His most recent position was global sales manager for Dupont Dow Elastomers.

John married the former Joanne Marie Miladore on October 1, 1960. She, too, has been active in Ukrainian parish life, lending her beautiful voice first to St. Joseph Parish in Chicago and later to Immaculate Conception. Lesia and I enjoy sitting behind her and singing responses during the liturgy. My prayer life is rather thin, but when I sing, I'm focused, my mind doesn't stray. At Immaculate Conception, singing is praying.

John was a loving father whose three sons, John III, Michael and Mark, share his love for the Ukrainian Church. John III and Michael are visibly involved in our parish. John lived to enjoy six grandchildren, Michael, Matthew, Sarah, Rachel, Isabella and John Peter.

Golfing, fishing and hunting were John's favorite leisure time activities, as was baseball. He loved coaching and served on the Palatine North Little League Board for many years.

John died on May 1 at his home after losing his battle with cancer. Did he suffer? No doubt. But you would hardly know it. He remained active in and around the parish until a few weeks before his death.

For me, John Panko is the ultimate Ukrainian American, a person highly successful in his professional life, an exemplary husband and father, an all-American outdoorsman and a Ukrainian community activist whose role was that of a healer. Like many Ukrainian parishes, ours has both American-born and Ukrainian-born parishioners. Over the years we've had some tense moments, times when it

appeared it would be easier to mix oil and water than to reach consensus between the two groups. John managed to navigate the shoals and to bring people together.

John loved Ukraine, but he loved the Ukrainian Church more. He demonstrated his Ukrainianism through his spirituality, a concept that seems to be losing ground among our leaders. This was how he was brought up, and this is how he lived his life.

Why is it that our Church has so few John Pankos today? Part of the reason, I believe, is that for many Ukrainians, the Church is a national institution first and a house of worship and spiritual renewal second, or not at all. Another explanation for the scarcity of John Pankos is that too few Ukrainian parents have prepared their children for Church life. Many of our so-called "nationalists" were too busy fighting with each other to give much thought to their children's religious upbringing. The Church was rarely factored in as an integral part of their Ukrainianism. Go to any Ukrainian parish in any large city today and, more often than not, you will see more gray heads than young marrieds. And young children? You might as well post a sign that says "you must be 21 to be served."

Miraculously, the Ukrainian Church lives. Where? In smaller towns like Mount Carmel, Pa., Rochester, N.Y., Bloomingdale and Palatine, Ill., and dozens and dozens of other locales where the Church still remains either the center of, or a major player in, Ukrainian community life. Believe it or not, there are parishes that are children-friendly. There are parishes where people joyfully sing the responses during liturgy. There are parishes where you are actually welcomed and not ignored or made to feel unwanted if you are a stranger.

I have the good fortune to belong to such a parish. It was John Panko's parish. Yes, we sing together. Yes, the English liturgy is very much child-friendly. (No one turns around if your child or grandchild is antsy, at least during the English liturgy). And no, the Ukrainian-born and American-born don't always see eye to eye, but at least, after many long years, we've come to understand that since we are a small parish, we need each other to survive. Hey, what do you want? Two out of three pluses ain't bad.

Canada, especially western Canada, has parishes where the people are more concerned with their parish than with what is happening in Ukraine. Last year Lesia and I visited an Orthodox parish in Calgary. One of the local "varenyky ladies" was in the kitchen and she showed us around the church with obvious pride. When I asked her how the parish felt about Filaret, she replied "Who?" Unbelievable, right?

Our pastor, the Rev. Michael Kuzma, is Canadian-born and the parish has more children now than ever. Maybe it's because the reverend has six kids of his own. Our bishop, Michael Wiwchar, also is Canadian-born. I've never seen the bishop down in the dumps. How can that be?

John Panko was like that. As we approach the second millennium, our community needs to pray for more people like John Panko Jr. – people who care, people who are the bedrock of our society.

John Panko was 62 years old when he died. It was a death too soon. Vichna yomu pamiat!

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

Oksana Krovytska receives raves as an impassioned "Butterfly"

by Helen P. Smindak

NEW YORK – In her seventh consecutive season with the New York City Opera, Ukrainian soprano Oksana Krovytska has again received high praise from New York critics for her performance in the title role of Puccini's most poignant opera, "Madama Butterfly."

The lyric dramatic soprano, appearing as Cio-Cio-San in "Butterfly" for the fourth successive year, opened the City Opera's fall season at the New York State Theater on Saturday, September 11.

She is scheduled to sing her favorite role on September 15, 18 and 24 and on October 1, 3, 6, 9 and 23.

Reviewers' compliments on Ms. Krovytska's performance took precedence over their comments about the theater's recently installed "acoustical enhancement system," said to alter reverberation patterns but not necessarily make music louder.

Bernard Holland of The New York Times, usually a hard taskmaster, had good comments to make about the fresh-looking uncluttered stage set and Puccini's ever-lovely music, but saved his finest compliments for Ms. Krovytska.

"The center of attention was also the object of our admiration. Oksana Krovytska sang beautifully as Cio-Cio-San. The voice works; its sincerity grips the air, and it is tempered by a judicious musicality," Mr. Holland recorded in the September 13 Times.

Mr. Holland felt that Ms. Krovytska's voice carried easily "in this ungainly theater."

"If acoustical monkey business was going on at Saturday's performance, I freely admit that I didn't hear it," Mr. Holland said. "As usual, mediocre voices did not carry, good ones (Ms.

Krovytska's in particular) did."

The New York Post's Shirley Fleming was struck by Ms. Krovytska's "impassioned and vulnerable" interpretation of Butterfly. "(Ms. Krovytska) delivered a sweetly modulated 'Un bel di' that prompted the audience's vigorous approval," Ms. Fleming noted.

The New York Post critic also applauded Ms. Krovytska and Rafael Rojas, as Pinkerton, for investing a lot of "emotional energy" into their roles. "Their first-act duet soared impressively, and their passion was conveyed mainly through the music and not – as in some productions – through excessive physical convolutions," she said.

Martin Bernheimer of Newsday, who said Ms. Krovytska portrayed "the geisha with the heart of mush" with a brightly affecting voice that was "little tight on top," believes the Ukrainian soprano is "underrated."

A quarter-page photo of Ms. Krovytska and Mr. Rojas in "Madama Butterfly" graced the front page of The New York Times' Weekend section on September 10, drawing attention to NYCO's opening night and Allan Kozinn's dissertation on the State Theater's new sound system.

Last season, Ms. Krovytska was praised for her impressive work in NYCO's new "Butterfly" production, originally staged at the Glimmerglass Opera in 1997 and combining traditional and abstract elements in a set built around an imposing staircase.

Ms. Krovytska was honored earlier this year as "the outstanding female NYCO artist who has reached an important stage in her career." She received the Diva Award, consisting of \$2,000 cash and Diva perfume products from Ungaro.

