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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Verkhovna Rada rejects bill on rights of diaspora Ukrainians

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament rejected a bill on September 20 that would have guaranteed ethnic Ukrainians living abroad certain rights in their homeland, including visa-free entry.

The draft law was soundly quashed by a vote of 210-103 before it could get past the first of three required readings, with 98 of the nay votes offered by the Communist faction. Two hundred twenty-six votes were required to move the bill forward.

Sponsored by National Deputy Ihor Ostash, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Affairs and a member of the Reform and Order Party, the draft law would have allowed ethnic Ukrainians who are citizens of other countries to spend up to 120 days in Ukraine annually without a visa if they met certain requirements and registered with Ukraine's Consulate General or a consular office in their country.

It also would have allowed for those registered to receive three-year multiple

entry visas at their request without going through an invitation process. In addition, it would have given them the same rights and equal protection under the laws and the Constitution of Ukraine it does Ukrainian citizens, the only exemptions being the right to vote or serve in government or the military.

Mr. Ostash said a minimum of 12 million Ukrainians live abroad, dispersed across the globe for various reasons, including economic and political ones, and they should be encouraged to return home or at least maintain ties with their historic homeland.

"We have a debt before the diaspora. We should develop relations and stimulate the interest of all Ukrainians to remain tied to their country," explained Mr. Ostash.

The Communist faction probably thought otherwise given the way it voted. It had said from the time the bill was introduced in April that it could not support the draft law because it was at odds with the Constitution of Ukraine.

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Terrorist attacks on the U.S. touch Ukrainian community

by Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – The devastation of last week's terrorist attacks has touched the Ukrainian community, directly in Washington and New York, and indirectly throughout America, Canada and Ukraine. From individuals who narrowly escaped a tragic end to those aiding in the efforts to re-establish what once was, to those who simply felt the dramatic emotional toll – Ukrainian Americans also have felt the impact of what analysts have called the world's worst terrorist act to date.

In Washington, Capt. Stephen Szyszka of the U.S. Navy, branch head for Russia, Europe and NATO on political and military affairs, was at a meeting on the first floor of the Pentagon near the fourth corridor at the Navy Command Center at the time the first plane hit the World Trade Center's north tower. Once the meeting at the Navy Command Center had been informed of the event, Capt.

Szyszka recalls that all those present watched on TV as the second plane hit the south tower. According to Capt. Szyszka, once participants of the meeting observed the second plane steer into the World Trade Center it became obvious they were not watching an accident. The group immediately adjourned, returning to their respective offices throughout the Pentagon.

Just minutes after Capt. Szyszka returned to his office on the fourth floor near corridor three, he heard a loud, violent explosion and felt the building shake. The impact was American Airlines Flight 77 which, upon flying into the Pentagon, destroyed all five floors between corridors four and five and penetrated into four of the Pentagon's five rings where, only minutes before, Capt. Szyszka was attending his command center meeting.

Capt. Szyszka estimated that upon impact he was no more than 25 yards

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FBI to join investigation in Gongadze case

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Procurator General's Office announced on September 17 that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation would join the investigation into the death of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze, whose disappearance a year ago, while bringing worldwide attention, has remained unsolved.

Assistant Procurator General Oleksii Bahanets made the announcement during a public hearing on the Gongadze case held in conjunction with the first anniversary of the journalist's disappearance on September 16. The meeting included leaders of the Verkhovna Rada and national deputies in opposition to the presidential administration, as well as social activists and journalists.

"FBI investigators might already have been here today if it weren't for the terrorist act in the U.S.," explained Mr. Bahanets.

Mr. Bahanets also said there is renewed reason to believe Mr. Gongadze's murder will be solved, but then said he could not comment further on the specifics of new developments surrounding the case because of the new criminal procedure law that prohibits discussing an ongoing investigation.

U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual confirmed the same day during an interview on the Internet chat site of Ukrainska Pravda, the Internet newspaper founded by Mr. Gongadze, that the FBI is ready to provide more support to the investigation.

"We proposed FBI assistance for consultations with the procurator general in regard to the investigation. The procurator general accepted the proposal, and we hope the consultations will soon take place,"

said Mr. Pascual.

The FBI help comes exactly a year since the disappearance of Mr. Gongadze on a Saturday evening after he left his editor-in-chief's residence in the heart of Kyiv. A body that was believed to be that of the journalist, who would have been 33 years old in 2001, was found in mid-November near the village of Tarascha, about 75 miles outside of Kyiv.

The case received international attention after National Deputy Oleksander Moroz disclosed that he had received an audiotape from a member of President Leonid Kuchma's personal security detachment that contained discussions between Mr. Kuchma and high government officials that implicated them in the disappearance.

