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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Tymoshenko is released once again, this time by a Supreme Court ruling

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Supreme Court suspended a lower court ruling on April 2 and ordered the release of Yulia Tymoshenko from under guard at the hospital where she is being treated for gastrointestinal ailments.

It was the third court ruling in less than a week on the status of Ms. Tymoshenko, a key political leader of the anti-Kuchma opposition who was arrested in mid-February on various charges in connection with the business dealings of the firm she once ran.

Ms. Tymoshenko's attorney, Viktor Shvets, said he had based his successful appeal to the highest criminal court in the land on the secretive manner in which the municipal court came to its decision, an argument that Ukraine's Supreme Court supported. He explained that the illegal decision to re-incarcerate Ms. Tymoshenko was made during a court hearing held late in the night and to which neither she nor her attorney was invited.

"They neither bothered to inform us nor to allow us to become familiar with the appeal of the procurator general," explained Mr. Shvets. "The Constitution of Ukraine guarantees the right to a defense, openness of the judicial process and the equality of its participants."

Supreme Court representative Liana Shliaposhnykova said the decision would remain in effect until the Supreme Court completes its review of the case.

The ruling came after a municipal court decided in favor of an appeal by the Procurator General's Office on March 30 to rearrest Ms. Tymoshenko, which overturned a lower court ruling three days earlier that had freed her from prison. After the ruling of the Kyiv City Court, Ms. Tymoshenko's hospital room was put under guard with a prison matron ordered to be present in her room around the clock and her telephone access was blocked.

Ms. Tymoshenko initially was released from prison after six weeks of confinement when a Kyiv District Court decided the former first vice prime minister and ex-chairman of United Energy Systems was not likely to flee the country to avoid criminal prosecution.

In mid-January the Procurator General's Office had leveled myriad charges against Ms. Tymoshenko, including extortion, smuggling, forgery and tax evasion, which she allegedly committed while head of UES, at one time the largest oil and gas trading firm in Ukraine. About a week later she was fired from her position in the government by President Leonid Kuchma and then arrested on February 13.

The district court that initially released her had rejected assertions by public prosecutors that her failure to appear for questioning — even though she had informed

them she was ill — was adequate proof that Ms. Tymoshenko was not willing to cooperate with the investigation into her case.

After the Supreme Court decision, the public prosecutor issued an order barring Ms. Tymoshenko from leaving Kyiv. She voluntarily turned over two passports, which she had stated she would do as proof that she would not leave the country "dead or alive," as she put it.

While some political pundits are hailing the decision to free Ms. Tymoshenko as evidence of the independence of the court system, most experts acknowledge that her release was merely a continuing series of politically inspired tactics.

They pointed out that Supreme Court Chief Judge Vitalii Boiko was appointed by National Deputy Oleksander Moroz, an opposition leader aligned with Ms. Tymoshenko, when Mr. Moroz was the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Boiko not only reviewed Ms. Tymoshenko's case personally but also made the ruling in her favor.

Ms. Tymoshenko, whose lawyer said she would remain in the hospital to continue to receive treatment for stomach ailments, said the municipal court decision to effectively

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Gongadze relatives file suit to gain access to evidence

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The mother and wife of slain journalist Heorhii Gongadze filed suit in Kyiv on March 30 to have the Procurator General's Office give them access to all information and evidence on what has become known as the Tarascha corpse, which they have the authority to review but have yet to see.

They also restated their demand that authorities begin a comprehensive set of analyses to determine the manner and time of death of the corpse, which was found in November of last year in a shallow, partially unearthed grave near the town of Tarascha some 75 miles outside of Kyiv.

On April 3 the murdered journalist's wife, Myrosia, said she and her mother-in-law, Lesia, would like to see U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation agents return to complete the analyses they had begun and take part in the additional testing. But they see no reason for further testing if it is not accompanied by a basic examination to decide whether the size and age of the Tarascha remains are similar to those of the journalist. The dead journalist's wife reiterated a demand

made earlier that analyses to determine the date and manner of death of the Tarascha corpse also must take place.

The U.S. Embassy released a statement on March 30 indicating that the U.S. was still considering a request for additional assistance in analyzing the Tarascha remains, which was submitted to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell by Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko on March 27 while he was in Washington for talks.

The wife of the journalist whose apparent murder has caused massive demonstrations on the capital's streets, including bloody encounters between police and protesters on March 9, said efforts by her and her mother-in-law, Lesia, to obtain test results and investigative notes have received nothing but negative responses from the Procurator General's Office.

"We are very, very tired of our running battle with the procurator general and beating our heads against that wall, and the endless inane problems and delays," Mrs. Gongadze explained during a press conference on April 2.

A Kyiv court ruling earlier this year

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Third World Forum of Ukrainians to accent youth

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Members of the organizing committee of the Third World Forum of Ukrainians announced on March 23 that this year's mass gathering of the global Ukrainian community scheduled for August 18-24 in Kyiv will place a thematic accent on youth, its problems and perspectives.

"We hope to make this year's forum youth-oriented. We want to place a greater emphasis on the needs and ideas of the younger generation," explained organizing committee member Mykhailo Horyn, head of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, one of the largest global Ukrainian organizations.

The World Forum of Ukrainians, which is convened irregularly, has convened twice before, first in 1992 under the banner "Our Beautiful Family," and in 1997 utilizing the theme "Into the 21st Century in Cooperation and Unity."

This year organizers are expecting more than 600 delegates and some 1,200 guests to take part. Ivan Drach, head of the Ukraine-World Society (Tovarystvo Ukraina-Svit, formerly known as Tovarystvo Ukraina) and one of the central organizers of the forum,

said he hopes that 50 percent of each delegation will be made up of young people.

Mr. Drach outlined a program that will include three major themes: youth — the future of Ukraine; language and culture; and Ukraine and the diaspora. Topics to be addressed include: the battle against drug addiction and AIDS; the way to a healthier life; securing information channels for the activities of the world community of Ukrainians; the development of Ukrainian tourism; and cooperation between Ukraine and the foreign Ukrainian community in the financial and manufacturing spheres.

The general themes and the topics they will address are to be the undercurrent of discussion in various sections and roundtables that are planned for August 19-20, after a gala grand opening and concert on August 18.

Then, on August 21-22, three academic conferences are planned, the first of which will be the second international academic conference on the topic, "Education in the Ukrainian Abroad." Delegates and guests also will be treated to two jubilee conferences, one on the 175th anniversary of the birth of the Ukrainian philosopher and pedagogue Pamfil Yurkevych, the



Mykhailo Horyn

other on the 200th anniversary of the renowned Ukrainian mathematician Mykhailo Ostrohradskyi.

On the agenda as well is the first international conference of the World Association of Ukrainian Press.

During the last two days of the forum, delegates and guests will travel to events and celebrations in vari-

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ANALYSIS

Ukrainians say they live in crisis and poverty

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – In a poll conducted between March 2 and 13 by SOCIS and the Democratic Initiatives Fund among 1,200 people in all Ukrainian regions, 80 percent of respondents said Ukraine is in a political crisis, and 63 percent acknowledged that the authorities are facing opposition in the country.

Asked about consequences of the current opposition protests, 27 percent of respondents said everything will remain as it was before the protests, while 22 percent predicted a change of the president and the government.

Of those polled, 72 percent said Ukraine is moving in the wrong direction and only 11 percent were of the opposite opinion; 17 percent were not able to decide the answer to this question.

Iryna Bekeshkina, an expert of the Democratic Initiative Fund, said the poll revealed that "Tapegate" and the Gongadze case have seriously influenced the attitude of Ukrainians to the state leadership and institutions. Ms. Bekeshkina noted that over the past five months the "negative balance of trust" in President Leonid Kuchma (the difference between the percentages of those trusting and mistrusting him) increased by 8 percent.

According to the poll, only 10 percent of Ukrainians have full trust in Kuchma, while 56 percent fully mistrust him.

Among those who believe that the audiotapes provided by former bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko are authentic (meaning that they believe Mr. Kuchma ordered Mr. Gongadze's murder), the president's "balance of trust" is minus 61 percent, while among those who say Mr. Melnychenko's tapes are fake, the relevant figure is plus 2 percent.

Ms. Bekeshkina also noted that the "negative balance of trust" in regional

authorities considerably decreased over the past five months: from minus 39 percent to minus 30 percent regarding local councils; and from minus 40 percent to minus 33 percent regarding local executive bodies. The central government also improved its rating, reducing its "negative balance of trust" from minus 37 percent to minus 34 percent. Among Ukrainian politicians, Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko has the best "balance of trust": plus 2 percent.

Sixty percent of respondents blamed Ukraine's problems on those who lead the nation. But the poll also revealed that only 16 percent are ready "to insistently and continuously stand for their positions."

Oleksander Stehni, a SOCIS analyst, commented on this last figure: "It is possible to view [this figure] with some probability as an indicator of the readiness for collective social actions, but this figure in no way means that such an amount of people is ready to overthrow the authorities."

According to Mr. Stehni, Ukrainians do not "sufficiently" trust any opposition leader, and such a situation breeds people's apathy and unwillingness to participate in protests against the authorities. He added that political apathy in Ukraine can also be explained by the fact that "the post-Soviet is mentally afraid of [social] disturbances."

The overwhelming majority of respondents – 86 percent – said they are poor: 38 percent defined their material status as "very low," 32 percent as "low" and 16 percent as "below average." Thirteen percent said their material status is "average," while 1 percent said it is "above average." The average monthly income of those polled was 126.4 hrv (\$23.30), while official data for the year 2000 said this indicator amounted to 146 hrv.

The poll found that 66 percent of Ukrainians consider themselves to be believers, 25 percent non-believers, and 3 percent atheists. Six percent did not answer the question about faith.

Is Kuchma afraid of Tymoshenko or of dialogue?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – A strange legal fight over the whereabouts of former Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko took place in Kyiv over the past week.

A Kyiv District Court on March 27 annulled the warrant issued by the Procurator General's Office for the arrest of Ms. Tymoshenko, who had been in jail since February 13 on charges of bribery, smuggling, and forgery. Ms. Tymoshenko denies all of the charges, dismissing them as politically motivated.

Explaining the court ruling, Judge Mykola Zamkovenko said there was not sufficient reason to believe Ms. Tymoshenko would hide from investigators. He added that the arrest warrant was unnecessary since Ms. Tymoshenko had attended all required interrogations. Immediately after leaving her solitary confinement, Ms. Tymoshenko went to a Kyiv clinic for treatment, as she is reportedly suffering from a stomach ulcer.

The Procurator General's Office subsequently appealed the ruling of the Kyiv District Court, and the Kyiv City Court on March 31 complied with the appeal and ordered that Ms. Tymoshenko be placed under arrest once more, after which guards appeared outside her hospital room.

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus, Ukraine and Poland specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newsline.

Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyers then filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, which on April 2 ordered a suspension of the arrest at least until it considers the appeal.

Oleksander Turchynov, head of the parliamentary caucus of Ms. Tymoshenko's Fatherland Party, told Interfax that the authorities are afraid of the former vice prime minister. He added, referring to "informed sources," that the order to rearrest Ms. Tymoshenko came personally from President Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Turchynov also said he spoke with the president about Ms. Tymoshenko's husband, who is in jail on charges of bribery. Mr. Kuchma suggested that Ms. Tymoshenko's fate depends on her "behavior." Ms. Turchynov added that apparently Mr. Tymoshenko behaved badly – the Fatherland Party voted to pass Major [Mykola] Melnychenko's tapes to Western experts for expertise." Mr. Turchynov said this fact contributed to the imprisonment of the former vice-prime minister.

Meanwhile, the Forum for National Salvation commented that the decision to rearrest Ms. Tymoshenko testifies to the fact that the authorities are not interested in overcoming the current crisis.

Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko also commented that Ms. Tymoshenko's rearrest "stops the negotiation process on the way out of the political crisis." He added that the rearrest was "a demonstration of force – unfavorable for overcoming the crisis and arranging a normal political dialogue."

NEWSBRIEFS**PM, deputies seek meeting with Kuchma**

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko on April 2 said he and leaders of the parliamentary majority will ask President Leonid Kuchma for a meeting in order to agree on controversial issues in the currently discussed political accord between the Cabinet of Ministers and majority caucuses, Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko said the draft accord stipulates that the parliamentary majority will back the current cabinet until April 2002. However, the sides have not yet agreed on the procedure for appointing ministers and other officials. Meanwhile, Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Speaker Stepan Havrysh said the accord between the government and the parliamentary majority can be signed within a week. Mr. Yushchenko is expected to report on the government's performance to the parliament on 17 April. First Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Viktor Medvedchuk noted last week that no one in the parliament has moved to initiate Mr. Yushchenko's ouster. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Talks may focus on referendum

KYIV – The chief of staff of the presidential administration, Volodymyr Lytvyn, on April 2 said talks between the authorities and the opposition could focus on a moratorium on last year's constitutional referendum results. Mr. Lytvyn suggested that President Leonid Kuchma could address the nation with an appeal to postpone the implementation of the referendum for some time. He also noted that the opposition, in turn, could withdraw its proposals to change the Constitution. Mr. Lytvyn added that the sides could also discuss adopting laws on political opposition, political parties and parliamentary elections under a proportional system. According to the chief of staff, the best candidates from the authorities to conduct talks with the opposition are Anatolii Kinakh, head of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and Viktor Musiaka, leader of the Forward Ukraine party. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kwasniewski seen as moderator

KYIV – The Forum for National Salvation told journalists on March 30 that it wants talks with President Leonid Kuchma or, should they fail to materialize, with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, Mr. Kuchma's old friend. "We only agree to Kwasniewski acting as an intermediary, or someone named by him," Reuters quoted forum activist Volodymyr Filenko as saying. "It was Kwasniewski who suggested to Kuchma that he should sit down to talks with the opposition," Mr. Filenko added. The national deputy declined to say whether the forum

still insists on the president's resignation as one of the key topics at the talks. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poland supports 'patient dialogue'

KYIV – Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski on March 30 discussed the situation in Ukraine with NATO Secretary-General Lord George Robertson, who visited Warsaw last week. After the talks, Mr. Bartoszewski explained Poland's position on Ukraine to journalists: "We represent the view of a necessity for patient dialogue with Ukraine, of influence, in as much as that is possible, from outside for the amelioration of internal conflicts, in the interests of progress, stabilization and democratic processes in that country." Mr. Bartoszewski added that "it is not necessary to become discouraged, despite the fact that some phenomena are hard to accept," since "distancing and isolating Ukraine cannot bring anything good." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma refuses to discuss resignation

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma does not intend to discuss with the opposition either his resignation or the transformation of Ukraine into a parliamentary-presidential republic, Interfax reported on March 29. Mr. Kuchma told journalists in Donetsk: "How can I sit at a negotiation table with those who demand my resignation by taking [only] 3,000 people to the streets? What, should I spit upon the 16 million people who voted for me during the elections?" Mr. Kuchma said the preparation of talks with the opposition is handled by Anatolii Kinakh, head of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; former Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko; and Yevhen Marchuk, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council. Mr. Marchuk said that thus far there have been no talks with the opposition, only consultations with "some representatives of the Forum for National Salvation" on the possibility of such talks. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President fears 'criminal' foreign capital

KYIV – Addressing a congress of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in Kyiv on March 29, President Leonid Kuchma said he is concerned about "the strengthening of inter-clan confrontation [and] the activation of shadow capital" in a "new stage" of privatization in Ukraine. According to Mr. Kuchma, the privatization process in Ukraine is increasingly threatened by "foreign financial capital of a criminal origin." He blamed "some homespun political associations" for promoting interests of that

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Gongadze relatives...