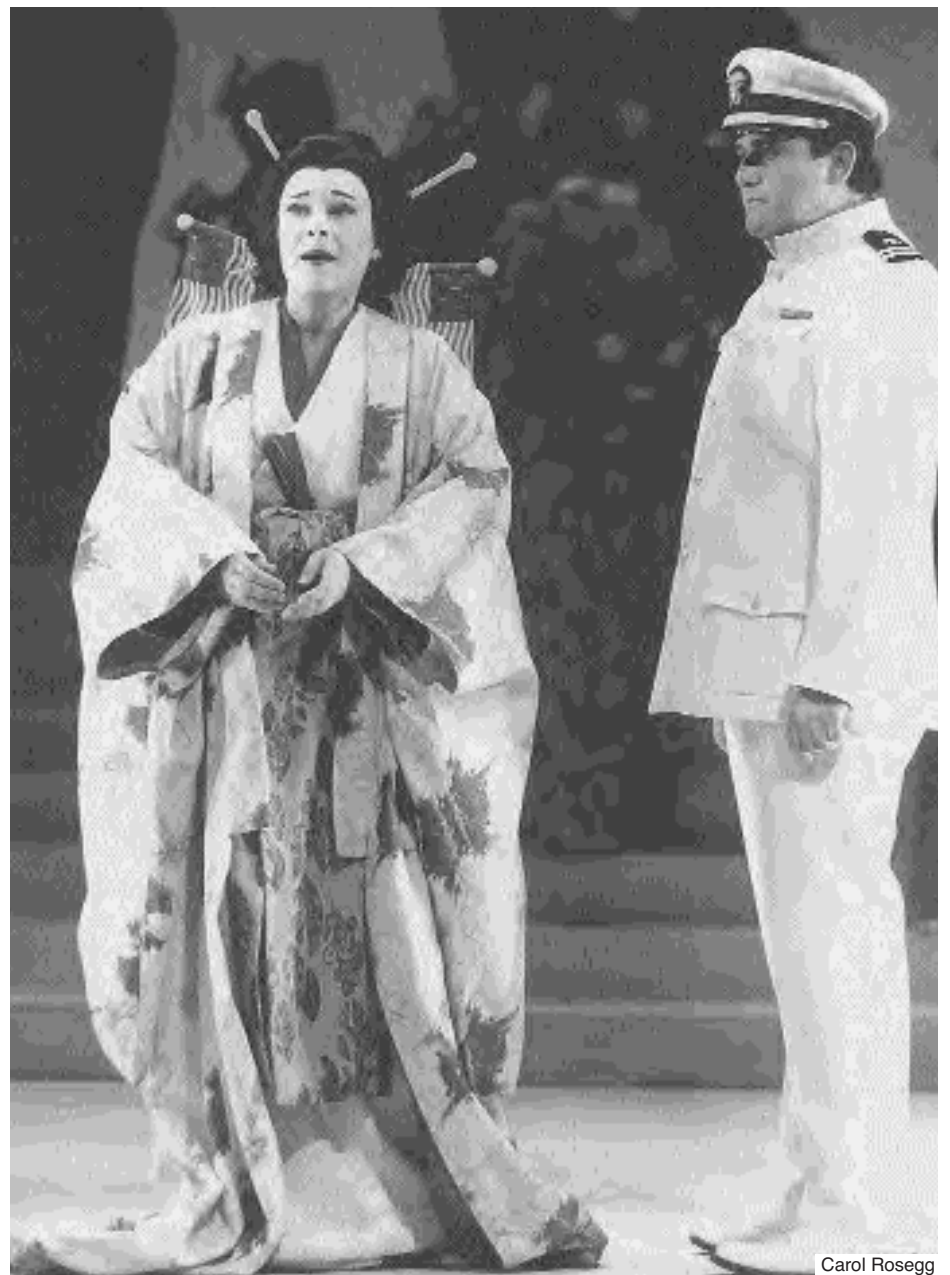
A leading soprano with the City Opera since 1993, when she made her debut as Liu

in "Turandot," Ms. Krovytska has appeared at the City Opera as both Musetta and Mimi in "La Bohème," Violetta in "La Traviata," Yaroslavna in "Prince Igor," Micaela in "Carmen" and Donna Elvira in "Don Giovanni."

Other career highlights include appearances with Opera de Monte Carlo, the Colorado Symphony, the New American Chamber Orchestra, the West Virginia Symphony, the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Milwaukee Symphony. She has often performed at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York and at the Music

and Art Center of Greene County at the Grahda in Hunter, N.Y.

In upcoming engagements the Lviv-born soprano will sing the title role in Janecek's "Katya Kabanova" with the Miami Opera and Opera de Montréal, and will perform in "Fedora" with the Palm Beach Opera and "Madama Butterfly" with the Florentine Opera. Ms. Krovytska will sing her first "Tosca" with the Teatro de la Opera Puerto Rico and will appear with the New Jersey Symphony in Dvorak's "Requiem," to be recorded by Delos International.



Oksana Krovytska in the title role and Rafael Rojas as Pinkerton in the New York City Opera's production of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."



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Merola Opera Program presents opportunity for foreign participants

by Nadia M. Derkach

SAN FRANCISCO – Twenty-seven participants from various countries completed their 11-week program of training and opera performances as participants in the Merola Grand Finale 1999 Concert in the San Francisco Opera House on August 15. In lieu of prizes, the concert participants may apply for career grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

The news of this prestigious opera training program will be of interest to young opera singers, opera apprentice coaches, and opera apprentice stage directors who read The Ukrainian Weekly in the United States, Canada, Ukraine and other countries, because the Merola Program selects its participants on the basis of auditions of qualified applicants from all countries throughout the world.

The Merola Opera Program was founded in 1957 and named in honor of Gaetano Merola, the founding director of The San Francisco Opera. The program was estab-

lished to discover, nurture and train the very best young talent in the world of opera, and has served as the proving ground for hundreds of artists, including Sylvia McNair, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson, Carol Vaness, Deborah Voigt, Dolora Zajick, Brian Asawa, Gary Lakes, Kurt Streit, Jess Thomas, Thomas Hampson and Patrick Summers.

The Merola Opera Program is part of the San Francisco Opera Center, which also includes The San Francisco Opera under Maestro Lotfi Mansouri, the general manager. James H. Schwabacher is the chairman of the Merola Opera Program Board of Directors, and Peter W. Davis is the president.

Additional information about the Merola Opera Program can be obtained from the program's website at <http://www.sfopera.com/merola/>; via e-mail at mop@opera.com; or by writing to Merola Opera Program, 301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102-4509.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Promoting Ukraine via performing arts

by Helen Smindak

"Look what Riverdance did for the Irish with their dynamic tours in the U.S. and Canada. Ukrainian performing groups can win publicity for Ukraine and Ukrainians in the same way!"

Leonid Oleksiuk, a Ukrainian-born Canadian citizen who has been marketing Ukrainian cultural events for 26 years, makes this statement firmly and unequivocally. What's more, he's also putting his money where his mouth is, as the saying goes. Since the beginning of the year he has devoted all his time, energy and organizing talents into mapping a five-year plan that will expand the touring schedules of Ukraine's major performing ensembles in the United States and Canada.

Next month, Mr. Oleksiuk's firm, Encore Productions, is brining to these shores the 50-member Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, a company he describes as "a very happy ensemble, sporting distinctive costumes, with musical and dance selections that are totally different." The cross-continent tour will be launched in Canada in the Toronto area, with concerts on October 3, 4 and 5 in the Living Arts Center theater in Mississauga, Ontario.

Virtuoso violinist Vasyly Popadiuk, a Ukrainian expatriate now living in Toronto who has just released his first CD, will be a star attraction of the program.

Among performances scheduled for the U.S. leg of the tour is an appearance at Town Hall in Manhattan on November 18.