The events led to demonstrations in Kyiv, which culminated on March 9 when protesters clashed with militia twice on one day, resulting in dozens of injuries.

On the first anniversary of the journalist's disappearance more than 3,000 people – some of them the same people who had taken part in earlier demonstrations and most of them supporters of the political parties that have declared their opposition to the administration of President Kuchma – gathered on the newly renovated Independence Square for a requiem service and a rally.

While billed as a tribute to the memory of the dead journalist and a candlelight vigil, it was more an anti-Kuchma rally calling for the president's resignation.

Carrying placards scrawled with oppositionist proclamations such as "Impeach Kuchma" and "The battle for freedom continues," the demonstrators lis-

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Protesters in Kyiv hold banner listing the 18 journalists who have disappeared in Ukraine during the past decade.

ANALYSIS

Russian Internet project targets Ukraine

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

A new Russian-language website devoted to Ukraine appeared last month at <http://www.ukraine.ru>. The website is attributed to Russia's National Information Service Strana.ru.

Editor-in-Chief Sergei Sklyarov explained his goals for the website in the following way:

"[Russia's] closest neighbors are beyond the field of vision of [Russian] media outlets, newsmakers, and experts. ... The closest and one of the largest of Russia's neighbors – Ukraine – is gradually becoming a blank spot on the map of foreign news. The lack of information entails the lack of experts' attention, the lack of experts' attention entails the silence of the media, and the silence of the media entails the lack of information. This is a vicious circle that creates the situation of an unintentional informational quasi-blockade. ... The project Ukraine.ru is the first serious step toward breaking this blockade.

"The project consists of two parts: references and news. The references part (the 'Map of Ukraine' catalogue) is a regularly updated source of full information about the most significant spheres of life of present-day Ukraine – politics, economics, religion, elections, the history of the country.

"The news part is presented as a news

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tape consisting of a priority piece of news labeled 'urgent,' a main subject including information about a key event in Ukraine or around her, and two topics of the day that present topical materials of interest for the Russian public. Apart from these, the website has a section of interviews – updated every day – which consists of exclusive interviews with leading Ukrainian and Russian experts, politicians and representatives of the authorities, [as well as those of] public and business organizations. ... The website is primarily oriented toward Russian users who are interested in Ukrainian problems – journalists, analysts, and experts on Ukraine."

The Ukrainian independent website Ukrayinska Pravda on August 27 ran a comment by Oleksander Brams offering an insight into the appearance of the above-mentioned Internet project. According to Ukrayinska Pravda, "the Ukraine.ru website was actually created by specialists from Russia's Fund of Effective Policy (FEP), following an order from the Kremlin. FEP is a private political-consulting organization set up in 1995, which has gradually become Russia's leading organization in the development of the Russian Internet. FEP head Gleb Pavlovskii and FEP board chairwoman Marina Litvinovich are widely believed to be chief political consultants of the Kremlin and Russian President Vladimir Putin," according to Ukrayinska Pravda."

FEP has launched some 40 Internet projects, including such important and influen-

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Polish-Norwegian gas deal offers relief to Ukraine

by Michael Lelyveld

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

A deal reached on August 29 between Poland and Norway could spell the end of Russia's long campaign to pressure Ukraine over its pipelines that transport Russian natural gas.

The "Financial Times" reported that Norway's agreement to sell 74 billion cubic meters of gas to Poland over a 16-year period will reduce Warsaw's dependence on Russia for fuel supplies. Under the agreement, the deliveries by Norway's Statoil to the Polish Oil and Gas Company will start in 2008 and rise quickly to 5 billion cubic meters annually through 2024. Although the amount seems relatively small, Poland consumed only about 11 billion cubic meters of gas last year. Over 60 percent of that amount was imported from Russia.

The deal is important because of the three-way tensions that have been building among Russia, Poland and Ukraine over Kyiv's use of Russian gas and Moscow's attempts to solve the problem.

Some 90 percent of Russia's gas exports to Europe run through the former Soviet pipelines in Ukraine. But Russia has frequently accused Ukraine of illicitly tapping gas. Ukraine also owes an estimated \$1.3 billion for past Russian supplies.

In July 2000, Russia announced it would try to build a bypass line through Poland and Slovakia to reduce its reliance on Ukraine and eventually double its energy exports to the European Union.

But getting Poland's consent has been problematic. Although Warsaw sent mixed signals, it ultimately was unwilling to take part in a plan that would

undercut Ukraine.