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extended "victim" status to the two Gongadze relatives in the tragedy surrounding the death of the journalist. Under Ukrainian law that gives them the right to review all evidence and documents associated with the investigation. But Ukraine's chief prosecutor has been unwilling to share anything with the two Gongadze relatives.

On April 4 Deputy Procurator General Oleksii Bahanets explained that, according to law, victims are not required to have access to case materials during the investigation, and his agency's policy is to allow them to review the case after the initial fact-finding is completed.

From nearly the day Mr. Gongadze disappeared on September 16, 2000, the two women have had a pitched battle with Ukrainian law enforcement officials over access to information on the investigation of the death of the reporter, who published an Internet newspaper heavily critical of presidential administration authorities and investigating relationships between them and business clans in Ukraine.

Lately the struggle between the Gongadze relatives and the Procurator General's Office has centered on whether the body found near Tarascha is the missing journalist's. It took Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko more than a month to recognize DNA testing done in Russia, which showed a 99.6 percent probability that the remains were Mr. Gongadze – and only after additional testing raised the level of certainty to 99.9 percent.

However, a shocking revelation by National Deputy Serhii Holovaty, who has played a prominent role in the attempt to obtain some clarity in the Gongadze affair, threw a heavy shadow of uncertainty over those results. On March 20 Mr. Holovaty announced that an independent DNA test undertaken by a German firm and ordered by the special parliamentary committee investigating the Gongadze case had determined that the tissue sample taken from the Tarascha body by a colleague of the murdered journalist did not match either the journalist's DNA or that of his mother.

In a press release Myrosia Gongadze explained that the negative result suggested one of two things to her: that the Tarascha corpse is indeed the body of Mr. Gongadze, and that his colleague, Olena Prytula, received tissue fragments from another corpse; or that the Tarascha body is not and never was the body of Mr. Gongadze, and someone with access to the real body turned over an actual tissue sam-

ple to the Russian analysts for testing.

Most recently, an aborted attempt by the FBI to perform its own DNA testing, which was initiated in response to a request by Ukrainian authorities, has caused more frustration and confusion in the investigation. Two forensic experts from the FBI, who were in Kyiv on March 5 and again on March 8, abandoned an effort to obtain tissue samples required for proper DNA testing after the elder Ms. Gongadze balked at giving more samples until she received assurances that testing also would be done to determine the time and manner of her son's death.

On March 27, after Procurator General Potebenko agreed to accept Ms. Gongadze's demands, the FBI was invited back. As of April 4, U.S. officials were still considering that request.

The late reporter's mother, Lesia, suggested in comments made to The Weekly that, while she is not against the FBI continuing its investigation, she was baffled by contradictory statements she said various U.S. officials have made in discussions with her. She also explained that she was not happy with the manner in which U.S. Embassy officials questioned her during a meeting on March 30 at the Procurator General's Office on renewed FBI involvement in the examination of the Tarascha body.

"When I spoke with the representative of the FBI at my home in Lviv, he said that there is no problem determining the time and the reason for the death," said the elder Ms. Gongadze. "But Friday, during the meeting at the Procurator General's Office, the U.S. representatives said determining the time and manner of death was no longer possible."

Ms. Gongadze also said she did not appreciate what she perceived as pressure by U.S. Embassy legal advisors, who insisted she explain why she and her daughter-in-law were against submitting further tissue and blood samples.

"They treated me like the people from the procurator's office have," she explained.

In her comments to The Weekly, Mr. Gongadze's wife, Myrosia, said she wanted the assistance of the FBI, but expressed reservations on whether the thorough examination she would like could be conducted and whether she could handle the additional emotional strain caused by the tactics of the Procurator General's Office.

"If there is the chance to get questions answered as to the time and manner of death, then I am ready to cooperate," explained Ms. Gongadze. "The thing that is important to me right now, however, is the health and well-being of my children and me."

with the former vice prime minister.

On April 3, after her return to Strasbourg, France, Ms. Severinsen expressed concern over the events surrounding Ms. Tymoshenko.

"Ms. Tymoshenko was freed on the eve of my visit and rearrested on my departure," said Ms. Severinsen, according to Interfax-Ukraine. "She was not in the best of health when I met her, and I was shocked to hear that she had been held in solitary confinement without adequate medical treatment."

The PACE rapporteur, who has criticized the Kuchma administration often in the past, said she welcomed the decision of Ukraine's Supreme Court, which she thought would reduce tensions in the country, and expressed hope that "a fair and equitable judicial procedure" would follow.

Opposition leaders also hailed Ms. Tymoshenko's release, even as they and the president's forces began to take serious steps to bring the two sides to a negotiating table to resolve the political crisis surround-

Zlenko meets with government officials, community leaders, during visit to Canada

OTTAWA – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko began his official visit to Canada with a meeting with heads of the most influential Ukrainian organizations in Canada, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Ukrainian World Congress and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, Ukrinform reported.

The minister also met with Canadian government officials, including Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, and his Canadian counterpart, Foreign Minister John Manley.

During the meeting with Minister Manley, Mr. Zlenko was informed that Canada welcomes Ukraine's latest efforts to implement comprehensive economic reform and the positive effects that reform has had on the lives of the people of Ukraine.

Mr. Manley confirmed that Canada will continue to support Ukraine in its efforts to build a democratic society. The two foreign ministers discussed a broad range of issues involving Ukrainian-Canadian cooperation. They appraised the current level of economic cooperation between the two countries and considered the possibility of boosting cooperation in the area of investment in the agro-industrial and energy sectors. The Canadian foreign minister confirmed his country's pledge to assist in accelerating Ukraine's admission into the World Trade Organization.

In connection with the fact that Ukraine currently holds the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council, the two foreign ministers discussed the activities of that body, particularly the preparation of a draft resolution on the situation in the Middle East. They also paid particular attention to Ukrainian-Canadian cooperation in consolidating international community's efforts to resolve issues connected with the closure of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Messrs. Zlenko and Manley also exchanged views on the current political situation in Ukraine. Mr. Zlenko reaffirmed the Ukrainian leadership's efforts to facilitate transparent and objective investigation of the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze. He also expressed the Ukrainian leadership's intention to strictly abide by the Ukrainian Constitution and laws.

The two foreign ministers signed an intergovernmental framework agreement on the destruction of anti-personnel mines in Ukraine. Ihor Hrushko, head of the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, said the signing of the agreement

marked the start of implementation of the Ukrainian-Canadian project for destruction of Ukraine's stockpiles of the anti-personnel mines that have been banned under international conventions. The framework agreement defines the mechanism for implementation of the project, which was initiated in 1999, and opens the way for "practical work" with donor countries on financing the project.

Foreign Affairs Minister Zlenko ended his visit to Canada on March 27 with a series of meetings with Canadian leaders, including Prime Minister Chrétien. Mr. Zlenko conveyed a personal message from the president of Ukraine, which provided an assessment of the current state of Ukraine-Canada relations and outlined the prospects for broadening economic cooperation between the two nations.

The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Canada in 2000 increased almost twofold from the previous year and is the biggest in the history of this bilateral relationship.

In turn, Prime Minister Chrétien confirmed that Canada is ready to lobby Ukraine's interests within the framework of G-7. The parties also discussed the necessity for G-7 countries to fulfill their obligations with regard to the Chornobyl nuclear plant.

Mr. Zlenko also met with Minister for International Cooperation Maria Minna. Canada announced its decision to provide humanitarian aid of \$40,000 (Canadian) for flood victims in the Zakarpattia region. The two ministers shared their views on ways to broaden Canadian-Ukrainian cooperation in such realms as land market, farming, and the fuel and energy complex.

At a meeting with Minister of International Trade Pierre Pettigrew, Mr. Zlenko discussed the state and prospects for bilateral trade between Ukraine and Canada, as well as investment cooperation in the priority industries. The ministers hailed positive tendencies in trade relations between their two countries. The turnover of goods between Ukraine and Canada in 2000 increased almost twofold from the previous year and is the biggest in the history of this bilateral

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Tymoshenko is released...

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put her under house arrest in the hospital was made after she criticized President Kuchma. During a press conference at the hospital a day after her release, Ms. Tymoshenko said she would continue to push for the resignation of Mr. Kuchma and that there are suitable candidates to replace him, including Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko from the political right and National Deputy Moroz from the left.

That same day Ms. Tymoshenko met with the representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Hanna Severinsen, who was in Ukraine at the time to gather information on a report she is to submit to PACE on Ukraine's success in fulfilling promises it made to the human rights parliament when it took membership in 1995. Ms. Severinsen said she had discussed the political crisis and problems with corruption in Ukraine

ing the disappearance and death of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, which has paralyzed the administration since Mr. Moroz released audiotapes on which the voices of Mr. Kuchma and highly placed political appointees are heard discussing the journalist's disappearance and other criminal conspiracies.

The Forum for National Salvation, a civic organization consisting of representatives of some 25 political organizations, which has slowly become the driving force of the anti-Kuchma movement, on March 30 issued a list of requirements that it said must be fulfilled before it would negotiate with the Kuchma administration, including the demand that the president head the administration's delegation in the talks. It also demanded the dismissal of Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko; Mr. Kuchma's chief of staff, Volodymyr Lytvyn; National Security and Defense Council Secretary Yevhen Marchuk, Tax Administration Chairman Mykola Azarov; and National TV Company President

Vadym Dolhanov.

Forum leaders also said they would push for European mediation of the talks, noting that they are not opposed to an offer made earlier by Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski to serve as moderator. They made it clear the end goal was not necessarily the resignation of the president, but a change in the way political power is currently organized.

Meanwhile, President Kuchma stated unequivocally that he would not talk with any opposition unless its organization is registered properly and only if the demands are realistic.

"What is the purpose of sitting down with people who demand my resignation? What are we going to talk about?" queried the president on April 3 during a press conference with regional media.

He rejected scenarios that hold he may strike a deal and resign in the early fall and asserted that he had no intention of leaving office until November 2004, when his second term ends.

Two young Ukrainians killed in car accident

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Two young Ukrainian Americans, Adrian Deputat and Ihor Pikas died on February 10 in a car accident in Towamencin Township, Pa., while traveling to a Ukrainian social event in Philadelphia.

Mr. Deputat, 23, of Clarence, N.Y., was a student of communications at the State University of New York at Buffalo and worked at chek.com in downtown Buffalo, where he was responsible for developer quality control. Mr. Deputat was also the president of the university's Ukrainian Student Association and an active member of Plast.

Mr. Deputat graduated from Clarence High School and was a member of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church. He is survived by his parents, Zenon and Ksenia of Clarence, and two brothers, Myron J. of Clarence and Jurij of Depew, N.Y.

Ihor Pikas, 31, of Williamsville, N.Y., earned bachelor of science and master's degrees in business administration from SUNY-Buffalo. While a student, Mr. Pikas worked as an emergency medical technician and ambulance driver. More recently, Mr. Pikas was a computer analyst for Kaleida Health Systems.

He is survived by his parents, Hryhorij and Roksolana Bilas of Grand Island, N.Y. and a brother Roman, of Newport News, Va.

The third passenger, Yura Prawak 26, of Buffalo, N.Y., (whose given name is Myron) survived the accident. He was released from the hospital on March 13.

A mass of Christian burial was offered for Messrs. Deputat and Pikas on Friday, February 15, at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kenmore, N.Y.

UCC to honor volunteers

WINNIPEG – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress on February 26 announced the establishment of the UCC Volunteer Service Award. This special certificate of recognition has been established in order to recognize the service of volunteers who have advanced the work of the UCC.

"Throughout the last 60 years, the UCC has benefited from the time and talent of so many individuals within our community who gave of themselves in order to benefit others," said UCC President Eugene Czollj. "This recognition is a way of expressing our deep appreciation for the time these dedicated individuals give to enhancing the UCC at the local, provincial and national levels."

The award will be presented by UCC National at the local, provincial and national levels. Unlike previous certificates, these awards will be given throughout the International Year of Volunteers 2001 at events determined by local organizations. The Volunteer Service Award is the UCC's contribution to this important celebration.

Information can also be downloaded from the UCC website a www.ucc.ca.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY PRESS FUND: A SPECIAL REPORT

\$400.00

Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston Houston, Texas

Basil Tarasko Bayside, NY
Irene Sawchyn Maplewood, N.J.

Edward Rokisky North Port, Fla.

Mary Pelechaty Toledo, Ohio

Philip Yankoschuk Bayside, NY

Total \$480.00

... AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

These donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund were received during the months of January and February along with payments for "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," Volume I. (The list does not include other donations to the Press Fund received separately.)

A huge thank-you to our many contributors.

Please note: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the sole fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.

In memoriam: Adrian Deputat and Ihor Pikas

by Michael A. Petryshyn

A single adjective that universally describes Adrian Deputat and Ihor Pikas has not yet been discovered. It is fascinating how Adjo and Ihor became friends, for their characters were on opposite sides of the spectrum.

Adjo never refrained from his desires, creating stories full of humor that always crescendoed from a few cackles to an enormous uproar. He lived his life to the fullest extent and never wanted to experience the down side of life; stress, anger and hate were not part of his language. His close friends knew another side of Adjo – his compassionate side, sometimes was overlooked and masked by his natural comic instincts. His lack of concern for himself, i.e., his "self-correction theory," allowed Adjo to move his efforts from himself to all of the friends he loved more than life.

Never has a bad word been spoken about Ihor. He was a reserved gentleman with a contemplative mind that would have impressed even the deepest of famed thinkers. Although he was somewhat concerned with physical fitness, it was actually his heart that was his largest muscle. A selfless individual who devoted his time to helping others, Ihor was global in his efforts, and all who encountered him quickly became aware of this. Rarely thinking of himself, this young man would have achieved heights unreachable to 98 percent of the population. His wisdom was like a quiet forest or a calm pond, where in fact he spent much of his time. Behind Ihor's silent facade, however, there was an infinite number of things occurring.

Although our two friends were of different statures, they complemented each other incredibly well, filling in each other's gaps.

"Now that we're almost settled in our house
I'll name the friends that cannot sup with us
Beside a fire of turf in th' ancient tower,
And having talked to some late hour
Climb up the narrow winding stair to bed:
Discovers of forgotten truth
Or mere companions of my youth,
All, all are in my thoughts to-night being dead."

– William Butler Yeats

Two months have passed since I last shook hands with Adjo or Ihor. Indeed, the time seems even longer, so much has happened meanwhile – so much has happened in the hearts and minds among all who were even slightly acquainted with them. Even amid all of the despondent and grave sentiments felt by the family and close friends, a tranquil tenderness ceases the moment when an outside source allows for reminiscence. Our paths in general take separate routes through the sorrows and elations surrounding life, leading individuals to stray from the pack, and involve themselves with distant objectives. One road leads the individual back to himself. He knows his manner more than any other. All we have are impressions that turn into memories – some distant, some eerily foreign and esoteric; and yet, the multitude of these personal engravings embed themselves into our daily consciousness. The other road leads the individual to seep into the deepest pockets of his acquaintances. And when that person shatters the thin glass wall, the one that separates true character and personal inhibitions, an unbreakable bond is created; the person becomes a friend. Adjo and Ihor, inexhaustible in their friendships with hundreds upon hundreds of Ukrainians and Americans alike, have done exactly that.