The Volyn ensemble will be followed in March 2000 by Kyiv's Boyan Male Chamber Chorus, considered one of the finest male choruses in the world, with a repertoire that embraces Ukrainian, Old Slavonic and Western European sacred and classical music. In October 2000 the Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Company, also from Kyiv, is slated to begin a North American tour under Mr. Oleksiuk's supervision.

Other groups are waiting in the wings, says Mr. Oleksiuk, including the Sonechko children's dance ensemble from Zhytomyr, due here next summer, and the Ukrainian Navy Song and Dance Company, scheduled for the winter of 2001.

Encore's representative in Kyiv, Pavlo Lebedev, is on the lookout for additional Ukrainian talent. In an effort to raise the artistic level of each ensemble, Mr. Oleksiuk has arranged to supplement each company "with the best talent available in Ukraine."

"As we go along, we'll generate a phenomenal amount of media attention and befriend people like Anna Kisselgoff of The New York Times, Clive Barnes and other writers cross-country," Mr. Oleksiuk predicts. "My company is discovering a good many Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian

Canadians working in the media, like Dick Russ in Cleveland (whose wife is Ukrainian) – there's quite a lot of these people who can be activated. Over a five-year term, we could create quite a media profile, which will be helpful to Ukraine and to the diaspora."

As the first step in accomplishing this goal, Mr. Oleksiuk moved Encore Productions from Cleveland to Toronto early this year. He deems Toronto to be admirably suited for the promotion of Ukrainian cultural groups: the city is Canada's media and financial capital, it has a wealth of talent related to his business, and it is the home of "probably the largest, most active and creative Ukrainian community in North America."

"I feel I've been working professionally all my life, but starting this year I'm taking this to a truly professional level, whereby, in a modest way, I can compete against Columbia, ICM Artists and any artists' management firms" Mr. Oleksiuk says.

His quest for greater professionalism brought him to New York recently to attend the Art Presenters of America annual conference. Speaking to "Dateline" at that time, Mr. Oleksiuk reported he had made many useful contacts and had observed that the Tamburitians of Duquesne University and a Russian ensemble from San Francisco were the only ethnic groups represented. He has decided that the Ukrainian community will be represented at next year's conference by Encore Productions.

He emphasized that "presenter" is the title he likes to use in his work. "In the Ukrainian community, I've been called an impresario, but I feel that's too pretentious."

Born in the town of Oster near Kyiv, Mr. Oleksiuk came to Canada as a youngster with his family in 1950, and moved to Cleveland in 1981. While managing a small paint factory there, he was asked by Walter Wasik of Wasik Films in Oshawa, Ontario, to undertake the distribution of two Ukrainian films made in North America – "Nikoly Ne Zabudu" (I Shall Never Forget) and "Zhorstoki Svitanky" (Cruel Dawns). Accepting the challenge, he quit his job in 1973 and went to New York, where he negotiated for film showings with the Academy of Music (which used to stand at 14th Street and Third Avenue) and a theater in Irvington, N.J.

"I did some advertising, some promotion and, when the time came on a Sunday in December, we ran the films every three hours. It was a terrific success! People were lined up five across all along 14th Street and around the corner of Third Avenue," he recalls.

That was the start of his career in marketing and promotion. He took the Canadian films to Ukrainian centers in England, Europe and Australia, and continued to work in film distribution for some years. He made periodic trips to Ukraine in attempts to obtain Ukrainian-made films, but without much success, since Ukraine's film companies were centrally-controlled by Moscow during the Soviet era.

In 1992, just before Ukraine declared its independence, he managed to sign up a performing troupe, the Cherkaski Kozaky, to tour in the U.S. and Canada. He has been producing a Ukrainian tour every year since then, including the Black Sea Ukrainian Dance Company, the Hopak Dance Company and, finally, the famed Virsky Ukrainian Dance Company.

Though he readily admits that his career has had its ups and downs and he has made mistakes (and a few enemies) along the way, Mr. Oleksiuk believes he is now showing new zeal and new wisdom in his work, the result of the great experience and wealth of contacts gained while coordinating the Virsky ensemble's highly successful



The Virsky Ukrainian Dance Company.

tour of North America.

Mr. Oleksiuk holds that Encore's prime mission is to win millions of new friends for Ukraine. He believes that awareness is the name of the game; it's brand identification that will popularize Ukrainian culture and, thereby, Ukraine, boosting tourist travel as well as business.

He notes with pride: "We have already started on this path with the Virsky tour, which received front-page write-ups and rave notices in some 38 major newspapers last year. The Virsky ensemble was cited by The New York Times dance critic Anna Kisselgoff as one of the 10 notable dance entities of 1998. The company performed on such national network shows as "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee" and the "Conan O'Brien Show," seen not only in the U.S. and Canada but even worldwide, including the Superchannel in Ukraine."

On another front, Mr. Oleksiuk is assist-

ing George Holowka of Winnipeg in establishing a Ukrainian Pavilion at Australia's Olympic Games 2000, quite possibly at the Riverside Theater complex in Parramatta, just four miles from the main Olympic stadium. With the Virsky company due to tour Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan next fall, Mr. Oleksiuk plans to steer the ensemble to Australia to perform at Parramatta from September 15 until the end of the Games – "a wonderful opportunity for masses of visitors to get acquainted with Ukraine."

If that were not enough to keep him busy, he is also working with a Ukrainian businessman from Dnipropetrovsk, Volodymyr Nazarov, to co-produce an original Broadway-type show, tentatively titled "Genesis – The Rebirth," with violinist Mr. Popadiuk as an integral part.

With many irons in the fire, this presenter is bound to forge success for his ideas.



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22-nation summit...

(Continued from page 6)

The summit was not without its controversies, one of which involved a statement by the Russian representative to the conference, First Vice Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko, condemning possible future NATO expansion eastward.

"The further expansion of NATO, with regard to the Baltic countries and southeastern Europe, will lead to a new dividing line, and in no way to further security," said Mr. Khristenko at the Livadia Palace during the opening session of the summit.

His remarks seemed to contradict the passage in the joint statement, which Russia signed, on the inherent right of all states to choose the means of their defense. Yet it was fully in line with Russia's continued insistence that NATO expand no further.

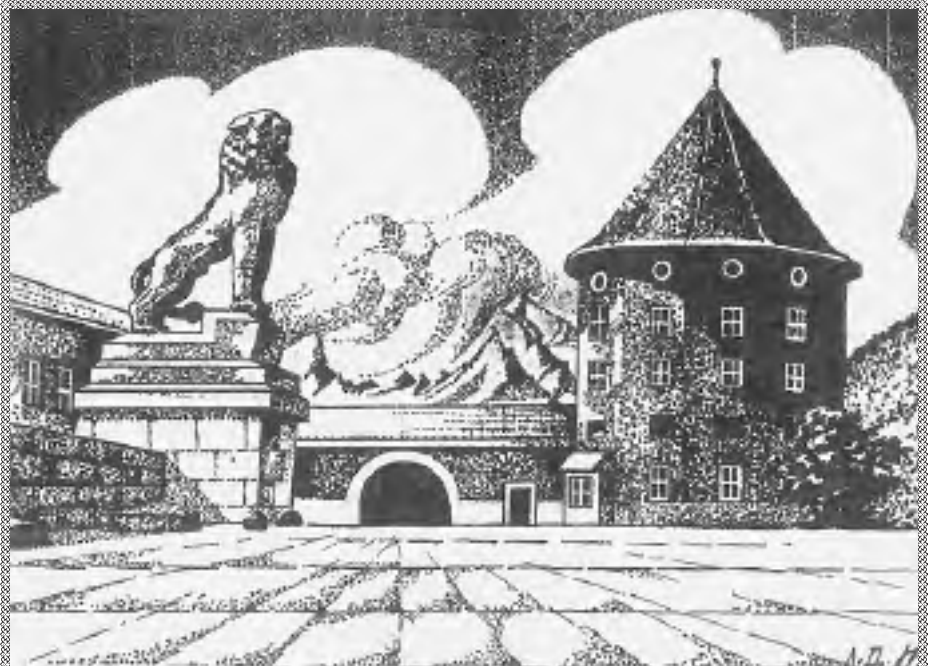
Another problem arose when Belarusian President Alyaksander Lukashenka issued a statement in Miensk that Kyiv had withdrawn an invitation to attend the summit under pressure from the European Union, which Mr. Lukashenka said he considered an unfriendly gesture by Belarus's southern neighbor. Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign

Affairs maintains that it never issued such an invitation (see sidebar).

Several presidential candidates in Kyiv criticized the largely ceremonial summit in Yalta, which resulted from a proposal put forward by President Kuchma at a 1997 meeting of Baltic countries in Vilnius, Lithuania, as a pre-election tactic by candidate Kuchma to show Ukrainian voters his foreign policy acumen and the international respect he carries.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk downplayed the charges at a press conference in Yalta and said the international gathering of leaders had been planned well before the presidential campaign began.

However, on the main road to Yalta from the Crimean capital city of Symferopol, where the autonomous peninsula's only airport is located, it was clear that somebody had already mixed pre-election politics with international diplomacy. Endorsements for the re-election of the president were spray-painted on most bridges and roadside abutments along the highway that the dignitaries, the guests and members of the press traveled. Other graffiti had been conspicuously painted over, and no other candidate endorsements were evident.



1949-1999

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- Saturday, November 6**
 9:30 a.m. - Registration, informal meetings and an exhibit of the works of professors and students, and memorabilia (bring yours)
 1:30 p.m. - Opening of reunion and joint program
 3:30 p.m. - Group photograph
 4:00 p.m. - Class meetings or free time
 5:30 p.m. - Cocktails at "Veselka"
 7:00 p.m. - Banquet, artistic program and dance
- Sunday, November 7**
 10:00 a.m. - Liturgy and Panakhyda in memory of the director-principal, professors and students
 12:30 p.m. - Lunch and closing of the reunion

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Joint Conferences...

(Continued from page 1)

Joint Conferences organizers had hoped the vice-president would be present at that banquet to personally accept the award. Instead, however, it was announced that the vice-president had been chosen to receive the award in recognition of his co-chairmanship of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission (the Kuchma-Gore Commission) and that organizers would seek another opportunity to personally make the presentation.

Speaking for the group at the 15-minute meeting with the vice-president, Dr. Roman Goy, the principal organizer of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations and president of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, said: "We are here today because we ... recognize your leadership" and "look forward to this and future administrations' continued commitment to the development of democracy and prosperity in Ukraine through policies designed to promote further integration with the West and through enhanced assistance to Ukraine."

Addressing the Ukrainian American delegation, Vice-President Gore said: "I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this Friend of Ukraine Award. I have received many awards in my 25 years of public service, but this one is particularly special. I am very proud of the work I have done on behalf of American-Ukrainian friendship and the work we're doing together to promote and advance Ukraine's historic transition to democracy."

As the meeting was off the record, the Office of the Vice-President released the above quote and noted that vice-president referred to his many trips to Ukraine as co-chair with President Leonid Kuchma of the Binational Commission.

The Office of the Vice-President also reported that Mr. Gore praised the great contributions of Ukrainian Americans to the building of America and commended the group for its concern and commitment to U.S.-Ukraine relations. He pointed out that Ukraine's strategic location in Europe makes its future a significant national security interest of the United States and, for that reason, it is important that the U.S. continue to support Ukraine's democratic transformation.

Other members of the Ukrainian delegation meeting with the vice-president were: Julian Kulas, First Security Federal Savings Bank; Ihor Chyzowych, Ukrainian National Credit Union Association; Iryna Kurowyckyj, Ukrainian National Women's League of America; Ihor Gawdiak, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; Steven Szewczuk, Ukrainian American Veterans; Orest Deychakiwsky, The Washington Group; Lev Dobrjansky, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Peter Piddoubny, Ukrainian American Bar Association; Jurij Dobczansky, Ukrainian Library Association of America; Ulana Baczynskyj, Association of Ukrainian American Architects; Walter Nazarewicz, Ukrainian Institute of America; Zenia Chernyk, Ukrainian Federation of America; Michael Sawkiw Jr., Ukrainian National Information Service; and Roma Hadzewycz, The Ukrainian Weekly.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

According to the Ministry of Finance, the money has not yet reached Ukraine. The government plans to use the last tranche to finance the budget deficit. However, late in August Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tyhypko said the credit would be directed to pay arrears in salaries, pensions and other social payments in a gradual manner so that not to disturb "macroeconomic indicators and national currency stability." (Eastern Economist)

Belarus-Russia union less likely

MIENSK – After meeting with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka in Minsk on September 8, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin intimated that reaching agreement on a Belarus-Russia union treaty could take more time than initially thought. "I hope the signing of the treaty on creating a union state of Belarus and Russia will take place before Russia's presidential elections," Mr. Putin said. Those elections are expected in June 2000. Last December, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and President Lukashenka pledged to finalize a Russian-Belarusian union state this year. Mr. Putin also said that some legal issues concerning the union state require more work. He added that a draft treaty will soon be submitted to public discussion, but that such a discussion will not involve a referendum. "If Russia is not ready for radical steps..., let us sign a moderate variant of the treaty," Belarusian Television quoted Mr. Lukashenka as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

More money for Kyiv in the offing?

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tyhypko announced after his meeting with Japan's new ambassador to Kyiv on September 8 that Tokyo may lend Ukraine \$80 million in two credits. The second credit, worth \$35 million, is to be spent on patching up budget gaps. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Case may be filed against top adviser

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada's temporary investigating commission has asked the Procurator General's Office to open a criminal case against National Deputy and non-staff presidential advisor Oleksander Volkov. The commission's chair, Hryhorii Omelchenko, said he "has asked the Verkhovna Rada to grant permission to file criminal charges against Volkov." According to Mr. Omelchenko, Mr. Volkov illegally opened bank accounts in Belgium, the United Kingdom, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland and Latvia. (Eastern Economist)

Ukrainian pilots arrested in Zambia

KYIV – Authorities in Zambia have charged nine Ukrainian citizens, members of a transport plane crew, with spying. They were arrested on August 15 and initially charged with the delivery of arms to UNITA rebels in Angola, though the plane actually carried election materials from the Republic of South Africa to the Central African Republic. These charges were later dropped and the crew was accused of spying allegedly because the plane flew over a secret base of the Zambian Air Force. Now Ukrainian pilots are in prison and await a trial. If convicted, they face up to 30 years in prison. (Eastern Economist)



Ukrainian Medical Association
of North America
New York Metropolitan Chapter

It is with deep sorrow that we notify our members and community of the death on September 12, 1999, of our dear colleague



Klemens Rohozynskyj, M.D.

Physician-surgeon in private practice in New York City for over 50 years.
Founding member of the Ukrainian Medical Association (UMANA),
1st UMANA National Secretary (1950-1956),
NYC civic and Ukrainian community activist.
Member-Patron of The Shevchenko Scientific Society,
The Ukrainian Museum (NYC) and
the Ukrainian Catholic Museum (Stamford, CT)

May he rest in peace.