There are but a few times when one of their names is mentioned, that an intimate account, an authentic story, full of wonderful detail and thoughtful deliberation does not flow from the tongue of one of their friends. Their impact on our lives, not to be forgotten even in the slightest amount, has created an unimaginable affinity between people who have never crossed paths before. This newly created kinship is because of these two young men. The pain of losing a brother has become a point of similarity for all who knew either of them. The same tears that gently rushed down shocked visages, the exact gray melancholic sensation, the same sleepless and desolate first night after the news, and the constant desire to have them with us again is now a common denominator between a seemingly infinite number of people.

It almost seems to be an absolute among young children to yearn for knowledge about their parents' past, from the most complex and ambiguous to the elementary. As a child, I remember rifling through my parents' photographs from weddings, zabavas and Christenings just to see moments of unrefined happiness.

These photos reach a long way back – into the forgotten years of childhood and adolescence, which reveal innocent moments where inhibitions are dropped, and love and



Friends forever: On their way to Philadelphia, Yura Prawak, Ihor Pikas and Adrian Deputat stopped for dinner. At the rest stop they took this photo, which was found in the glove compartment of their car after the accident in which Ihor and Adrian died.

friendship flourish without a single solitary word spoken. There is an oral history to all of these photos, about the people in them and the circumstances, garnering a slew of benevolent and regressionary notes.

Simply, these are the stories your children or future children will want to hear.

But there were always several people in the photos who were foreign to my young eyes; either they moved away to a more prosperous region and lost touch with their roots, or their lives came to a tragic end. And when asked who that person is, a paradox of emotions streamed through my parents' eyes. Emotions of grief mixed with jubilant stories from the past were exhumed through the eyes, for language would not suffice. The remembrance of the past speaks a language unavailable to the physical tongue.

Our language is limited in this sense. Even if we went through all of the tales about Ihor and Adjo with our children, they will never wholly know the special bond all of us had with them, just as we, as children, could not understand our parents' past friendships.

How difficult it will be when their little wandering minds are attracted to our photographs, and their fingers eventually do point at a picture of either Ihor or Adjo. What could possibly be said to a little child about our two friends? What words could be spoken to illustrate the innate connection, the deep passion and the years of laughter and delight?

Everyone will handle these questions differently, because we are all left subjective impressions. Some will relay stories of hilarity and humor, some will recompose a long-winded concerto about a 10-hour car ride to some city, others will speak of them as part of a group of friends, and some will talk about Ihor and Adjo's inherent importance in their lives.

All of these remembrances are infinite in their essence, for they will not be forgotten.

Everybody has grown a little bit closer in the past month. What has been taken for granted, no longer is taken lightly. People are spending more time with each other, staying those extra few minutes with friends, and loving more than imaginable a few months ago. New friendships have been created and strong friendships are even stronger. And Ihor and Adjo could not have asked for more. A full month has passed since any of us shook hands with Adjo or Ihor. Indeed the time seems even longer, so much has happened meanwhile – so much more than they could have ever believed.

Terech Scholarship to be awarded

ARNOLD, Md. – Applications are being accepted for the Michael Terech Scholarship, which is open to full-time students of Ukrainian heritage majoring in journalism, business administration or computer science at a U.S.-based university who are starting their junior year in the fall of 2001. The number and amount of scholarships is not fixed; a total of \$5,000 is available in 2001.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, students must have a 3.0 grade point average. Candidates should submit a brief autobiography as well as a 500-word essay on a contemporary Ukrainian topic; a transcript of all undergraduate work; two references; and a letter of recommendation, preferably from a faculty member. Representative work by the candidate, if applicable, should also be included. This year's deadline for applications is June 1.

For an application form contact: Michael Terech Scholarship, 895 Lynch Drive, Arnold, MD 21012; phone, (410) 757-4019; e-mail, terechscholarship@att.net.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Northern Jersey District convenes annual meeting

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Northern New Jersey District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association, which encompasses 21 branches, held its annual meeting here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on Friday, February 23.

The meeting was brought to order by UNA Advisor Eugene Oscislawski, the district chairman, who welcomed branch representatives, district officers and members of the UNA General Assembly: President Ulana Diachuk, National Secretary Martha Lysko, Advisor Roma Hadzewycz, and Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly Walter Sochan. Also present was former UNA Advisor Andrew Keybida.

Mr. Sochan was elected to chair the meeting. Mark Datzkiwsky read the minutes of the 2000 annual meeting. Next came remarks by the UNA executive officers in attendance.

Mrs. Diachuk emphasized that the enrollment of new members is the key to the UNA's future, and she underlined that the UNA Home Office is always ready and willing to offer advice on enrolling members, UNA insurance policies and other UNA matters.

The president also spoke about the special vote on proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws, which are aimed at switching the UNA's governance to a corporate model, i.e., a board of directors that hires executives to run the day-to-day business of this fraternal insurance company.

Mrs. Diachuk also reported briefly on summer camps and other events at Soyuzivka, as well as the work of the General Assembly's Standing Committee on Soyuzivka, which is now preparing a plan of action aimed at improving the resort's bottom line.

National Secretary Lysko spoke in detail about the UNA's new insurance application, and explained how these forms are to be filled out. She also touched on the topic of annuities and reported on organizing results for the year 2000.

The Northern New Jersey District, she noted, had enrolled 64 new members insured for \$1,860,650 (an average face value of \$29,072) and thus attained nearly 39 percent of its annual quota.

UNA Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj was unable to attend the meeting due to pressing deadlines associated with the UNA's annual report.

District Chairman Oscislawski deliv-

(Continued on page 10)

Young UNA'ers



Larissa Klufas, daughter of Drs. Roman and Lydia Klufas, is a new member of UNA Ranch 241 in Woonsocket, R.I. She was enrolled by her parents.



Otto H. Fisher Jr., son of Dr. Otto and Ania Fisher of East Brunswick, N.J. is a new member of UNA Branch 234. He was enrolled by his grandparents Maria Oscislawski (advertising manager for UNA publications) and Eugene Oscislawski (a UNA advisor, chairman of the Northern New Jersey District and secretary of Branch 234) of Matawan, N.J.



Adam Oscislawski, son of Dr. Daniel and Helen Oscislawski, is a new member of UNA Branch 234. He was enrolled by his grandparents Maria and Michael Shulha of Whitehouse, N.J.



Crystal and Roman Kusma, children of Orest and Joan Kusma, are new members of UNA Branch 241 in Woonsocket, R.I. They were enrolled by their grandparents Dr. Bohdan and Taissa Kusma.



Alexander T. Klowan (center), son of Teodor and Laura Klowan, has joined his sisters Allison and Amy as a member of UNA Branch 241 in Woonsocket, R.I. Mr. Klowan is branch president.

Sputnik helps The Ukrainian Weekly

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Thanks to a program dubbed "Dial All Day for the UNA," Sputnik Global Telecommunications Corp. thus far has donated \$1,300 toward The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

That sum was donated by the company during the first year of its special telecom fund-raiser, which is based on the amount of commissions earned on long-distance services. Sputnik then donates a percentage of its total revenues to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

The service offered by Sputnik is what's known as "a dial around service," which means that a client may access its telecom network without changing his or her long distance provider. A customer needs only to regis-

ter his/her phone number with Sputnik in order to be able to make calls by using a toll-free access code.

Customers benefit from using Sputnik because they pay lower rates on their long-distance phone calls, while The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund benefits from the commissions earned. In effect, each time a customer places a call through Sputnik, the press fund receives a donation. The more clients and the higher the volume of usage, the greater the contribution to The Weekly.

The owner and president of Sputnik, an independent telecommunications agency and consulting company, is George Stromeckyj, a member of UNA Branch 399. For information call 1-800-266-4006.



TO THE DELEGATES OF THE 34th UNA CONVENTION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

In March you received a ballot regarding the UNA By-Laws changes. Please be reminded that all ballots must be returned by May 1, 2001, in order to be counted. It is your duty as a delegate or member of the UNA General Assembly to vote. Your vote is very important to the future of our society.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Get the vote out

No, it's not election time again. The headline of this editorial refers to the vote on the proposed changes to the By-Laws of the Ukrainian National Association. All delegates to the previous UNA convention (held in Toronto in 1998), as well as members of the General Assembly elected at that convention are eligible to vote on the proposed amendments. All of them received the proposals and a mail-in ballot at the end of January; the completed ballots are to be returned by May 1.

In between January and May, UNA district committees were to discuss the by-laws changes at their meetings. Some of them had the benefit of hearing the chairman of the By-Laws Committee, Taras Szmagala Jr., present an explanation of the changes and how they would affect this 107-year-old fraternal organization. Delegates also received Mr. Szmagala's written message in support of the changes. And, everyone who reads this paper also had the opportunity to see Mr. Szmagala's commentary in our issue dated February 4. Mr. Szmagala, and others who support the revisions, argue that the proposed changes will improve the management of the UNA, that having a governance structure comprising a board of directors that hires – and fires – professional executives to run the day-to-day operations of this fraternal benefit insurance society will be the best way to guarantee accountability and to ensure that the best professional talent and new blood are found to lead this organization into the future. They say this change is necessary for the well-being of the UNA and that it will modernize an organizational structure and system of functioning that is badly outdated. UNA members, who elect delegates from their branches to quadrennial UNA conventions, will still have a say in how the UNA functions, since their delegates are the ones who will elect the 11-member board of directors.

Those who are against the proposed new by-laws, such as Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, who recently sent a letter to those eligible to vote on the by-laws proposals, suggest that adopting a corporate structure is the fastest way to guarantee that the UNA will no longer be a fraternal organization that cares about and caters to the needs of the Ukrainian community. They add that the only way to preserve the UNA's fraternal structure is to elect fraternalists as executive officers. Opponents of the proposed changes also argue that an 11-member board of directors will never be as representative of the UNA membership as is the current 25-member General Assembly and that it would concentrate too much power in too few hands as it would take only six votes (out of the 11-member board) to control the entire organization.

Finally, there are also those who urge a "no" vote on the mail-in ballot for the simple reason that they believe such a monumental change should be discussed openly at a full-scale UNA convention, where all the delegates have the advantage of hearing each other's opinions – pro and con – on issues of critical importance to the UNA's future. They fear that voting by mail ensures that only those who support the change will respond.

In a nutshell, it's a vision thing. Delegates and General Assembly members are being asked to vote on whether they agree with a proposed new vision for the UNA or whether they support the vision that has guided the UNA for over a century.

Our goal in this editorial is not to persuade you, the readers who are eligible to vote, to cast your ballots for or against the proposal. It is simply to urge you to vote. Our goal also is to encourage all UNA members to get in touch with their delegates to make their opinions heard. The future of the UNA is at stake, and delegates should feel duty-bound to play a role in determining that future.

April
11
1953

Turning the pages back...

Forty-eight years and two home offices ago, The Ukrainian Weekly published a feature article headlined "Visit the UNA Building" that was written by Josephine Gibajlo Gibbons.

The article focused on the Ukrainian National Association's Home Office building, located at 81-83 Grand St. in Jersey City, which was built in 1928 on the site of the old UNA headquarters. Following are excerpts from Ms. Gibbons' article.

* * *

... Many members of the UNA have seen and visited the [Home Office] building. The great majority have not, as they live too far away here in the USA and in Canada. So here is a "tour" of the place. ...

The first floor contains the editorial and business offices taking up about half the length of the structure with the printing shop in the rear. The printing shop, it is worth noting, is one of the best for its needs and size. Its equipment, for example, includes five Intertype machines, two of them of the most modern automatic shift-mixer types, running in cost to about \$12,000 apiece at present valuation. They set up the Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and do other print jobs, such as books, leaflets, brochures, placards, etc. Consequently the printing shop is manned from early dawn to late at night daily – two shifts. Besides the Intertypes, the print shop contains the latest in printing presses.

In the basement of the building are the printing presses, one a modern Duplex for printing of newspapers, and the other a book press. There is also located the mailing department, equipped with modern Addressograph machines. The second floor houses the executive offices and business offices of the Ukrainian National Association.

As for personnel, same consists of the executive officers, editors, office employees, printers, linotypists, expeditors – numbering in all 46 persons. Some of them have been with the UNA, Svoboda and the Weekly for quite a number of years. Quite a number of them are drawn from the newcomers. All of them, the old and the new immigrants, the American born, constitute a good working UNA office family.

If it so happens that during the coming summer any of you out-of-towners happen to be in the vicinity of Jersey City, drop in and visit the "Soyuz."

Source: "Visit the UNA Building" by Josephine Gibajlo Gibbons, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 11, 1953.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Pragmatism in foreign policy is a necessity for Ukraine

Below is the text of the address by the minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, Anatolii Zlenko, delivered at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, on March 22.

Pragmatism has become a fashionable coinage among diplomats.

For Ukraine it is not a fashion, but a vital necessity.

The political romanticism of the beginning of 1990s and exaggerated expectations in lieu of real economic reforms led to painful setbacks. The geopolitical importance of Ukraine remains appealing to the United States, but it is clearly not sufficient to convince the European Union. No talk about internal political stability could persuade foreign investors to settle in the Ukrainian market without proper legislation.

Therefore a new pragmatic approach was needed, both in domestic and foreign policies.

At home, it began over a year ago when we finally got the Parliament and government to work together. Remarkably, despite the current political tumult and occasional frictions between the two authorities, they continue to issue necessary decrees and pass legislation. The economy continues to grow, wages and pensions are being paid, the reforms go ahead.

In foreign policy, the first thing done was to put an end to endless debates about "East or West" and to present clear-cut priorities. Priority No. 1 is integration into the European Union. The two others include enhancement of strategic partnerships with Russia and the United States.

The logic thereby is very simple. The cornerstone of all foreign policy activity is the national interests of Ukraine.

Membership in the European Union fully corresponds to these interests. The relationship with the United States is indispensable, because it supports the European choice of Ukraine. Stable good-neighbor relations with the Russian Federation are part of our European policy, since they are welcomed by the EU and the U.S. So, where is the dilemma?

Two significant points should be mentioned here to make the picture complete. First, no other direction of Ukrainian foreign policy may be considered as an alternative to the European. Second, any initiatives or proposals, no matter how attractive or economically lucrative, if they could seriously endanger our European integration, will be dismissed.

Once the priorities are set, pragmatism requires also different arguments and techniques. A differentiated approach is most appropriate here. For example, geopolitics, among others, remains a reasonable argument when we have to deal with such critical issues as the ultimate limits of the EU and NATO enlargements, the ABM Treaty and nuclear disarmament, and consolidation of Ukraine as a regional leader.

At the same time it would be fruitless to appeal with such an argument to international financial institutions or foreign investors. The strategic crossroads location of Ukraine is a good argument to claim the status of a convenient energy transit country or to focus attention on the problem of illegal migration. But it would hardly suffice without upgraded highways and a pipeline network and a

comprehensive migration policy. The economic achievements of the past year are the best argument ever in negotiations with the European Union and an incentive to foreign businesses. Intensive diplomacy with our Western neighbors convinced EU to pay adequate attention to the possible negative consequences of the EU enlargement.

Recent economic agreements with Russia have nothing to do with big politics. They stabilized the Ukrainian energy market, promoted creation of new jobs and opened good prospects for high-tech and industrial cooperation. We heard no concern from the EU or WTO.

So, what's the fuss about? This is pragmatism. It has nothing to do with the desire to look nice or to be arrogant in the eyes of our respective strategic partners. We say principally the same things in Washington, Brussels and Moscow.

We say that Ukraine feels nothing about the idea of joining its union with Belarus. And we make that clear to the Russians as well.

We say that Ukraine is not ready to join NATO. And we don't make that a secret for Brussels.

We say that Ukraine cannot support revision of the ABM Treaty. And we put it plainly in Washington.

We joined our strategic partner Poland to voice a serious concern about the Russia-EU intention to build gas pipelines bypassing Ukraine.

All these statements and projects would not correspond to our national interests, which cannot be compromised by any other considerations.

On the other hand, we highly appreciate U.S. support of Ukraine's European integration and its cooperation in international financial institutions. We joined NATO in KFOR to keep peace in this troubled region. We recognize the valuable contribution of Washington in the Middle East peace process and collaborate closely with your delegation on this and many other issues on the U.N. Security Council.

Ukraine is in favor of expanded economic cooperation with Russia and other new independent states. We share the Russian views on the need to launch effective combat against terrorism. We believe that regional and humanitarian cooperation with Russia will promote good-neighborly relations.

At the same time, Ukraine welcomes the open-door policy of NATO and maintains its position that each country has the exclusive right to seek adequate means to ensure its national security. We are engaged in large-scale practical cooperation with the Alliance because it helps to modernize our armed forces and develop national sciences.

This enumeration of common interests or differences can be extended. But the essence is clear: Ukraine unambiguously defined its national interests and foreign policy objectives and is consistently and pragmatically implementing them.

Let me dwell on some peculiarities that arise when pragmatism in foreign policy needs to take into account strategic partnerships. The latter notion implies that such partnerships should be mutually reinforcing and sometimes mutually condescending.

One cannot impose or beg for a strategic partnership. There should be no elder and younger brothers, regardless of dif-

(Continued on page 21)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to Fedynsky for latest column

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Andy Fedynsky for his poignant and eloquent March 25 "Perspectives" column in which he masterfully weaves in the current destruction of non-Islamic idols in Afghanistan with Stalin's brutal assault on Ukrainian culture and history, and links it with the current situation in Ukraine.

Allow me to add a thought to his concluding sentence: "Have faith in Ukraine's recovery."

Having faith in Ukraine's recovery means more than passively waiting for profound historical processes to run their course. In conversations with Ukrainians, and Ukrainian Americans, especially in the wake of the ongoing scandal, one hears sound analyses of why things in Ukraine are the way they are, including reference to the scars left by the weight of Ukraine's historical legacy and a recognition that change will take time. My concern is that these analyses all too easily lead to the

conclusion that given the "Ukrainian reality," there's not much that can be done, hence one should do nothing – a prescription, in effect, for giving up on Ukraine.

"Having faith in Ukraine's recovery" means not a passive faith, but an active one, in which a fundamental tenet is supporting those in Ukraine who are working on creating the emerging new political mentality to which Mr. Fedynsky refers in his column.

What I find heartening is that the U.S. government – despite the current political crisis – has not abandoned Ukraine and remains committed to engagement with Ukraine through diplomatic efforts that put pressure on Ukraine to encourage rule of law and respect for human rights, and through concrete assistance, including aid to civic groups, the independent media, and educational initiatives and exchange programs.

It's important that Ukrainian Americans also stay the course, encouraging our government to stay engaged and working to nurture the forces of political and economic reform and democracy in Ukraine.

Orest Deychakiwsky
Washington

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

Rep. Nadler reintroduces "Senior Citizenship Act"

BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Acknowledging that becoming a citizen of the United States often is needlessly difficult for many older immigrants, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) announced the reintroduction of "The Senior Citizenship Act" on March 11 at a press conference at Synagogue F.R.E.E. in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Current law exempts people over age 50 who have lived in the United States for at least 20 years and people over age 55 who have lived in the United States for at least 15 years from the English literacy requirement. However, this lengthy waiting period is often too great for older immigrants who have arrived more recently and speak little or no English. In addition, in some cases, especially for individuals over age 75, it can be extremely difficult to memorize facts and pass civics and history exams.

"I believe that most immigrants come to this country seeking a better life, and throughout history, our immigrant population has added much richness to our culture and has been fiercely loyal to this country," said Rep. Nadler. "Older immigrants are no exception."

"The Senior Citizenship Act" would add a third exemption from the English literacy exam; amending the requirement to say that any individual who is at least 65 years old and has been living in the United States for five years after their admission for permanent residence would not have to take the English literacy exam. They would still be required to pass the civics and history exams, but this

would be done in their native language.

In addition, those immigrants who are over 75 years old would be exempt from the history and civics requirement altogether. However, those immigrants who would be exempt from some or all exams under this legislation would still be required to fulfill other requirements of citizenship, such as renouncing any foreign allegiance, and would be required to take the oath of allegiance to this nation and its Constitution.

"I believe that our main concern with older immigrants should not be whether they can memorize who was president during the Civil War, or if they can understand the nuances of the English language," said Rep. Nadler. "Our concern should be whether immigrants, in seeking a better life, are ready and prepared to accept the laws and system of government we live under, as well as live their lives with the same high character that so many of this nation's immigrants have shown in the past."

Rep. Nadler originally introduced the "Senior Citizenship Act" on September 17, 2000 – which was "Citizenship Day" in the United States. That day commemorates the day that the U.S. Constitution was signed and the first immigrants to the New World became citizens. That legislation had 32 co-sponsors.

Rep. Nadler has served in Congress since 1992. He represents the 8th Congressional District of New York, which includes parts of Manhattan and Brooklyn.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

"Vesna krasna" – beautiful spring

God-willing, if those Colorado lows miss us in prairie Canada, and the Alberta Clippers miss you folks in the United States spring is on its way. Ah, to have been in Washington, when the forsythia bloomed in February, while in Winnipeg the temperature still hovered at 40 degrees below zero (that's both Centigrade and Fahrenheit!).

Well, at least here in the center of the continent, there are no earthquakes, no hurricanes, no mudslides (too flat), and no pollution (the wind just blows whatever there may be straight north-south from Hudson's Bay straight down to the Gulf of Mexico). The Red River does flood periodically, but does it very slowly, so there is time to prepare the sandbags. And the mosquitoes won't be out for another few months.

But while winter is here in Manitoba for many more weeks, the signs of spring are all around. The "soroky" (magpies) have been collecting twigs for a while now. "Ukrainian paska bread" [sic] is already on sale in the bakeries and supermarkets, along with hot-cross buns, and there is a run on pysanka supplies. There are already people walking around with dye-stained fingers, and they are not members of some obscure punk cult.

All over the world, in temperate climates where seasons are recognizable, people greet spring as a very special happening. I would like to share a few of the many beliefs and customs of ancient Ukraine regarding "vesna" – spring.

In the very very old days – we're talking pre-Christian, going into the Stone Age – there were only winter and summer, as the people saw them. There was eternal conflict between cold and warmth. The ancestors of the Germans believed in three seasons, winter, spring and summer.

Among the ancient Slavs, there was a season called prolet'ye [pre-summer]. The Slavic word for spring, "vesna," appears in the first Slavic Bible. Among some Balkan Slavs, Vesna (accent on the first syllable) is also a woman's name. Another word in Ukrainian and other Slavic languages which means spring is "yar" (as in yara pshenytsia – spring wheat). Spring does not begin with a set date, but varies, depending upon climatic and weather conditions, which are not exactly the same each year.

The first spring rituals begin with the feast of "Sritennia" (in our church, the feast of Christ's Presentation in the Temple or Candlemas Day in the Roman Catholic Church). The word means "meeting," and before Christianity a certain day was chosen as Sritennia, because this was when the old woman Zyma (winter) met the young Vesna.

Actually, the return of the migratory birds marked the beginning of spring. The swallows, larks, wild ducks, kingfishers and cranes were greeted with special joy, as were the prairie dogs and the pikes. People judged and foretold the future by

the timing of these creatures' return. Spring was celebrated on the feast of the "Soroka Sviatykh Velykomuchenykyv" – the 40 Martyrs (March 9 by the old calendar) – by baking birds out of dough.

This was the day the larks usually returned. Children sang spring songs as they carried around their little baked dough birds, calling spring, making sure that she will return.

With the coming of Christianity, many pre-Christian spring celebrations had their dates changed to coincide with church holy days, and this often caused difficulty. Originally, before there was any "Pist" [Lent], there was no reason to refrain from merriment. The "vesnianky" and "hahilky," ritual spring songs, were originally sung during the whole spring season. The spring games, with their merriment and matchmaking, also lasted as long.

With the new faith, these customs were not forgotten, just moved around to suit the new religious calendar, the Church authorities grudgingly accepting them after many centuries of official resistance. Most merrymaking now took place in the days before Lent and the weeks following Easter.

A special part of spring eagerly awaited by young adults looking for mates was "Vulytsia" (the word itself means "street"). This was a gathering and dance for the young which took place outdoors from Easter to the Feast of Simon. In some places, Vulytsia happened almost every evening, in others only on Sundays and holidays, or on the eves of holidays. Young people gathered to sing, dance, tell stories and, of course, to meet the opposite sex.

Oleksa Voropay, a renowned ethnographer, wrote: "Spring Vulytsia in the Ukrainian village – this is the best memory of anyone who spent their youth in Ukraine. Quiet May evenings, nightingales, orchards and youth create such a symphony of original beauty, such a spell of your own natural elements that whoever experienced it even once in his life will never forget it, as he will not forget his own, truly alluring, God-given Ukraine."

In our urban environment, it is hard to keep to old irrelevant customs, if we even know them. But the first robin or swallow is really something to see and talk about (even reported on the evening news), as is the first crocus and pussy willow. We do not believe anymore that we must do certain things to ensure that the spring returns every year, but there are things that we look forward to.

After hearing the wistful, nostalgic stories about the beauty of a Ukrainian village in the spring, completely awash in white and pink blossoms of the orchards, I long to see it for myself sometime. I can only imagine it – especially seeing the resulting multitude of fruit on those trees in August, as we travel through the villages of Ukraine. "Vesna krasna," indeed.

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BUFFALO, NY, DISTRICT COMMITTEE

of the

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2001, at 2:00 p.m.
at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall
308 Fillmore Ave., Buffalo, NY 14206

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

127, 304, 360

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Alexander Serafyn – UNA Auditor

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Osyp Hawryluk, District Chairman

Wasył Sywenky, Secretary

Maria Bodnarskyj, Treasurer

Roman Konotopsky, Honorary District Chairman

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

“criminal capital” in Ukraine. Kinakh told the congress that the union will support Kuchma's measures to prevent “illegal actions in order to change the constitutional system in the state.” Anatolii Kinakh, head of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, appealed to President Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, who also attended the congress but made no speech, to find “mutual understanding” and work “in tandem.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma criticizes draft of political accord

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said he is unhappy with the draft of a political accord that is currently being prepared by the Verkhovna Rada and the government. “[The draft] speaks about the creation of a parliamentary republic. Should the president sanctify this? No,” Interfax quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying. He also said it is necessary “to re-register” the parliamentary majority because it is unclear which parliamentary groups are supporting the government. President Kuchma noted that now the majority formally includes the Fatherland Party and Reforms Congress caucuses that support the opposition. He added that he would readily disband the current legislature if the results of last year's constitutional referendum had been reflected in the Constitution. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Zlenko meets with Kissinger

NEW YORK – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko met with American political activist and Nobel prize laureate Henry Kissinger in New York on March 22. During the meeting, Dr. Kissinger stressed that Ukraine is a vitally important country with a strategic importance. He confirmed his readiness to visit Ukraine and thanked President Leonid Kuchma for inviting him to visit. Messrs. Zlenko and Kissinger discussed a broad range of issues connected with Ukraine's activities on the international arena, the progress of reform in Ukraine, and the present state and prospects for the development of the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States. Mr. Zlenko informed Dr. Kissinger about Ukraine's activities within the United Nations Security Council. Among other things, he outlined the steps that Ukraine has taken to consolidate the efforts of the Security Council to resolve the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict as well as to strengthen peace and stability in the Balkans, the Middle East and other regions of the world. The two men also discussed the realization of Ukraine's policy of integration into Europe and strengthening its strategic partnerships with neighboring countries and the United States. In this context, Dr. Kissinger noted the exclusive geopolitical importance of Ukraine. On Ukrainian-American cooperation, Dr. Kissinger expressed his wish to facilitate the deepening of the partnership between the two countries. The two men also discussed the situation in Ukraine. Mr. Zlenko stressed that Ukraine's policy of consistent democratic transformation and economic reform remained unchanged. (Ukrinform)

Russia takes over USSR assets

MOSCOW – By the beginning of the year, Russia had fully taken over the ownership rights to the former Soviet Union's property in 90 countries, and partially in five countries, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Ivan Sergeyev told Interfax. “This work is still to be done in 16 states,” Mr. Sergeyev said. He said that Russia had concluded agreements with the former Soviet republics on the legal status of the former Soviet Union's state debts and assets, under which it will repay the

Soviet-era debts to foreign countries in exchange for the former Soviet republics' consent to “give up their share of Soviet foreign property.” He added that “Russia is strictly observing its commitments, and, taking this into account, is taking over the ownership rights to the former Soviet Union's property abroad,” he said. He noted that “some of the former Soviet republics, in violation of the concluded bilateral agreements, continue to lay claims to the former Soviet Union's foreign property. Ukraine, for instance, regularly sends blocking notes to the countries where such property is located.” (Interfax)

Yekhanurov comments on IMF program

KYIV – First Vice Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov on March 15 said the International Monetary Fund will resume its loan program with Ukraine if the Parliament passes a bill on reducing the sunflower seed import duty from 23 percent to 10 percent and a bill on budget debt restructuring in line with proposals from President Leonid Kuchma, Interfax reported. Mr. Yekhanurov was commenting on his recent talks with the IMF in Washington. According to Eastern Economist Daily, Mr. Yekhanurov also complained that IMF officials are influenced by politics in making decisions despite their assurances that they are not. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian diplomat slips away

MOSCOW – Igor Derechuk, an ethnic Ukrainian who went missing on February 27 from his post as an attaché at the Russian Embassy in Panama, has since informed his family that he is alive and well, but indicated that he does not intend to work for the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry in the future. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. cites rights problems in Russia

WASHINGTON – In its annual Human Rights Report released on February 26 the U.S. State Department said that “serious problems remain” in Russia's observance of human rights, Western agencies reported. Among the most pressing, the report said, are problems involving “the independence and freedom of the media and the conditions of pretrial detention and torture of prisoners.” It added that Moscow's record is poor in Chechnya, where Russian security forces demonstrate little respect for basic human rights. It also suggested that government institutions “remain largely unreformed” and that government leaders remain “mostly silent about violations of human rights and democratic practices.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian media minister cites U.S. lies

MOSCOW – Russia's Media Minister Mikhail Lesin said on February 27 that Moscow is considering the launch of an advertising campaign in the United States aimed at creating a positive image of Russia in American society, Interfax reported. He said that the U.S. administration is spending “a large amount of money on making Russia's image worse,” and he asked rhetorically: “When will they stop telling Americans lies about the processes that are taking place in our country?” He said that Moscow will publish within two weeks a report “On the Situation of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Action in the United States.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Moscow to push Russian language abroad

MOSCOW – Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry collegium on February 21 directed Russian diplomats to work toward strengthening the position of the Russian language around the world, Interfax reported. The ministry called for particular attention to be devoted to the use of Russian in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Carpathian Ski Club holds annual races in upstate New York

WINDHAM, N.Y. – Since it held its first ski races in the United States in 1954, the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) – the second oldest ski club in the world (the first being a club in Austria) – has continued this annual tradition. The 2001 races were organized under the leadership of KLC President Severin Palydowycz, Natalie Kachala, Orest Fedash and Peter Kurylas. Held at Ski Windham in upstate New York on March 10, the races attracted 110 registrants, of whom 79 completed the race.