Executive Board, UMANA NY-Metro

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UNA Seniors conclude...

(Continued from page 7)

was very interesting and was very well attended.

Eugene Woloshyn very ably conducted the annual auction of items donated by the UNA Seniors. Along with cash donations the auction raised \$900. The raffle conducted by Marie Prucknicki and Cornelia Yavarrow raised \$545. The large sums raised from the auction and raffle are evidence of the generosity of UNA Seniors.

The Committee on Donations, proposed that the following donations be made from the money raised: \$500 to Dr. Oleksander Myndiuk, administrator of a hospital in Vynnyky, Ukraine, for use by the hospital; \$1,000 to the Ukrainian National Foundation, specifically for a Soyuzivka project; and \$200 for the Babusha Fund of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Probate Court Judge Chopek gave a talk on legal matters of importance to seniors. She spoke about durable powers of attorney, giving the attorney authority to handle the assets of a person, about living wills, and about the necessity of a durable power of attorney for health care. The latter is a legal form that allows a person to authorize someone to make health care decisions, including end-of-life decisions. It allows the person to give specific instructions concerning health care and, especially, to indicate at what point life should not be prolonged. A question and answer period followed.

The annual review of current events in Ukraine as well as of the coming elections in Ukraine was given by Dr. Baranowskyj and Dr. Roman Procyk. A lively question and answer period followed. Dr. Procyk also spoke about the various publications produced by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute that he had brought.

Dr. Chopek welcomed Ulana Diachuk, president of the Ukrainian National Association, at the last session. Mrs. Diachuk spoke about various matters confronting the UNA, including the importance of increasing membership. She urged the UNA Seniors to continue to sign up their children and grandchildren as members of the UNA. A question and answer period followed.

The UNA Seniors looked forward to the fantastic cocktail party that usually takes place on the Veselka deck. Unfortunately, nature did not cooperate

this year and the outdoor cocktail party was rained out. Cocktails were enjoyed inside the banquet hall, which was beautifully decorated for the silver anniversary. The food was superb. Seniors were dressed in traditional Ukrainian blouses and shirts. The lights were dimmed, a large 25th anniversary cake with sparklers was carried in, and several "Mnohaya Litas" led by Dr. Wolansky were sung.

The principal speaker was Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky, an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey. He gave an overview of the status of the Ukrainian government and expressed optimism about its future.

The work of all the members throughout the years who made it possible for the UNA Seniors to reach their 25th anniversary was not forgotten. As each recipient was called forward by the executive vice-president, Ms. Orlan, a certificate of recognition was presented to each by UNA President Diachuk. Photos were taken of each by Emilian Jurchynsky. (The honorees are listed alongside this article.)

And so, the 25th anniversary celebration of the UNA Seniors went down in history. Let us hope that the UNA Senior Conferences continue for years to come.

UNA Seniors certificates...

(Continued from page 7)

Conference Chairman

Mary Dushnyck
 Michael Olshansky
 Wolodymyr Senezhak

Conference Chairman and Regional Representative

Irene Russnak

Conference Chairman and Secretary

Mary S. Bobeczko

Conference Chairman Controller

Estelle Woloshyn

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Olga Paposki

Treasurer

Maria Gerus
 Helen Chornomaz
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Belarus...

(Continued from page 6)

Mr. Tarasyuk explained that Belarus belongs to none of the organizations, and for that reason was not invited.

However, Belarus had been invited to take part in the international academic conference that was held at the Yalta Hotel in conjunction with the summit. The Ukrainian foreign affairs minister said that the United States, France and Italy, none of which are member-states of the organizations invited, had joined the 22 countries at the conference, but Belarus had not.

The Ukrainian government sent mixed signals, however, as to whether an invitation was originally sent to Belarus only to be withdrawn later. While Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Andrii Veselovsky said on September 10 that no invitation had been extended, a presidential spokesperson explained that the original invitation had been withdrawn for diplomatic reasons.

"Lukashenka was extended an invitation but we had to withdraw it because of the worsening relations between Belarus and the European Union," said Oleksander Horyn.

Meanwhile a person close to the Ukrainian government explained the decision was made after pressure from the European Union, according to Agence France Presse.

"Ukraine does not want to offend Belarus, but it must first protect its own interests," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

Belarus has become increasingly ostracized in Europe because of the actions of President Lukashenka, who has used strong-arm tactics to maintain power and quell dissent. He unilaterally



The Livadia Palace, site of the 22-nation conference on Baltic-Black Sea cooperation.

dismissed the Belarusian Parliament in 1997 and rewrote the Constitution, which extended his ruling authority and gave him expanded powers. He has arrested dissidents and even forced diplomats to give up their embassies in a 1998 decision that caused a major international uproar.

Belarusian Foreign Affairs Ministry officials said the action by the Ukrainian government brings into question the sincerity of the expressed intention of the conference.

"In this context, Ukraine's decision contradicts the aim of the elimination of dividing lines in Europe, including across the Baltic-Black Sea space," said the Belarusian Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 8)

In 1923 Yakymenko emigrated to Prague, where he became chairman of the Ukrainian Higher Pedagogical Institute's Music Department and counted Zynovii Lysko and Mykola Kolessa among his students. In 1926 he published a textbook on harmony. He also returned to performing as a concert pianist and began conducting choirs on tours throughout Western Europe. In 1928, he moved to France, where he divided his time between Paris and Nice.

He wrote more works for solo piano, two "Berceuses de Noël" (Christmas Lullabies) for violin and piano, as well as arrangements of Ukrainian folk songs and liturgical music. Yakymenko also composed lieder (recital pieces for solo voice), drawing inspiration from the lyrics of Oleksander Oles and Taras Shevchenko as well as the Russian poet Mikhail Lermontov.

Fedir Yakymenko died in Paris on January 8, 1945.

Sources: "Yakymenko, Fedir" *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 5 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993); "Yakymenko, Fedir" *Dictionary of Ukrainian Composers* (Lviv: Union of Ukrainian Composers, 1997).

FORCED SLAVE LABOR QUESTIONNAIRE

FOR RESIDENTS OUTSIDE OF UKRAINE ONLY

Myroslaw Smorodsky, Esq. of Smorodsky & Stawnychy, together with Pyotr Rabinovich, Esq., and *Ukriniurkolegiua* of Kyiv, Ukraine, have instituted a class action litigation against German Industry on behalf of Ukrainians who were forcibly deported to Germany as forced/slave laborers. This lawsuit along with other similar cases is presently pending in the United States on behalf of other East European nationalities. At present, settlement negotiations are underway. If successful, these negotiations will set the amount of compensation due to the forced/slave laborers and will simultaneously bar any future lawsuits in this matter. The present date for the continued negotiations is **October 4, 1999**. *If you were forcibly deported by Germany as a forced/slave laborer, and you are not a current resident of Ukraine, please submit your answers to this questionnaire as soon as possible.*

In order to be able to present statistically factual information as background for this case, it is necessary to compile data which is currently unavailable in any data-banks. The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain basic background information for negotiation purposes *only*. In particular, we are interested in gauging an estimate of the number of **living forced/slave labor survivors other than those presently living in Ukraine**. All persons living as of February 16, 1999 who meet the necessary criteria are to be included in this survey.