The race consisted of two runs down a NASTAR-sanctioned course; the fastest of the two runs was recorded. A pacesetter who is registered with NASTAR determines the course handicap, which takes into consideration the snow conditions, outside temperature, course difficulty, and each participant's gender and age. A computer program takes the determining factors, plus the participant's actual time, and determines the winners of gold, silver and bronze NASTAR medals.

In addition to NASTAR awards, there were KLC awards to be won. The racing divisions this year were made up of nine male and seven female brackets, with one special recognition category for each gender.

There is also KLC's coveted fastest skier award, a traveling trophy that is passed on each year to the skier with the best time. This year's winner was Andriy "Snake" Sonevytsky with a time of 27.89 seconds. Jurij Kobziar, a Hunter Mountain legend, achieved a time of 25.49 seconds but his name already appears on the cup and the club rules stipulate that a skier can win this trophy only once in a lifetime.

In addition to the official awards of the 2001 ski races, there were friendly rivalries, as family records were set and oftentimes kids beat their parents' times. The latter in some cases appeared to be more rewarding than the actual medals or trophies, which were presented during an awards dinner held at Hunter Mountain.

This year's KLC races brought skiers from Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts and Illinois, as well as Ontario.

Organizers expressed special thanks to the Ski Windham staff for preparing the NASTAR course, and to Karl Plattner for holding a ski clinic in January for the senior men in preparation for this year's KLC races.

(On the right are the results of the ski races, listing the top three skiers in each bracket.)



The top four finishers among women age 20-34: (from left) Inya Chehade, champion Ksenia Salewycz, Natalka Bonacorsa and Orysia Lutiewych.



Displaying the sign of Plast's 3rd Unit from New York City are the victors in the boys age 17-19 bracket: champion Roman Hankewycz, flanked by Dan Krup (right) and Darian Fedash.



Andriy "Snake" Sonevytsky, winner of the fastest skier trophy.



Roxanna Kobziar (left) was the winner in the girls age 12-14 bracket. Seen with her (from left) are: Lida Doll, Kristyna Melnyk, Deanna Kochan and Orysia Kucher.

Results of ski races

MALE

Age 7-8

1. Severin A. Palydowycz	36.35
2. Nick Siokalo	43.29
3. Thomas Mandicz	45.60

Age 9-10

1. Mark Kochan	38.34
2. Paul Hadzewycz	40.01
3. Andrew Melnyk	49.51

Age 12-14

1. Adrian Rybak	31.18
2. Daniel Paslawsky	33.08
3. Alexander Mandicz	36.10

Age 15-16

1. Markian Hadzewycz	31.16
2. Adrian Kochan	32.20
3. Peter Krup	38.63

Age 17-19

1. Roman Hankewycz	28.65
2. Dan Krup	29.53
3. Darian Fedash	31.56

Age 20-34

1. Taras Filewych	28.71
2. Marco Shmerykowsky	30.53
3. Taras Ferencevych	30.82

Age 35-39

1. Severin Palydowycz	27.04
2. Andriy Sonevytsky	27.89
3. Peter Strutynsky	30.15
3. Ihor Sydoryak	30.15

Age 40-49

1. Petro Lenchur	28.78
2. Yuri Kucher	29.26
3. Alexander Salewycz	29.64

Special recognition

Peter Iwasiwka, age 6	1.10.03
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FEMALES

Age 6-7

1. Natalia Hryhorowych	41.72
2. Katja Palydowycz	45.56
3. Sofiya Sydoryak	47.59

Age 9-11

1. Tania Hryhorowych	35.51
2. Melanie Siokalo	36.84
3. Larissa Kobziar	43.75

Age 12-14

1. Roxanna Kobziar	30.70
2. Kristyna Melnyk	35.60
3. Lida Doll	35.97

Age 15-17

1. Katya Gaynor	31.07
2. Laryssa Rybak	31.09
3. Melasia Doll	32.36

Age 20-34

1. Ksenia Salewycz	36.10
2. Natalka Bonacorsa	36.52
3. Orysia Lutiewych	38.96

Age 35-44

1. Natalia Fedun-Wojcicky	32.88
2. Zoriana Siokalo	34.70
3. Volodymyra Hankewycz	35.08

Age 45 and over

1. Christine Gaynor	37.58
2. Christine Kochan	37.64
3. Roma Hadzewycz	38.73

Special Recognition

Olenka Kubiw, age 6	2.28.23
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CCRF and World Information Transfer host conference on 15th anniversary of Chernobyl

NEW YORK – The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the World Information Transfer will host a three-day conference on the state of world health and the global environment on Wednesday-Friday, April 25-27 in the ECOSOC Chamber of the United Nations.

Co-sponsored by the governments of Ukraine and Greece, this will be the 10th annual International Conference on Health and the Environment sponsored by the World Information Transfer. Among the invited keynote speakers are U.N. Secretary Gen. Kofi Annan, U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), and popular actor and humanitarian activist Henry Winkler.

The opening session of the conference will focus on the challenges and benefits of globalization in combating public health crises around the globe. The Thursday, April 26, session will commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Titled "Chernobyl Commemoration: Economics of a Catastrophe," the program will feature presentations by Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky of Ukraine, Ambassador Marjatta Rasi of Finland, Artur Korneev, the deputy director of the Chernobyl Shelter Project, and Prof. Serhiy Komisarenko, director of the Palladin Institute of Biochemistry in Kyiv.

Other prominent experts will include Hillary French, senior scientist with the World Watch Institute, Adi Roche, the renowned executive director of the Chernobyl Children's Project in Ireland.

Presiding over the afternoon panel discussion will be Dr. Zenon Matkivsky, the founder and president of the U.S.-based Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, an award-winning charity that has delivered over \$46 million worth of medical and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The final speaker at the afternoon session will be Melanne Verveer, the former chief of staff to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"This will be an important retrospective examining the overall impact of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster," said Alexander

B. Kuzma, executive director of CCRF. "It's important that we look at the health consequences that are well-established, such as the explosion in thyroid cancer among children, as well as other health effects that require more in-depth review."

New evidence is emerging that Chernobyl is having a major genetic impact on the population of Ukraine and Belarus, resulting in a sharp increase in birth defects. An unusually high rate of prenatal complications, infertility and infant mortality are contributing to an alarming population decline that is the most dramatic in all of Europe. The latest demographic studies conducted by the United Nations and reported in March estimate that at current rates, by the year 2020 the population of Ukraine could be reduced by nearly 40 percent.

"The U.N. and the ministries of health of Ukraine and Belarus have cited Chernobyl as a major factor in this demographic free-fall, although we recognize that many other factors are exacerbating this decline, including a rapidly growing incidence of AIDS, staggering poverty and high rates of infectious disease," Mr. Kuzma explained.

Conference organizers hope that the panels of international experts will help shed new light on the Chernobyl aftermath, and place it in a global and historical context. The Thursday session will include a luncheon and press conference that will be open to the public.

The final day of the international conference will address the need for new educational programs to inform and empower youth around the world to play a more active role in the defense of the global environment. Among the most prominent speakers featured will be Alexandra Cousteau, president of the Cousteau Foundation and daughter of the legendary marine scientist and conservationist.

Although the conference is free, participants must register in advance. To register for the conference or for the luncheon, readers should contact the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund at (973) 376-5140 or (203) 387-0507.

Zlenko meets...

(Continued from page 3)

relationship.

Earlier in the visit, while speaking with the participants of the meeting with Ukrainian Canadian community leaders, Minister Zlenko pointed to the great role that Ukrainians abroad and, in particular, Ukrainian Canadians, played in the Ukrainian nation's struggle for independence and in supporting Ukraine during the first few years of its newly regained independence.

In turn, the UCC President Eugene Czolij stressed that Ukrainian Canadians are proud of the fact that Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine's independence. He added that the Ukrainian community will continue to make efforts to ensure that Canada remains Ukraine's reliable partner.

Mr. Czolij touched on a number of issues related to Canada-Ukraine relations, including the 10th anniversary of Ukrainian independence, and stressed the importance of dealing with the current situation in Ukraine in a timely, transparent and democratic fashion.

"The UCC always welcomes the opportunity to meet with representatives from Ukraine," said Mr. Czolij. "Through our discussions we continue to foster a dialogue between Canada and Ukraine, which strengthens the special partnership between the two countries."

Speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian World Congress, Secretary General Viktor Pedenko noted that Ukraine must use its diaspora's great potential to its utmost. He assured the foreign affairs minister that Ukrainian organizations outside the borders of Ukraine are ready to assist the Ukrainian nation and to press its interests abroad.

During the meeting the participants discussed ways to deepen foreign Ukrainians' ties with their motherland and the involvement of Ukrainian Canadians in the development of Ukraine-Canada bilateral cooperation, first of all, in the economic sphere.

Minister Zlenko also informed the participants of the meeting about the arrangements for the Third World Forum of Ukrainians that will be held during celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Also present at the meeting, which was held at 7 Rideau Gate, the Canadian government's official guest residence, was Ukraine's ambassador to Canada, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak.

The next day Mr. Zlenko attended a luncheon hosted by the Canadian government. Among the guests were: Canada's former governor general, Ramon John Hnatyshyn; Peter Stollery, chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; A. Raynell Andreychuk, deputy chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; businessman James C. Temerty; and other senior government officials, as well as UCC President Czolij.

A Ukrainian Summer

Appears May 6 in *The Ukrainian Weekly*

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DATELINE NEW YORK: Bravos for opera singers, a screen star and others

by Helen Smindak



Winnie Klotz/Metropolitan Opera

Maria Guleghina as Abigail in Verdi's "Nabucco."



Gregory Hlady



Hutsul in a photo from "Images of Ukraine," an exhibit of photography by Yuri Lev.

Although the Metropolitan Opera season does not end until April 28, the Met's Ukrainian stars concluded their Met performances during the past week. Paul Plishka sang Ferrando in Verdi's "Il Trovatore," Maria Guleghina appeared as Abigail in "Nabucco" and Vladimir Grishko tossed off the small role of The Reckless Gambler in Prokofiev's "The Gambler." How did they fare?

Mr. Plishka, who almost always gets a nice hand from the critics, received a hearty pat on the back from Anthony Tommasini of The New York Times, who wrote that "the tireless bass Paul Plishka, who sang Ferrando, continues to be a model of vocal, musical and dramatic professionalism."

Mr. Grishko's role was apparently too small to merit mention. The tenor from Kyiv, who made his Met debut during the 1995-1996 season as Rodolfo in "La Bohème," sang the role of Pinkerton in "Madama Butterfly" during last summer's Met in the Parks concert series. This year brought him two prizes – from the government of Ukraine, the Shevchenko State Prize for 2001 (which some consider unwarranted); from his wife, an American-born baby sister for son Volodymyr.

Ms. Guleghina, who made her American solo recital debut at Alice Tully Hall in February with a program of rare music by Glinka and bel canto by Donizetti, Bellini and Rossini, has been receiving wild audience applause for her Met performances of the warlike slave Abigail in "Nabucco." The March 24 matinee, carried live on the Texaco-Metropolitan Opera radio broadcast, brought her powerful voice to millions of listeners. Ms. Guleghina graciously accepted bouquets and blew kisses to the audience as she took her bows at the end of the performance.

The Odesa-born soprano, who makes her home in Luxembourg with her husband, baritone Mark Guleghin, and their 1-year-old son Ruslan, was praised by the Times' Anthony Tommasini as "the Abigail of the day." Describing her performance as "fearless, exciting and dangerous," he added: "She fills the hall with gleaming sound and in her disheveled blond wig has an amazing wild-eyed look."

At the New York City Opera, diva Oksana Krovtytska, who won audience and critics' raves for four seasons in the title role of "Madama Butterfly," seems to have missed out in a new role this season. Reviewing the premiere performance of Mozart's "Don Giovanni," The New York Times' Anne Midgette declared: "Oksana Krovtytska, miscast as Donna Elvira, simply sat on a chest to deliver her first aria, outlining the character's passion rather than conveying it." Ms. Midgette found the whole production generally lacking.

The start of the 30th season of Opera Orchestra of New York, directed by Eve Queler, who has helped launch the careers of many opera stars, brought Ms. Queler's latest "discovery" on stage in Donizetti's "La Favorita" in the person of Vitalij Kowaljow, a Ukrainian bass who sang Baldassare, the monastery prior. In his review, Mr. Tommasini of the Times referred to Mr. Kowaljow as "the stentorian bass," while Associated Press writer Ronald Blum anticipated that the bass will "have a big career ahead" in operas such as "Don Carlo" and "Boris Godunov."

The 2001-2002 season, just announced by the Met and City Opera companies, promises to bring new (or rarely heard) Ukrainian voices to the New York opera scene. Prokofiev's "War and Peace," scheduled to open at the Met on February 14, 2002, will include baritone Vassily Gerello as Napoleon. Mr. Gerello, who made his Met debut in 1997 as Alfio in "Cavalleria Rusticana," appeared in New York the following year with the Kirov Orchestra and Opera Chorus in a concert version of Tchaikovsky's "Iolanta, Opus 69." Larissa Shevchenko is second-cast (after the Russian singer Elena Obraztsova) as Mme. Akhrosimova in "War and Peace."

The City Opera's new season offers Ms. Krovtytska a role better suited to her voice and personality – that of the young slave girl Liu in Puccini's "Turandot." Tenor Mikhail Didyk (referred to in press releases as Misha Didyk), who appeared as the Duke in last year's City Opera production of "Rigoletto," returns as Rodolfo in Puccini's "La Bohème." Making her City Opera debut, Ukrainian-born Anna Shafajinskaia will sing the title role in the ferociously effective melodrama "Tosca." Now a Canadian citizen, Ms. Shafajinskaia recently sang the title role in "Turandot" with the Welsh National Opera, receiving these words of praise from the "Opera Canada" reviewer: "Extremely attractive, and smaller and thinner than dramatic sopranos usually are, she has a voice, large, rich and lustrous, that is perfect for Puccini's Princess."