This is not a solicitation of legal representation nor is it deemed to create any sort of attorney-client relationship. Completing the survey also does not incur any obligations on your part. By filling out this form you will be contributing to the overall information needed for the case and we will be able to keep you directly informed of developments in this matter.

Please fill out the questionnaire to the best of your ability and submit it via the Internet or send it to us by regular mail. **Internet submissions are preferred** (www.smorodsky.com/forcedlabor/survey.html) so that the information can be processed instantaneously. We request that all community organizations assist us in this matter, especially by encouraging the electronic submission of information on the website.

If you presently are a resident of Ukraine do not fill out this survey because you have been already counted! All information is kept strictly confidential by all litigators involved. Please PRINT clearly:

Last Name	First	Middle
Current Street Address: _____		
City: _____		State/Province: _____
Postal (Zip) code: _____		Country: _____
Telephone (optional) _____		E-mail (optional): _____
Date of birth (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ Country of CURRENT citizenship/residency _____		
Were you a laborer in a concentration camp or ghetto?*		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Were you a laborer for a private German company?*		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Were you a laborer in a German government-owned company such as the railroads or in an SS company?*		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Were you a laborer or a housekeeper for a German farmer or other private person?*		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
*Please note that child workers are to be included in each category above.		
Were you a minor child (12 years old or less) of a forced laborer and deported together with or separated from your parent(s)?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
FROM where were you deported? Town & country _____		
TO where were you deported? Town & country _____		
Approx DATE you were deported? (MM/DD/YY) ____/____/____ Your age at time of deportation: _____		
Approx DATE your forced labor terminated? ____/____/____ Your age when forced labor terminated: _____		
Name of company/camp/farm where you worked: _____		
Job description (ex: factory worker, maid, shoemaker, etc.) _____		
Documents in your possession that provide evidence of your forced/slave labor experience:		
• Arbeitskarte <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Passport <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • Other (describe): _____		
Were you given a savings passbook where deductions from your wages were deposited?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, did you or your family benefit from these savings?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
The approx. amt in the account unclaimed at the end of the war: _____ (valued in DM at that time)		

Internet address for on-line survey is: <http://www.smorodsky.com/forcedlabor/survey.html>

or BRAMA - Gateway Ukraine: <http://www.brama.com/>

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Forced/Slave Labor Litigation Survey

Myroslaw Smorodsky PA, PO Box 1705, Rutherford, NJ 07070 USA

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Narodnyi Rukh...

(Continued from page 1)

"We must declare today for all of Ukraine to hear that our national idea shall be patriotic power upholding Ukrainian statehood and loyally serving the Ukrainian people," said Mr. Kostenko.

Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, who was the head of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR in 1989, also spoke of Rukh's history in the Ukrainian state-building process.

In a comment made to Ukrainian

Television after he spoke, Mr. Kravchuk said that Rukh's major failure was that it had not made the transformation from an oppositionist force to a builder of the state.

"Rukh led the democratization process and the independence effort, but it has not made much of a contribution to the building of the state since, because it is always in opposition," said Mr. Kravchuk

After the speeches at the Kyiv Polytechnical Institute, a second public meeting was held at Shevchenko Park before the memorial to Ukraine's great bard in a further re-enactment of the events that took place in 1989.

The atmosphere surrounding Rukh's 10th anniversary, already contaminated by the bad blood between the two factions was further poisoned by remarks made by the head of the Rukh Party's press service, Dmytro Ponomarchuk, on September 6, when he told the newspaper Kievskie Viedomosti that members of Mr. Kostenko's political organization would not be welcome at their celebrations.

"If the [putschist] Kostenkovites show up, we will throw them out," said Mr. Ponomarchuk, a remark that he acknowledged to The Weekly that he did make.

The only legally recognized Rukh Party in Ukraine went it alone in a series of events held between September 6 and September 11. These included a September 6 public presentation of the political platform of the its presidential candidate, Mr. Udovenko; the laying of wreaths at the grave of Mr. Chornovil; participation in a conference of European Christian Democratic parties held in Kyiv; a large reception on December 8 at the Cabinet of Ministers Reception Hall, which was attended by the diplomatic community of Kyiv, national deputies of the Verkhovna Rada (including members of the Reform and Order Party, with whom the Rukh Party has formed a political coalition) and Patriarch Filaret of the



Rukh Party leader Hennadii Udovenko addresses gathering at a memorial to Vyacheslav Chornovil.

Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate; and a ceremonial meeting at the Kyiv Teacher's Building, all of which culminated in the lightly attended public meeting on St. Sophia Square.

Ironically, both Rukh camps said after the celebratory week that they continue to seek reunification, and leaders from both sides explained that in some way the events surrounding the 10th anniversary had contributed to the process. Neither side could explain what had improved relations or how that had happened. Yet it was obvious that their thoughts centered on strengthening their own party membership and pulling the other side toward themselves.

Mr. Udovenko told The Weekly that his party had made an honest effort to move closer and that he had taken the initiative by attending the meeting at the Kyiv Polytechnical Institute. He said that mem-

bership had increased during the course of the week, but that he expected reunification would take time.

"The process of reunification is not a single event," explained Mr. Udovenko. "It will take time and several efforts."

National Deputy Ivan Zayets, the vocal and outspoken member of the Kostenko organization who is generally considered to be the No. 2 man behind Mr. Kostenko, also said he felt that inroads had been made as a result of the anniversary.

He explained that, at a meeting he attended in the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, people who formerly had supported Mr. Udovenko for president had expressed their desire that he withdraw his candidacy in favor of Mr. Kostenko. He said the crowd also had supported reunion under the Kostenko-led Rukh.

"And so, there is movement at the grass-roots level," said Mr. Zayets.

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School of Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 8)

Ukraine by the "Shestydesiatnyky" (The Sixties Generation) – a group of writers, academics and other cultural and intellectual figures.

Their writings were immediately added to the studies of Ukrainian literature and culture at the school.

Ukrainian studies became established as a "legitimate" program of study at various universities (the Harvard University chair and summer school classes being prime examples). In the late 1970s, the New York State Board of Regents first offered an elective standardized test in Ukrainian language. American society at large was beginning to validate the rationale for attending a school devoted to Ukrainian studies.

The 1980s: the halls of power

In the 1980s, the Ukrainian American community became aware of its ability to effect change in Washington and in other centers of political power. This was the decade of lobbying. Ukrainian Americans had learned the political ropes, some had already achieved positions of influence in Washington, and the students in the School of Ukrainian Studies knew how to write letters, and whom to write to.

In the school archives we find copies of letters written by the students to the President about the Ukrainian Famine commission bill in 1984, and letters requesting support from Washington for Ukrainian human rights activists incarcerated in the Mordovian (Siberia) camp for political prisoners. There are letters to the New York State Education Department demanding the inclusion of The Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine in the state's publication on genocide.

Perhaps most moving are the students' letters in which they plead with the White House to come to the aid of the Ukrainian people devastated by the Chernobyl accident in 1986.

In the 1980s we see the trend toward the suburbanization of New York's Ukrainian American community, as young families began to leave Manhattan for the outer boroughs, New Jersey, the northern suburbs of New York, Long Island and Connecticut. Remarkably some continued to commute from as far away as Albany, N.Y., Philadelphia and even Rhode Island, surely earning for New York's School of Ukrainian Studies the label of "magnet school."

Throughout the 1980s, Ukrainian American families, including the students, had been traveling to Ukraine. They had seen the cultural revival there, the changing socio-political landscape. They sensed that great change was imminent, indeed, as did the leadership of the Soviet Union.

The 1990s: the dream fulfilled

The 1990s can be called the decade of the dream fulfilled. The school was reinvigorated by the emergence of Ukraine on the world scene. The euphoria felt by the Ukrainian American community in New York following Ukraine's bloodless declaration of independence was palpable at the school. A joyful school assembly was organized to celebrate Ukraine's independence.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Viktor Batiuk enrolled his grandson at the school. Parents organized a field trip to the newly opened Consulate General of Ukraine in New York. Distinguished academics, cultural and political figures visited the school. In 1998 the children assembled to meet visiting Ukrainian astronauts Leonid Kadeniuk and Yaroslav Pustovyi.

The graduates of the 1970s and 1980s became the greatest beneficiaries of the political change in Ukraine. A number of the students parlay their expertise in Ukrainian language and culture into fast-track career moves in private- and public-sector jobs in Ukraine, where they enjoyed a distinct advantage over their non-Ukrainian colleagues.

In the 1990s the school was buoyed by a new wave of immigration from Ukraine, the so-called "fourth wave." Their children boosted the enrollment in the school by some 20 to 25 percent, and the children's Ukrainian chatter in the school hallways during recess is a heartening sound. The "fourth wave" also became a valuable new source of teachers for the school, and constituted the bulk of the faculty by the late 1990s.

As the decade progressed, the euphoria over Ukrainian independence subsided, and reality set in. True, Ukraine is now independent, but definitions have changed. It becomes painfully obvious that the image of Ukraine held by Ukrainian Americans and taught in Ukrainian school, is not consistent with reality. This was not the kind of independent Ukraine that was expected; this was not the kind of leadership that independent Ukraine was supposed to have. These and other sobering issues pre-occupy the school at the close of the millennium.

And yet, these are heady years.

Finally, the dream of centuries has become reality: Ukraine is free and there is a feeling that there is no turning back. The aspirations of the school's founders and the first generation of parents have been fulfilled. There is a sense of closure, but also a sense of new beginnings.

In examining the evolution of the school over a period of half a century, one is struck by the changes that have occurred but, even more so, by the ways in which the school,

paradoxically, has remained essentially the same.

What has remained constant is the intense commitment by faculty and parents to transmit to their children Ukrainian language, history and culture, despite the fact that most of the parents are now Americans by birth; the relatively constant enrollment levels in the school for 50 years; the relatively high academic level of the school, much higher than one might expect after half a century and two, almost three, generations of students.

Traditional teaching methods and programs continue to prevail at the school and the tradition of "matura" (cumulative final exams) continues. As they did in 1949, students and parents alike place a strong value on the social ties created among children that often last a lifetime.

Notable, too, is the commitment by the school and by parents to the Ukrainian Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, as evidenced by the fact that the school has always sought out clergy or religion teachers of both Churches to provide religious instruction as part of the school's curriculum.

Sadly, though, perhaps the most striking similarity between the school of the 1950s and today is the lack of ongoing support for the school by the Ukrainian American community in the New York Metropolitan area.

This is all the more astonishing when contrasted with the vast amounts of funds collected by the community for various other projects over the years. This apparent indifference is a fascinating topic that merits a separate discussion, since the New York school is probably not the only school of Ukrainian studies to suffer this fate.

The lack of support by the larger Ukrainian American community is a great contrast to the tradition of extraordinary generosity shown by Ukrainians both in western Ukraine and abroad in the decades

prior to World War II toward "Ridna Shkola," the network of private schools in Ukraine, of which the New York school is a descendant.

There is a glimmer of hope that this dismal situation may be changing for the New York school. In the last two years, the Parents' Committee has made efforts to raise funds from the community for various school projects, with good results, but a long-term solution is needed.


As a repository of the hopes and dreams of its founders and several generations of parents, and as a mirror of the Ukrainian American community in New York, it is hoped that in its next half-century the School of Ukrainian Studies in New York will yet come to enjoy the community support which it so richly deserves.

This article is an edited excerpt from the forthcoming book "Zolota Knyha Shkoly Ukrainoznavstva, OUA, Samopomich u Niu Yorku, 1949-1999" (The Golden Book of the School of Ukrainian Studies, Self Reliance Association in New York, 1949-1999), which will be released on the eve of the school's 50th anniversary celebration on October 2. The book's publisher is the 50th Anniversary Committee, headed by Luba Labunka. The chief editor of the book is Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj.

To defray the considerable publication costs of the 368-page commemorative book, which is dedicated to the 178 teachers who taught at the school during the past 50 years, donations from former students and friends of the school are appreciated. Tax-deductible contributions, which will be acknowledged in a special insert in the book, may be made to Self Reliance Association Parents' Committee, c/o Oksana Andersen, 66-46 Gray St., Middle Village, NY 11379; telephone, (718) 326-4319.

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REMINDER FROM UARC HEADQUARTERS

Philadelphia, Pa: We are happy to remind all United States Federal employees that **United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc.**, the premier Ukrainian-American international aid organization, is again included in the Combined Federal Campaign National List, assigned **Code #2943**. We are confident that every Federal employee, as well as any member of the United States Armed Services, of Ukrainian descent, who may be making charitable contributions through the Combined Federal Campaign, will be pleased to see UUARC on the list. The Combined Federal Campaign will begin in the fall of 1999, but we are beginning our appeal early, so that we can inform as many potential donors as possible of the opportunity to support this worthy organization.

... Also, for the **United Way of Southeastern Pa**, we are **Code #1838**
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Pennsylvania State Employees can find us in the **Pennsylvania State Employees Combined Appeal under Independent Charities of America (ICA)**.

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Business in brief

(Continued from page 3)

imposed in 1995 and ranged from 79.87 percent to 104.27 percent of the value of goods. The court's decision is retroactive and exempts from the duty all suppliers of magnesium shipped to the U.S. after October 30, 1998. Low-priced imports of Ukrainian magnesium did not cause any substantial damage to American producers, stated the court's verdict. Ukrainian companies ship their magnesium mostly to American chemical and aluminum plants. (Eastern Economist)

Foreigners buying stakes in oil companies

KYIV – The Anti-Monopoly Committee reported that a group of foreign companies, Emberton Assets Corp., Copland Industries S.A., Bishop Invest & Finance Inc., Jarwin Trade & Finance Corp., Padmore Trading Ltd., Posner Trading Limited, and Malton Industries Corp., have bought, directly and indirectly, large stakes in the Ukrainian KirovohradNaftoProduct, ZhytomyrNaftoProduct, SumyNaftoProduct, and UmanAhroPostach companies, which are large suppliers of petroleum products to Ukraine. As this transaction was made without the Anti-Monopoly Committee's approval, Padmore Trading Ltd was fined 10,200 hrv. However, since no laws exist to prohibit the concentration of capital, all the above-mentioned foreign companies were allowed to purchase significant stakes in these Ukrainian companies. In a similar manner, the Anti-Monopoly Committee issued the go-ahead to the creation of Kirovohrad-Petrol and Sumy-Petrol, companies with foreign investments that intend to sell petroleum products in Kirovohrad and Sumy oblasts. (Eastern Economist)

McDonald's celebrates with 10th opening

KYIV – McDonald's opened its 10th restaurant in Kyiv on Ukrainian Independence Day, August 24. The new 80-seat restaurant is located near the Miensk metro station of the Obolon District. Building costs for this restaurant were nearly \$1 million (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