The conquering hero

As Gen. Roman Shukhevych, commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in the 1950s, Gregory Hlady portrays an intense, serious, passionate man who gives his life for his country. As Gregory Hlady, leading man and actor of stage, screen and TV roles, he is a tall, handsome man whose charming smile and courteous manners captivate everyone he meets.

Mr. Hlady was the center of attention at the reception held at the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America headquarters following the New York showings of the newly released film "The Undeclared," the story of the courageous Ukrainian underground's struggle to free post-war Ukraine from the Nazis and the Soviets. The film's producer/director, Oles Yanchuk, won his share of compliments and questions on the remarkably well-done film, but Mr. Hlady took the spotlight as guests crowded around to shake his hand, congratulate him on his stunning performance or ask him to sign a copy of the colorful film brochure.

Making my way slowly through the throng, past Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj, New York Consul General Serhij Pohoreltsev, Consulate staffers and other guests, I came upon Mr. Hlady. The face-to-face meeting revealed green eyes, dark blond hair that fell boyishly over his eyes, a grey business suit covering his six-foot frame (and muscular torso, as I recalled from the movie) – and of course, that wonderful smile.

A quick estimate of his age placed him at 40-something. Only a minute or two of conversation was possible before guests surrounded him again.

During that brief meeting, Mr. Hlady told me in lightly accented English that he will soon appear in a principal role in a big Hollywood production starring Ben Affleck, titled "The Sum of All Fears." From his agent, Helene Mailloux, who was standing nearby, came other data. Mr. Hlady, who speaks several languages in addition to Ukrainian, Russian and English, has many talents and interests, including singing (he has a bass/baritone voice), dancing, guitar playing, Tibetan chanting, fencing and doing stunts. Born in western Ukraine in the Lviv/Ternopil region and trained in Kyiv and Moscow, he has been a resident of Montreal for the past 10 years.

The transplanted Ukrainian, who spent three years early in his career travelling around the world with the Anatoly Vassiliev Theatre company, has a lengthy résumé of appearances in Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian theater, film and television productions. His stage work includes the role of Salieri in Alexander Pushkin's "Mozart and Salieri" in Rome and the part of Macduff in the New Generation Theatre Group presentation of "Macbeth."

Among his movie/television credits are principal roles in the Warner Brothers' film "Kung Fu, The Legend Continues" and the West German release "Leningrad, November," the six-part CBC drama series of 1999 "Cover Me," as well as appearances in a large number of French-Canadian works, among them "Quelque Chose d'Organique," "Gold Hunters" and "Parents Malgre Tout."

Mr. Hlady directed a laboratory production of avant-garde writer Yuriy Tarnawsky's "Not Medea" at New York's Mabou Mines in 1998 and has won awards for both acting and directing. In 1988 he was named best actor at the Science Fiction and Horror Movies Festival in Sitges, Spain, for his work in the Belarusian film "The Apostate." In 1992, he received the Best Directing Award from the Quebec Critics' Association for his direction of Harold Pinter's "The Homecoming." After his strong performance in "The Undeclared," I have a very strong feeling that we will be seeing and hearing more of Gregory.

A revival takes place

The Ukrainian Literary-Art Club, a continuation of New York's Literaturno-Mystetskyi Kliub which flourished in the 1950s and 1960s, has revived its evenings of art, poetry, prose and music under the direction of Mayana Gallery director/ceramic artist Slava Gerulak. On Friday evenings, the literati and devotees of traditional (and sometimes avant-garde) Ukrainian music and art have been gathering in the gallery, with its air of a genteel European salon, to hear music performed by Julian Kytasty, Jurij Fedynsky and Michael Andrej of the Experimental Bandura Trio, or Lev Maystrenko's rare sound recordings of "bylyny," epic songs of the Kyivan Rus' period composed and performed by bandurist Dr. Zenoviy Shtokalko (1920-1968), whose lifetime ambition was to reconstruct this ancient Ukrainian musical genre.

(Continued on page 19)

Viktor Petrenko: "You want to do something in your life to help other people"



Courtesy of Western Union

Viktor Petrenko (background, fourth from left) is surrounded by supporters and children of the Ukrainian community of Hartford, Conn., during the reception held in conjunction with his "Viktory for Kids" ice show. Standing behind the children (from left) are: Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Col. Charles Hardesty of the U.S. Department of State, Myron Lemega, Mr. Petrenko, Ukraine's Acting Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltzev of New York, Alex Kuzma, Irene Oleksiak and Natalie Korsheniuk Pollock.

by Natalie Korsheniuk Pollock
Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

SIMSBURY, Conn. – Viktor Petrenko was a sickly child when he was growing up in Odesa on the Black Sea. At age 31, the Olympic champion was skating and leaping in Connecticut on March 2-3 to raise money for children suffering deadly and disfiguring diseases in his hometown.

"You want to do something in your life to help other people, and when it happens, you feel satisfied," he explained. "Even if only one child feels better, I feel I did what I needed to do."

Mr. Petrenko realized he needed to help the children in his part of Ukraine who were dealing with the effects of the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl after he met Nadia and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, founders of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF). They met by chance at the Ukrainian Consulate in New York City two years ago, and last spring they got together again to discuss the possibility of a benefit performance starring Mr. Petrenko and his world-class colleagues.

CCRF staff and volunteers organized the event at the International Skating Center of Conn. (ISCC) in Simsbury, home base for Mr. Petrenko and his family since 1994. Together with the strength of Mr. Petrenko's name and the commitment of the center's new partners and staff, the Viktory for Kids ice show raised close to \$120,000 after

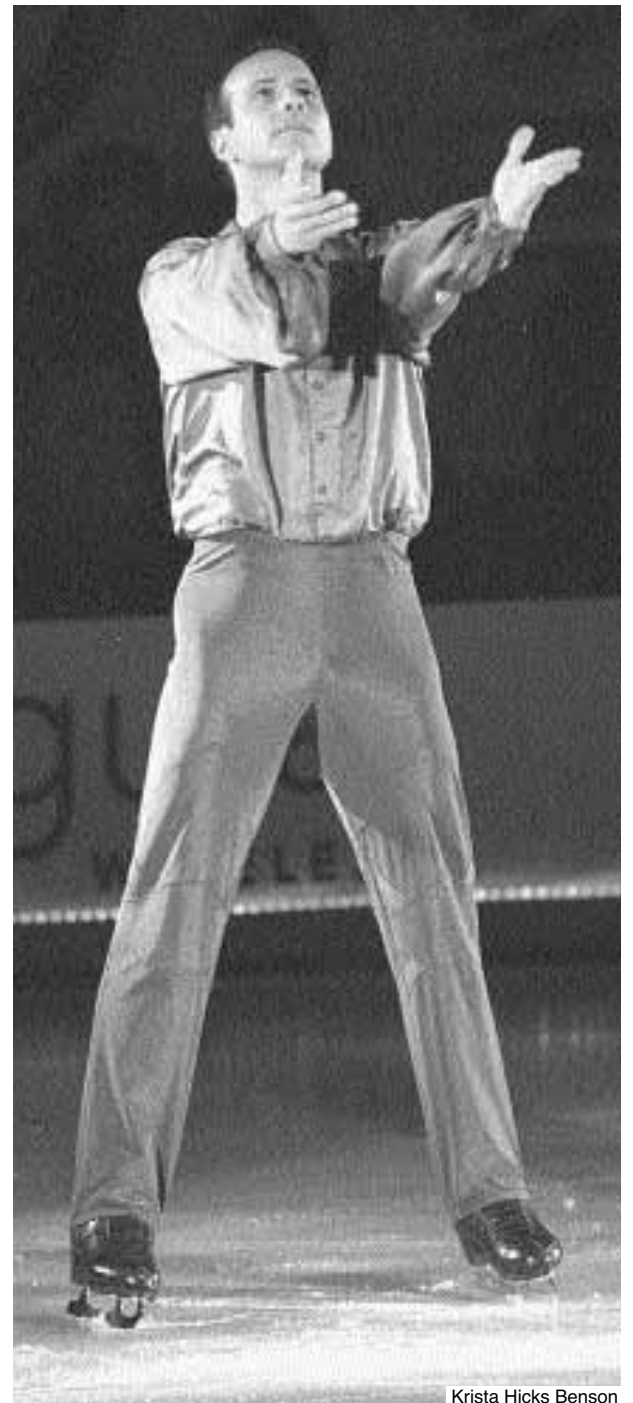
expenses. The proceeds will be used to modernize and equip the new Viktor Petrenko Neonatal Intensive Care Clinic in the Odesa Hospital.

Mr. Petrenko plans to accompany the transport sometime this summer. The internationally acclaimed champion is known in the skating world for his many kindnesses and generosity. One of the most famous beneficiaries of his largess has been Oksana Baiul, also a 1994 Olympic gold medalist for Ukraine, who, at Mr. Petrenko's urging, was taken in by his coach and trained with him. She came to the ISCC in the same year, but the two skaters have gone their separate ways. "Oksana lives her own life, somewhere in New Jersey. I hope she's happy. I see her at events," he quickly added.

Mr. Petrenko was invited with his coach to the new skating center by Olympic training coach Bob Young and his partner, Steve Fish, two years after he won the Olympic gold medal in figure skating for newly independent Ukraine. He and Galina Zmievskaya, his coach and surrogate mother of many years, accepted their invitation, and moved into a nearby condominium.

That short two-year period between winning the gold medal and emigrating to the United States was replete with weighty decisions for Mr. Petrenko. He competed one more time, winning the European Championships in 1994. He

(Continued on page 14)



Krista Hicks Benson

Brian Boitano in the "Viktory for Kids" ice show.



Performing in the benefit are: Philippe Candeloro ...



... Vladimir Besedin and his daughter, Anna ...



... and Sasha Cohen.

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Viktor Petrenko...

(Continued from page 13)

decided to turn professional, and he married his childhood sweetheart and his coach's oldest daughter, Nina Melnik.

"I knew I would turn pro when I came here, and I thought if we lived here I would have a chance to see my family more often. It is hard to travel overseas and have a family in Odesa," he said.

The father of a daughter named Victoria, who turns 4 in July, Mr. Petrenko was just a year older when he first began to skate. His parents, Tamara and Vassily, both retired engineers, followed his doctor's suggestion and enrolled him in a newly built figure skating school in Odesa to strengthen his body and cure him of his ills.

"In 1974 it was the first ice rink, about the size of this room," he says gesturing, "with portable ice. I was not happy. I wanted to stay at home and play soccer with my friends. When I was 7 or 8, I decided to quit without telling my parents. I stopped taking lessons, but my parents found out."

"When I turned 10," he continued, "I started liking it. I had a group of skaters to go to school with, too, so we became friends. It was a good time. Then at 14 I took skating more seriously, when I won the World Junior Championship." Viktor was the Petrenkos' first-born son; his brother Vladimir followed him by one and one-half years. Vladimir followed in Viktor's skating tracks, attending skating school and competing. "My parents did not see us much when we were young, because we were practicing in other cities, sometimes in Moscow or Dnipropetrovsk," Mr. Petrenko explained. "I see my parents more often now than I used to. Now they can travel freely." His parents come to visit often, especially now that they are grandparents. They were on hand for the March event in Connecticut and stayed until the 25th.

The next day Mr. Petrenko left for the Champions on Ice show in Orlando. He had just returned from a performance a few days earlier. "I am only here about one week each month when I am on tour," he noted, "and then during the summer on break."

His brother, Vladimir, also a skater since his youth, came to perform in the Nutcracker on Ice show in 1995, and was offered a coaching position by Mr. Young. He lives nearby with his wife and 10 1/2-month-old son.

"We grew up not speaking Ukrainian," Mr. Petrenko said. "We had Ukrainian in school, but it was a Russian school, and I took English lessons instead. My father speaks perfect Ukrainian. He grew up near Odesa and studied in a Ukrainian school. I regret I did not learn more."

He continued: "Odesa is very international because it is a resort city. There are many different kinds of people, so they all communicate in Russian. There was no opportunity to go to church or follow the traditions when I was growing up, but after 1988-1989, repression slowed down so more people became involved. I would have had a problem going out of the country if I had been involved."

Mr. Petrenko met Ms. Zmievskaya when he was 10 years old. A native of Kharkiv, she was working as a figure skating coach. When the new skating school opened in Odesa, she was invited along with other coaches from around the Soviet Union to relocate.

"From that time in the Soviet Union to now, there was a different preparation of skaters - no private lessons, group lessons only. She picked me to work with, and she went with me to all the competitions," Mr. Petrenko recalled. "She has a good sense of figure skating; she is talented in both program and technique. That is unique." Mr. Petrenko took his school books with him when he traveled. He studied physical edu-

(Continued on page 15)

N.J. Coordinating Council of UCCA holds annual meeting, elects officers

EAST HANOVER, N.J. – The New Jersey Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America held its annual elections meeting here at the Ramada Inn on March 18.

After the meeting was called to order, a moment of silence was observed in honor of the late Yaroslav Iwachiw, who for many years held the post of financial secretary. A presidium consisting of Wolodymyr Yaniw, chair, Kvitka Semanyshyn, vice-chair, and Ivan Kushnir, secretary, was elected to run the meeting.

The council's president, Ivan Burtyk, reported on his extensive work in Kazakstan to help the Ukrainian community. A church and a school in Karaganda, and a church in Pavlograd were built with the help of the New Jersey Coordinating Council of the UCCA.

He also reported that the 2000 Ukrainian festival did not do well due to the rainy weather and that the dance held that evening also did not do well.

Michael Halibej was elected to run the next festival, due to his extensive knowledge and experience. A date has not yet been set.

Secretary Osyp Jacus Financial Secretary Wolodymyr Washkiw also delivered reports.

During the discussion, Michael Koziupa noted that a portion of the council's funds was invested in an American bank's certificate of deposit. He pointed out that the organization should deposit the funds in a Ukrainian federal credit union, since these credit unions always support the organization.

Mr. Washkiw replied that the funds, when they mature, will be transferred to a Ukrainian federal credit union.

The Supervisory Committee verified that all records and funds were in order. The Verification Committee stated that there were 25 people present and 23 had the right to vote. Although the New Jersey Council consists of 13 branches, due to their distance from the meeting site, not all branches were represented.

After a short break, elections took place; the president was re-elected, as was most of the former executive. Mr. Koziupa was elected as first vice-president, and Peter Paluch was elected external relations directors.

Mr. Burtyk, discussed the new flooding in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine and asked for all the branches to be involved in gathering clothes and dry goods, as well as donations to help the flood victims.

(Based on a report by Antyn Bilanych.)

Viktor Petrenko...

(Continued from page 14)

cation in college in Odesa, and became qualified to teach or coach. "I learned to organize my practice: how to pace myself, when to work and when to rest. It helps me study," he said.

Although he was not interested in figure skating when he first started at the Odesa skating school, Mr. Petrenko said he recalls wanting to be an Olympic champion when he was young. "When it happened, then I thought about what's next. I started working to become a professional skater, to make people enjoy what I'm doing," he explained. "When a professional performs, people get into it."

"Now I want to use skating for special events, like the Viktory for Kids show," Mr. Petrenko commented. "This show seemed different because the audience knew what the show was all about: they saw the slides of the children of Chernobyl before the skating started, and they realized that they were helping kids."

According to Jon Zieky, one of four partners in the ISCC who had a daily involvement with this event, the skating center had never before experienced a standing ovation for a performance, and this show brought two nights of ovations.