Alumina producers talk about merger

KYIV – The idea of integrating Ukrainian and Russian alumina producers, alumina processing and manufacturing plants received a conceptual approval by a majority of managers of leading alumina enterprises, heads of the military-industrial complex, scientists and experts from research institutes during the Industrial Policy Ministry meeting. However, a proposal by the Russian Sybirskiyi Aluminii group of companies on setting up a Russian-Ukrainian alumina company was received with disapproval by the new management of the Mykolayiv alumina plant. The group proposed to divide the authorized capital of the Mykolayiv plant in a 50/50 deal, with the inclusion of all enterprises participating in the manufacturing process as shareholders. According to Russian Economy Ministry Volodymyr Yevsiukov, "the creation of a joint venture will serve the interests of both sides." Once the project is implemented, Russian alumina plants will receive stable long-term supplies of alumina, while the Ukrainian side will be offered "all necessary help including the attraction of foreign investment for developing its own high-tech production." This is especially important considering the merger of the leading international alumina companies, Canadian Alkan, French Pechiney and Swiss Alusuisse. (Eastern Economist)

Blair gives reason for rejecting tender

KYIV – British Prime Minister Tony Blair informed Ukraine's Premier Valerii Pustovoitenko about the reasons for rejecting the AN-124-210 Ruslan project. In his letter, the British PM explained that since neither of the proposals received by Great Britain's Defense Ministry offered a solution at an acceptable price, the government decided to revoke the tender. At the same time Mr. Blair pointed out that "British experts see many advantages in the proposal to modernize the AN-124." Participants in the tender were the Antonov plant with the AN-124 equipped with Rolls Royce engines and the American C-17 manufactured by Lockheed. (Eastern Economist)

First AN-140 plane nearly completed

KYIV – Construction of the first series of AN-140 planes will be completed by late September at the Kharkiv Aviation Plant, stated Antonov designer Petro Balubuev. Immediately following certification, several planes will be ready for sale. Production of this series of planes will take place in Ukraine, Russia and Iran. Based on early estimates, Ukraine alone has a potential market for the AN-140 of about 80 planes, while Russia's Aeroflot is ready to purchase 50 planes. These planes come with a price tag of \$7.5 million (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

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Sep 8 Wed	PASSAIC	Ukrainian Center
Sep 9 Fri	NEW YORK	St. George Academy
Sep 10 Sat	PHILADELPHIA	Ukrainian Cultural Center
Sep 11 Sun	NEWARK	St. John's Ukr. School Gymnasium
Sep 12 Mon	SILVER SPRING, MD	* St. Andrew's Ukr. Catholic Center (2:00pm)
Sep 13 Tue	VIENNA, VA	* WOLF TRAP FARM PARK
Sep 21 Tue	PARMA	St. Vladimir's Ukr. Catholic Center
Sep 22 Wed	DETROIT	Ukrainian Cultural Center
Sep 24 Fri	CHICAGO	Fr. Meladymyr and Olga Church Hall
Sep 25 Sat	PAULINE	* Ukrainian St. MA Center (4:00pm)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 20)

entire series. Classes will be held at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave., at 7 p.m. To register call (410) 923-3318.

Thursday, September 30

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Iskra dance ensemble, under the direction of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, has begun classes in Whippany, N.J., on Thursday evenings at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Route 10 (eastbound) and South Jefferson Road. New members will be accepted starting Thursday, September 30. Call Olha Kuziw, (973) 334-6595, for further information.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, October 2

NEW YORK: The School of Ukrainian Studies, Self Reliance Association in New York, is holding a 50th anniversary reunion of students, teachers, directors, parents and friends at a banquet and ball, featuring the Tempo band, to be held at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave. There will

be a silent auction and cocktails at 6-7 p.m., followed by a banquet at 7-9 p.m. and a ball at 9 p.m.-1 am. Tickets are \$65 per person; tables of 10 are available. Self Reliance Federal Credit Union of New York has generously underwritten part of the celebration costs. To order tickets, purchase a commemorative book (\$25 before October 3, plus \$5 if delivery by mail) or make a tax-deductible anniversary donation, send checks payable to "Self Reliance Association Parents Committee" and mail to Oksana Chomut-Andersen, 66-46 Gray St., Middle Village, NY 11379; telephone, (718) 326-4319.

Sunday, October 10

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons of New York and New Jersey is hosting a forum discussion on the topic "What Can and What Should the Diaspora Do for Ukraine" to be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 3 p.m. Participating speakers will be announced in upcoming advertisements in The Ukrainian Weekly.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 23

NEW YORK: The Yara Arts Group continues its Nova Nomada Series. "Night #6 – New Music, Poetry and Prose from New York's Emerging Ukrainian American Art Underground" will feature Staroviry, a new musical ensemble with Julian Kytasty, Eugene Hutz and Alex Kytasty performing "New Music from Old Sources." Come meet the artists over beer and pretzels starting at 8:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Sports Club, 122 Second Ave. at Seventh Street. For further information call Yara, (212) 475-6474.

remainder of 1999, liturgies will also be celebrated on October 23, November 20 and December 18 at the same time and location. For more information, contact Joe Hall, (972) 235-3930.

JERSEY CITY, N.J.: An end-of-summer dance, with music by Lvivyany, will be held at the Ukrainian National Home, 90-96 Fleet St., starting at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$12 per person; for reservations call (201) 656-7755.

Saturday, September 25

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a presentation by Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, who will speak on his meetings with Ukrainian communities in Kazakstan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation. The talk will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 26

PITTSBURGH, Pa.: The Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival committee announces the 18th Annual Ukrainian Festival. It will be held at noon-6 p.m., in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus. Admission is free. The Commons Room is the place to view cultural displays, be entertained by continuous performances, purchase Ukrainian merchandise or experience Ukrainian foods. For additional information, call Kristina Kincak, (724) 695-1915.

DALLAS-FORT WORTH: Divine liturgy for the St. Sophia Ukrainian Catholic Mission will be celebrated at 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Seminary Chapel, 1800 John Carpenter Deeway E., in Irving. The celebrant will be the Rev. Andriy T. Dwulit, pastor of Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church in Houston. The St. Sophia Mission was established in 1998 by the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Chicago to serve the faithful of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. During the

Tuesdays, September 28, October 5 and 12

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute is offering a three-part course on "Gerdany Loomwork Series – Ukrainian Style." In this series Maria Rypan provides instruction on making your own beaded neckpiece on a custom-made wooden loom. Fee: \$40 for the

(Continued on page 19)

PLEASE NOTE NEW REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$10 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

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

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$10 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and its New York Branch

cordially invite you to attend the community meeting with

Ukrainian Presidential Candidate The Honorable Hennadiy Udovenko,

(former Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Former President of the UN General Assembly, member of the Ukrainian Parliament; Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations; head of the Rukh Party)

The meeting will be held on **September 20, 1999**
at **6:30 p.m. at Ukrainian National Home**
142 Second Avenue, New York, NY.

Admission: \$10 per person

Do not miss this unique opportunity to meet
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*The UCCA is a not-for-profit educational organization,
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Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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The subscription rate for this special offer for the academic year is only \$35 (\$30 if the student is a member of the Ukrainian National Association).

So please fill out the form below and mail this form with a check to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, PO Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

PS to students who are budding writers or journalists: We encourage you to send us your submissions and story ideas about Ukraine and Ukraine-related topics!

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