Mr. Petrenko said he would like to repeat the Viktory for Kids ice show next year, although he is concerned that some of the best skaters might be involved with preparations for the Olympics. This year the response from the skaters was enthusiastic.

"I asked the skaters personally because I know almost everyone in the figure skating world – we meet at events," he related. "Some said it was a good idea, but they were busy. Brian Boitano was one of the first I asked, and he was the first to agree."

The star-studded cast of skaters who donated their time and talents included, among others, world silver medalist Philippe Candeloro, 1998 Olympic pairs champions Oksana Kazakova and Arthur Dmitriev, U.S. silver medalist Sasha Cohen, world bronze medalist and Ukrainian champion Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, Italian champion Silvia Fontana, Israeli champion Michael Shmerkin and Ukrainian skating acrobats Alexei and Vladimir.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Financial adviser cited for achievements

KINNELON, N.J. – Zoriana M. Stawnychy was recently named to LPL's prestigious Patriot's Club, a status reserved for 11 percent of all representatives. Ms. Stawnychy was recognized for her outstanding achievements in client service.

Keynote speaker Harvey Mackay, CEO of MacKay Envelope Corp. and best-selling author, set the stage at the 2001 Master's Conference. The conference was sponsored by Linsco/Private Ledger (LPL Financial Services) to award its top-producing financial advisers for providing superior service to their clients.

Over 400 LPL representatives from

around the United States gathered at the Hyatt Regency in Kauai, Hawaii, for rest, relaxation and financial advice. Ms. Stawnychy enjoyed a final evening of entertainment with master impressionist Rich Little.

"These financial advisers – who we believe are the best in the industry – continue to provide their clients with exceptional service while providing objective investment advice," said Todd Robinson, chairman and CEO of LPL Financial Services.

Linsco/Private Ledger is the nation's number one independent brokerage firm. Unlike many of the major investment companies, LPL does not develop its own investment products, so advice from representatives is based only on client needs. In all, these representatives help individual and institutional investors seek their financial goals by managing and investing more than \$40 billion for them annually.

Ms. Stawnychy resides in Kinnelon, N.J., with her husband, George, and daughter, Maya. She is a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J., serves on the Curriculum Committee of the School of Ukrainian Studies (Ridna Shkola) of Morris County, N.J., and is a member of the Ukrainian Institute of America.

She was active in Plast and served as president of the Ukrainian Student Hromada of New York City in the early 1970s. She is the daughter of the late Wolodymyr Salak and Eugenia Salak of New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Stawnychy are members of Ukrainian National Association Branch 325.



Zoriana M. Stawnychy



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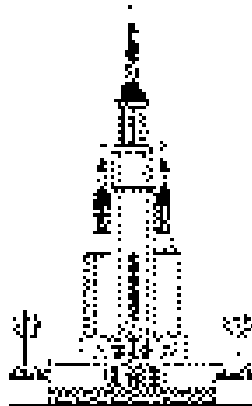
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1:00 PM Blessing and opening of the temporary for a new exhibition in the Ukrainian Cultural Center. These temporary operators of our museum will be related with construction in preparation for our new historical Memorial Church.

3:00 PM Lecture by Professor Helen Zastrowich: Church on the edge: influence of our teachers collection - **2000 MEMOIRS - A HISTORY OF TRAVELERS OF SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURE OF UKRAINIAN PEOPLE** in the Museum.

4:00 PM Addressed by the pastor, Andrew Mrozek: Holy Vespers: "Blessed" historical picture of the Resurrection of the Holy Virgin Mary in Heronopolis, PA.

6:00 PM Vespers and Confessions in the Metropolitan Church.

St. Thomas Sunday - April 22, 2001

9:30 AM Opening of the Narthex and Eucharistic Liturgy - The Consistory Metropolitan Consistory, the Episcopate, Archbishops, Priests and the Bishops with their families and many guests.

Following Divine Liturgy will be a procession to the Consistory's Great Memorial Cross and Panakhida for the repose of the souls of the departed members of God's Kingdom: Elizabeth, Maryana, 34th Beatitude Metropolitan, and all departed bishops, clergy and laity of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the 20th members of the Consistory: Bishop of 1992-2001, the members of the Consistory: priests, monks and those who give their lives for the independence of Ukraine.

Following the Panakhida will be the Benediction of Holy Resurrection Monastery and the solemn service in the Holy Holy: Holy Patriarch's Holy Church with the Memorial of the Holy.

PARKING REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS: All parking on Consistory grounds is strictly prohibited on Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22. Parking is only permitted for Consistory groups located at 1374 Davidson Avenue, Heronopolis, NJ Cultural Center. All other vehicles are prohibited. All parking regulations and instructions are the responsibility of the Consistory will be strictly enforced.

Cultural exhibits and all services will take place on Saturday April 21 from 10:00 am to 11:00 PM and Sunday April 22nd - from 10:00 am to 5:00 PM in the main auditorium of the Cultural Center. Permits for sales must be obtained from the Consistory. No business will be transacted during the liturgy. Parishes are not authorized blessing services.

It is forbidden to start Fastidious - Memorial services at the Consistory during Bright Week, Monday, April 23rd to Friday, April 27th. These days are reserved for preparing cemetery for St. Thomas Sunday.

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Bravos for opera...

(Continued from page 12)

At 136 Second Avenue (fourth floor) you can watch the Ukrainska Rodyna choral ensemble and director Oksana Lykhovyd re-enact the ancient winter solstice rituals of Andriy Kalyta with magical songs and acts, ritual foods and divination. Or, as in the case of a recent soirée that focused on Valentine's Day, listen to readings by author Lubov Dmytryshyn-Chasto and Lavrentiya Turkewicz, a talk on the origin of St. Valentine's Day by journalist Olha Kuzmowycz and "heart" duets by Yaroslava Himiak and Laryssa Hulovych, all the while delighting in heart-themed art work by Ms. Gerulak and Easter-egg expert Sofiyka Zielyk.

March, the month Ukrainians set aside for revering Taras Shevchenko, inspired a talk by Ms. Gerulak on his soul-wrenching work "Rozryta Mohyla" (The Plundered Grave), the poet's metaphor for a Ukraine robbed of her inheritance, and readings of the great bard's poems by actors Laryssa Kukrytska Lysniak and Volodymyr Lysniak. Against a background of Shevchenko's artwork in reproduction and illustrations of his poetry by contemporary artists, Mr. Lysniak offered a dramatic interpretation of "Kavkaz" (a poem, he noted beforehand, that gripped his imagination when he first read it at age 13) and "Subotiv," one of three parts of Shevchenko's "Velykyi Liokh" (The Great Dungeon), which allegorically summarizes Ukraine's passage from freedom to captivity. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Lysniak lent pathos and emotion to Shevchenko's "Rozryta Mohyla."

With a wealth of experience in the dramatic field, the two actors have continued to devote much time over the years to staging readings of Ukrainian classics (in Ukrainian and English) for colleges and universities, as well as for Ukrainian con-

certs and charitable functions. Mr. Lysniak, the leading actor in many of the Studio-Theater productions staged by Joseph Himiak and Olympia Dobrowsky in post-war Germany and in New York in the 1950s, founded the group Novyi Teatr in 1965 and directed Ukrainian plays (including sets, lighting and costume design) while also directing a series of American classics for the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center. Active on the Off-Broadway circuit during his student days as a theatre arts major at Columbia University, he resumed work in Off-Broadway and regional theatre after receiving a master of fine arts degree from Yale.

Mrs. Lysniak, who holds a BFA from Hunter College and an MFA from Columbia, used the stage name Laryssa Laurel during a 13-year career in daytime TV serials, appearing as Simone Morey in CBS-TV's "Guiding Light" and before that as Dr. Karen Werner in "The Doctors." She also appeared on "The Catholic Hour," the "U.S. Steel Hour" and "Alcoa Hour" and in television commercials and acted in productions on and off Broadway and in stock. She enacted roles in almost all of the plays produced by her husband. Her original play, "The Exhibit," a long one-act work underwritten by the Ukrainian National Association and performed in English with a Ukrainian American cast, was staged in New York and at Soyuzivka in 1983-1984 under her husband's direction. The Lysniak team is currently preparing an evening to honor the life and career of the renowned theater director Volodymyr Blavatsky of Philadelphia and his late wife, the talented stage actress Yevdokiia Dychkivna.

Images of Ukraine

Photographer Yuri Lev has exhibited urban landscapes, winter scenes and Hudson Valley vignettes throughout the New York area, but had never given a pub-

lic showing of his Ukrainian work. The opportunity to do so came on March 23, when he proudly introduced an exhibit of black-and-white and color photographs taken during recent visits to Ukraine – the latest in 1998.


Mr. Lev's two-week show at the Mayana Gallery, hosted by the Literary-Art Club, offered an intimate look at Ukrainians in their daily occupations – portraits of a Carpathian grandmother and child, a beggar in Lviv, an old woman working in a potato field, a street-sweeper in Ivano-Frankivsk, a potter at work, a hay gatherer in Mykolaiv. "There's a lot of character and backbone in these people," Mr. Lev commented as he reminisced about his contacts with the people of Ukraine, pointing out portraits of a dignified Hutsul and an elderly man he called "the last Kozak – my cousin Ivan, a humble man who has epilepsy, sweeps streets and recites poetry." Included in the exhibit were striking views of the interior of St. Dora's Church in Yaremche, a stark military cemetery with birch crosses, a roadside cross draped with a wreath of flowers and an abandoned checkpoint – images that revealed Ukraine's beauty and its ravaged past. The framed prints were reasonably priced at \$175 and \$200.

Mr. Lev says he was imbued with the spirit of his ancestors from an early age and has always felt fortunate "to be fed by both American and Ukrainian culture." Born

Yuri Lev Hrynyszyn in St. Paul, Minn., to Ukrainian parents from Halychyna who fled communism in the 1940s, Mr. Lev graduated from the University of Rochester and studied photography at Rochester Institute of Technology. He received a master of fine arts degree from New York's Pratt Institute, where he studied with Arthur Freed and Phil Perkis. Though he works commercially in portrait, travel and medical photography, he has CD covers, book covers and work in major New York newspapers to his credit. His work can be viewed on the website <http://geocities.com/yurilev/>.

Adding musical verve to the opening, Julian Kytasty's bandura-student foursome – 11-year-old Ruslana Makarenko and her three brothers, Boian, 13, Vsevolod, 15, and Rostyslav, 17 – beautifully executed solos and group performances of sprightly folk-dance tunes. Maestro Kytasty contributed an original bandura-and-song composition that he felt "goes with Yuri Lev's photo of the Carpathian horse" and Jurij Fedynsky offered an original work that rippled across the strings of his bandura. Joined by the third member of the Experimental Bandura Trio, Michael Andrej, for an impromptu bandura fantasy dedicated to Mr. Lev, the ensemble teamed up with the Makarenko youngsters for the finale, a lively "Kozachok."

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is HaliaSmindak@aol.com.



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TRAVEL TO UKRAINE	Jun 15 - Jul 01	Yuri Lev, Oksana Lykhovyd	\$2,300
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Month	Balance	Amount	Total
Mar 2001	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Apr 2001	\$1,500.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
May 2001	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
Jun 2001	\$2,500.00	\$500.00	\$3,000.00
Jul 2001	\$3,000.00	\$500.00	\$3,500.00
Aug 2001	\$3,500.00	\$500.00	\$4,000.00
Sep 2001	\$4,000.00	\$500.00	\$4,500.00
Oct 2001	\$4,500.00	\$500.00	\$5,000.00
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Dec 2001	\$5,500.00	\$500.00	\$6,000.00

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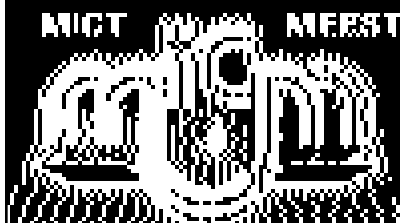
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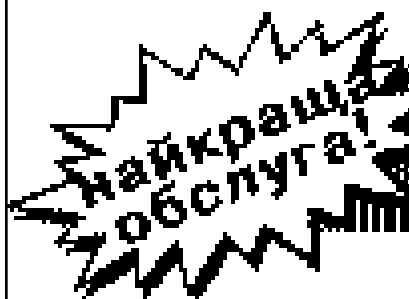


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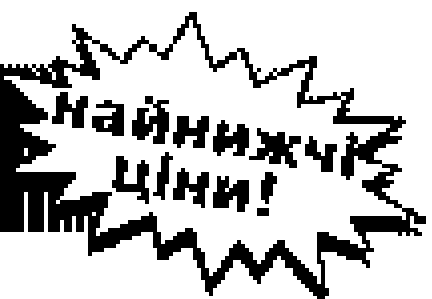
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Pragmatism...

(Continued from page 6)

fering size or political weight of the nations. The respective countries should have a genuine and equal interest in the success of one another.

Ukraine seeks a successful *modus vivendi* and reasonable compromises with each of its strategic partners. When we abandon a lucrative economic contract with a third state to meet the interests of our strategic partner, we expect adequate economic or political compensation for it. We may be ready to accommodate the economic or humanitarian interests of another strategic partner, but we also expect this partner to meet some of our needs. Otherwise it is a one-way street.

Re-evaluation of our strategic partnerships, giving them more flesh and a distinct future, is also part of pragmatism in Ukrainian foreign policy.

I cannot leave unattended a topic, for which I actually came to this country. This month Ukraine is chairing the U.N. Security Council. And here again we act quite pragmatically.

The Ukrainian initiatives, voiced by President Kuchma at the Millennium and Security Council summits and developed currently, are significant enough and very specific, but not over-ambitious, correctly matching the current weight of Ukraine in world politics.

Among them I should mention enhancement of preventive diplomacy through adjustments in the peacekeeping policy of the United Nations. Primary attention is to be paid to early warning and counter-crisis measures at the initial

stages of their eruption.

Simultaneously, since assuming its functions as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Ukraine increased its participation in PKOs by 23 times, thus becoming the biggest contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKOs) among the European states.

The Ukrainian proposal to review the sanctions mechanisms was laid down in the declaration of last year's Security Council summit. This was supported by many countries that had suffered from previous and current U.N. sanctions against other countries.

Another initiative aims to resolve one of the frozen conflicts in Abkhazia (Georgia). On March 15-16 the Georgian and Abkhaz leaders met in the Ukrainian city of Yalta in another attempt to narrow their differences.

To sum it up: preventive peacekeeping, review of sanctions and meltdown of frozen conflicts are three principal initiatives that will remain on the agenda long after Ukraine leaves the Security Council. This is our tangible contribution both to global and to our own national security.

Your fellow citizen Robert Oppenheimer is credited with the following saying: The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears it is true. The pragmatist, I presume, knows well that it is not true; but uses every opportunity to make it better.

The pragmatic foreign policy of Ukraine is designed to make Ukraine a strong and prosperous democracy. It is a happy coincidence that this objective fully corresponds to the national interests of the United States.

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FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

“March Madness”: young scientist is on the road again

NORTH ROYALTON, Ohio – Over the past six years, a particular kind of “March Madness” has become a tradition for the Horodyskyj family. However, it is not the excitement of college basketball competition. It is “science fair season.”

The tradition began with Lev, who is now a sophomore majoring in astrobiology at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Lev started to compete in science fairs while still in elementary school, and by the time he graduated from high school, he had made it to the international level twice.

His younger sister, Ulyana, is carrying on the family tradition. Although only 15 and a sophomore at Padua Franciscan High School in Parma, Ohio, she has already matched her older brother, repeating her performance of last year by advancing to the international level.

Ulyana’s 2001 “science fair season” began at the end of February, when she competed in the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair in Columbus, Ohio. She was among the 54 students who presented their scientific research in a statewide competition sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Science. Ulyana was one of four finalists selected to represent Ohio at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair that will be held in San Jose, Calif., on May 6-12. More than 1,200 students are expected from over 40 countries. Students will be presenting their projects to the public on Thursday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the San Jose Convention Center.

After the Buckeye competition, it was on to the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair at John Carroll University in Cleveland, where Ulyana received first place in the category of Earth and Space Sciences for her project titled “Sailing Into Space: Steering Towards Mars.” She also earned four special awards.

The following week, she traveled to the University of Toledo in northwestern Ohio to take part in the Ohio Junior Science and Humanities Symposium, where last year she earned the top award. This competition is sponsored by the

Academy of Applied Science and the U.S. Armed Forces. This year, Ulyana’s work was again judged the “most outstanding research paper.” In addition to receiving a college scholarship, Ulyana will represent Ohio at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Orlando, Fla., on April 25-29. This is the first time in the 38-year history of the Ohio competition that the same student has won twice. Doing it back-to-back is even more impressive.

The day after returning from Toledo, Ulyana was off to Western Reserve District Five Science Day at the University of Akron. There she earned a “superior” rating, received a first place award in the earth and space category, and qualified for State Science Day.

After a two-week reprieve, Ulyana will travel to Huntsville, Ala., at the invitation of NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center. After she presented her research at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., last year, scientists started to follow her work on solar sails and invited her to their 12th Advanced Space Propulsion

Workshop. There, she will present this year’s results alongside her mentor, a world-renowned astrophysicist and author, Dr. Robert L. Forward. Her presentation is especially timely, since the first experimental solar sail will be launched in mid-April of this year.

Others besides scientists have taken note of Ulyana. She was selected by Cleveland Magazine as one of the “Most Interesting People for 2001” and featured in an article in the January 2001 issue of Odyssey (Adventures in Science) Magazine, a Cobblestone publication, in a sidebar “Teen Scientist Soaring” that accompanied the article “Sailing the Ocean of Space.” Two television stations have interviewed her: one in Cleveland and the other in Toledo.

Traveling and conducting research do not leave much time for other activities, yet somehow, Ulyana manages to keep up with her schoolwork. She is an excellent student who consistently stays at the top of her class. This March she was one of five sophomores inducted into the National Honor Society.



Ulyana Horodyskyj

She is a member of Padua’s “Quiz Team” and also works on the school’s literary magazine, Horizon. Ulyana has written essays that won awards from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Optimist Club. She enjoys reading and playing soccer in her free time. Her career goal is to become a space scientist and an astronaut. Based on her recent accomplishments, she seems to be well on her way.

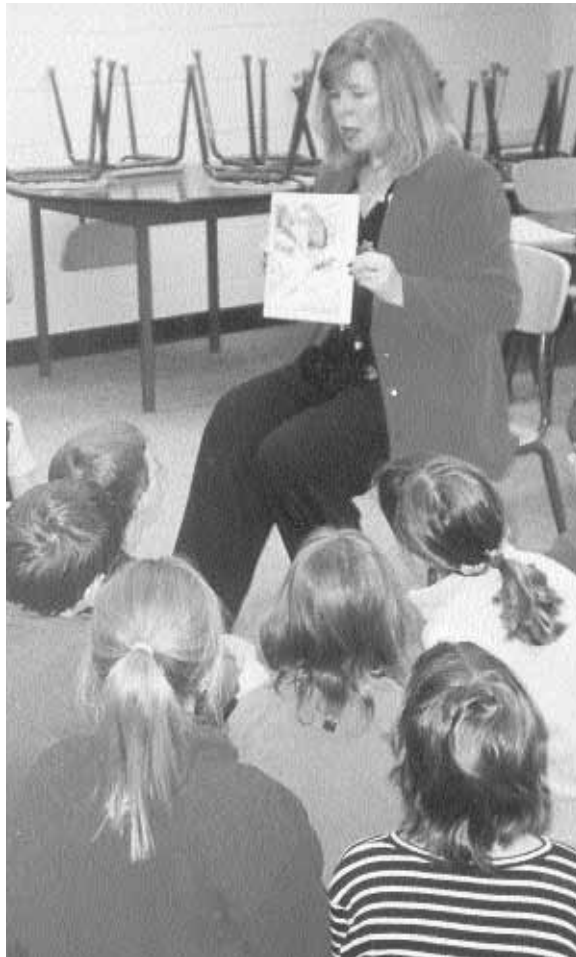
St. Nick’s students enjoy portable planetarium



PASSAIC, N.J – Sphaera, a portable planetarium offered by the Newark Museum, recently visited St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School. Throughout the day students entered the planetarium, which was set up in the school’s auditorium, for three different shows: “The Sun is a Star,” “Legends of the Night Sky” and “Telescopic Sky.” The event was the culmination of a monthlong school library program focusing on the solar system. Seen above are the pre-K and kindergarten classes in front of the portable planetarium.

New book for children focuses on Great Famine

EDMONTON – It was a whirlwind three days of activity for Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch when she came to Alberta in February for the launch of her latest book, “Enough,” or “Dosyt,” the Ukrainian-language version. During her trip, Ms. Skrypuch read from “Enough” to students at A.L. Horton Elementary School in Vegreville, the Rev. Kenneth Kearns Elementary in Sherwood Park and Afton Elementary and St. Kevin’s Jr. High in Edmonton.



Author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch reads from her new book, “Enough,” to a group of children.

“Enough” is a story set during the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, and tells of a young girl’s attempts to save her village from starvation. The heroine, Marusia, encounters greedy soldiers and an evil dictator. She takes a magical trip to the Prairies of North America in search of food to take back to her village. While this is a heartwarming Ukrainian folktale about good versus evil in which generosity triumphs over greed, it also introduces the young reader to a tragic historical event. There are not many children’s picture books that show desolate graveyards, ominous clouds and weather-beaten crosses.

This may lead one to think that the subject matter of “Enough” is too serious for students of elementary school age, but the faces of the students showed otherwise. They were enthralled with Ms. Skrypuch, captivated by the story and looked genuinely interested throughout her readings. Afterwards, they lined up to get her autograph. All this bears out Ms. Skrypuch’s assertions that she prefers “to write for children and young adults, because they’re a more serious audience” and that “kids worry about big issues.”

In addition to the school visitations, Ms. Skrypuch was interviewed by

radio stations CBC, CKER and University of Alberta station CJSR. The Edmonton Journal set up a call-in number that made it possible to listen to a reading in both Ukrainian and English from a page of Ms. Skrypuch’s book. She ended her Alberta visit with a very well-attended book signing at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex where she was joined by Lubomyr Luciuk, author of the recently published “Searching for Place.”

The Edmonton Office of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex, the Ukrainian Bookstore and the publishers of “Dosyt” and “Enough” sponsored the author’s Alberta appearance.

“Dosyt,” published by the Ukrainian Language Education Center (ULEC), is the Ukrainian translation of “Enough,” published by Fitzhenry & Whiteside. Both editions are illustrated by Michael Martchenko.

Letter to Mykola Myshka

Mykola Myshka received the following answer to the question he posed in the March issue of UKELODEON.



Dear Mykola:

The honey cake in Ukrainian is called medivnyk.

Roman Duchnycz, 6
Newark, N.J.

We are sending Roman, who was the first young reader to give the correct answer to Myshka’s mystery, a special philatelic prize courtesy of The Ukrainian Weekly’s philatelic columnist, Dr. Inger Kuzych.

Mishanyna

D	I	S	N	O	E	D	O	L	E	K	U	D	I	S
C	H	R	I	S	T	S	K	H	C	R	U	H	C	L
N	U	K	R	A	I	N	E	A	A	I	M	A	E	P
E	A	S	T	E	R	E	E	M	X	E	O	N	C	U
W	A	U	T	B	A	S	K	E	T	U	T	O	H	V
L	W	Y	L	O	H	A	J	L	T	H	H	I	E	W
I	E	A	X	R	M	N	A	F	V	A	E	T	E	I
F	E	L	M	I	S	S	I	W	S	T	R	I	S	L
E	K	E	W	P	R	T	A	K	S	A	P	D	E	L
Y	A	D	N	U	S	R	X	Q	I	M	L	A	P	O
L	S	H	R	A	S	A	B	V	O	K	T	R	L	W
T	P	Y	T	L	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	T	A	R
H	O	R	S	E	R	A	D	I	S	H	O	R	S	E
I	R	S	V	I	A	E	N	E	H	C	A	I	V	S

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the words that appear capitalized in the text below.

Ukrainians have wonderful Easter CUSTOMS that have been passed on from generation to generation. EASTER follows a 40-day period that culminates in the resurrection of CHRIST.

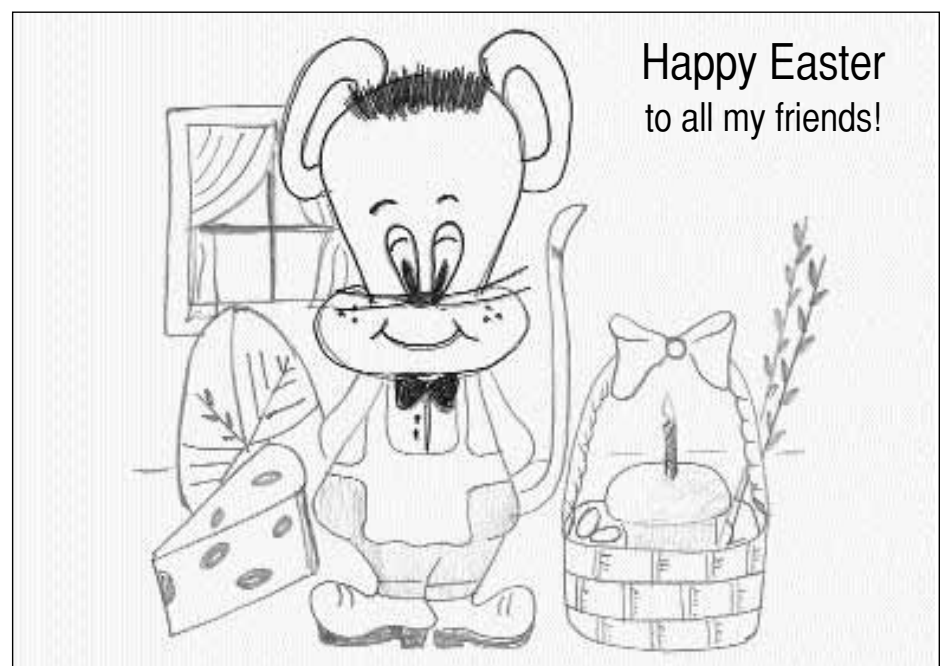
During LENT both the inside and outside of the family home would be scrubbed. Is your MOTHER getting your house ready for Easter? If so, this is a perfect time to offer to help her.

Many families go shopping for Easter OUTFITS. Did you know that this is a custom? It is a TRADITION for the faithful to wear new clothes to symbolize their NEW LIFE with Christ.

During Lent families go to special CHURCH services. HOLY WEEK starts with PALM SUNDAY, or Kvitna Nedilia. In UKRAINE a pussy WILLOW branch is carried and people tap each other while reciting: “It is not I who strikes you, but the willow. A week from today is Easter.” Each family brings a BASKET – containing PASKA, HAM, KOVBASA, CHEESE, butter, SALT and HORSERADISH – to church to be BLESSED. After Easter liturgy family members eat their blessed MEAL, or SVIACHENE.

We are sure most of you also will be celebrating Easter this way. All of us at UKELODEON wish you a tasty paska.

Myshka’s Easter basket



Happy Easter
to all my friends!

OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated May 13, please send in your materials by May 4. (Please include a daytime phone number.)

Send in your articles, letters, photos, etc. to: The Ukrainian Weekly, UKELODEON, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; telephone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com..

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, April 9
WASHINGTON: The Washington Group presents a panel discussion on "Freedom of the Press in Ukraine," with panelists Roman Kupchinsky, Olena Prytula and Olga Andriewska, to be held at the Kennan Institute (fifth floor conference room), Woodrow Wilson Center, 1 Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, at 6-8 p.m.

Tuesday, April 10
NEW YORK: Due to the overwhelming response at the March 11 film premiere in New York City, The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) has arranged for another screening of "The Undeclared." The film will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at New York University Cantor Film Center located at 36 E. Eighth St. (between Broadway and University Place). Tickets, at \$10, will be on sale at the UCCA National Office or at the door prior to the showing. For further information or to reserve tickets, contact the UCCA (212) 228-6840.

Monday, April 16
CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will present a lecture by Alexei Lidov of the Institute for Eastern Orthodox Culture, Moscow, titled "The Iconostasis: Development and Symbolic Interpretation." The lecture will be held in Room 318 of the Sackler Museum, located at 485 Broadway, at 4-6 p.m. For more information contact the institute, (617) 495-4053.

Saturday, April 21
LIVONIA, Mich.: The Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Volodymyr Shesiuk, conductor and music director, presents the concert "An Evening with Dvorak," with guest artist cellist Natalia Khoma. The concert will be held at Carli Auditorium, Churchill High School, at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, April 23
ARLINGTON, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, presents New York City Opera Diva Oksana Kroyvtska, soprano, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, pianist, at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theater in the last benefit concert of a series to raise funds for Lviv Conservatory musical instruments. The program includes works by Barvinsky, Puccini and Verdi. Suggested donation: \$15. The theater is located at 1611 N. Kent St. (two blocks from Rosslyn Metro Station). Free garage parking is available in the rear of the building off Arlington Ridge Road. Performance begins at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Chrystia Sonevsky, (707) 241-1817.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Thursday, April 26
OTTAWA: On the 15th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, an ecumenical commemoration service, "Remember Chernobyl," will be held at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 952 Green Valley Crescent (off Prince of Wales Dr. and Baseline Rd.) at 7 p.m. For additional information call the parish, (613) 723-1673. Also, on view at the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography is an exhibit titled "The Chernobyl Evacuation Zone," featuring David McMillan's photographs of Chernobyl's haunting urban landscape, and the traces of human presence that remain years after the nuclear disaster. The museum is located at 1 Rideau Canal; telephone: (613) 990-8257; website: <http://cmcp.gallery.ca>

CORRECTION

In the Sunday, April 22, Preview listing (which appeared in the April 1 issue of The Weekly) for Hillside, N.J., announcing the opportunity for children to learn basic hahilky as well as take part in an Easter egg hunt at the parish of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, a mistake occurred in the listing of the telephone number for contact person Joe Shatynski. The correct number is (973) 599-9381. Interested individuals should call Mr. Shatynski, or Mike Szpyhulsky, (908) 289-0127, by April 11.

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 YALTA (2)

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 KYIV/KANIV (3)
 POLTAVA (2)
 (KHERKATY/Chyhyryn) (2)
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