The agreement with Norway, which has been debated for months, may help Poland in at least two ways. It limits Moscow's power to pressure Warsaw over its stand on the bypass by ending its role as the monopoly supplier. It may also satisfy a European Union directive on diversifying energy sources, which may aid Poland's drive to join the EU.

On the downside, Poland will pay more for Norwegian gas, which will require a new pipeline to be built across the Baltic Sea. Poland's neighbor Germany may also be displeased, since Germany's Ruhrgas is a shareholder in Russia's Gazprom and a partner in studying the bypass plan.

While the results may be mixed, the effects of the pending deal have been notable in recent weeks.

After more than a year of friction, Russia and Ukraine are close to an agreement on rescheduling Kyiv's gas debts on terms that could give Ukraine as much as a decade to pay.

Upon taking office in May, Ukrainian Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh took a tougher position than his predecessor, Viktor Yuschenko, on countering Moscow's demands that Kyiv convert the arrears of its power sector into sovereign debt. Ukraine has also fought off Russian proposals to control the transit lines.

A compromise may be found, but it also seems likely that Ukraine's harder line has been the result of a sense that Russia's bypass plan would fail.

At a meeting to mark Ukraine's 10th anniversary of independence, Russian President Vladimir Putin again raised the pipeline issue with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, according to Reuters. But there were no reports that Mr. Kwasniewski agreed to the bypass plan.

Michael Lelyveld is an RFE/RL correspondent.

NEWSBRIEFS**Rada passes resolution on TV coverage**

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on September 13 passed a resolution ordering the National Radio Company to provide live coverage of the current parliamentary session four days a week. The resolution also obliges the National Television Company to air a daily 30-minute information program about parliamentary session proceedings on the UT-1 and UT-2 state-run channels. The document requests that President Leonid Kuchma sack National Television Company head Vadym Dolhanov for his failure to implement last year's parliamentary resolution on the television coverage of the preceding parliamentary session. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. says Lukashenka stole election

WASHINGTON – U.S. officials on September 17 condemned in strong language Belarus's presidential election on September 9, saying it was "severely flawed," international news agencies reported. "Not only did Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Europe's last dictator, steal the elections from the Belarusian people – for the moment, he also stole their opportunity to return to a path towards democracy and free-market economy," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said in a written statement. "This was a sadly missed opportunity and a sad moment for a brave people who suffer under a climate of fear," the statement added. The White House said the United States will work with its European allies through foreign aid programs and international organizations to promote "democracy, human rights and the rule of law" in Belarus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poland recalls Soviet invasion

WARSAW – To mark the 62nd anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Poland, Poles on September 17 paid tribute to and prayed for those murdered and killed in Soviet camps and prisons, the PAP news agency reported. Speaking at a commemorative ceremony in Warsaw, Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek referred to the recent terrorist attack on the United States, saying that Poles must now manifest solidarity and prudence. "We should not forget how much freedom has cost us, this is why we should guard it in an extraordinary way," Mr. Buzek said. Earlier the same day, Mr. Buzek inaugurated an Internet index of the repressed persons compiled by the Karta Internet Center in Warsaw. Karta collects documents concerning the fate of Polish citizens in the former Soviet Union follow-

ing the Soviet invasion of Poland in 1939. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma supports Tatar representation

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on September 17 met with the authorities of the Crimean Autonomous Republic and Crimean Tatar representatives, Ukrainian media reported. "I believe that increasing Crimean Tatars' representation in public administration is an important and urgent issue. ... Five percent of all civil servants in Crimea – [those are] the statistics I was given today – is obviously too little," Ukrainian Television quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying. The president also urged the central and Crimean authorities to speed up the allocation of land to repatriated Tatars. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia, Ukraine discuss transportation

MOSCOW – Russian Transportation Minister Sergei Frank and his visiting Ukrainian counterpart, Valerii Pustovoitenko, on September 13 discussed expanding cooperation between the two countries in transportation, Interfax reported. They also reached agreement on simplifying border procedures for ground transport. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NBU halts trading in U.S. dollars

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) on September 12 canceled the sales of U.S. dollars to banks in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States, Interfax reported. The agency reported that Ukrainians sold U.S. dollars at currency-exchange booths that day at rates fluctuating between 4 and 5 hryv per dollar, but the booths offered the U.S. currency for sale at rates not falling below 5.35 hryv per dollar. In another move intended to stabilize Ukrainian currency markets, the NBU limited the day-to-day fluctuation of the price of a foreign currency in Ukrainian banks to a maximum of 5 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Uzbekistan, Ukraine increase trade

TASHKENT – Trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Ukraine increased by 32 percent during the first eight months of 2001 to reach over \$200 million, Ukraine's ambassador in Tashkent, Anatolii Kasianov, was quoted as telling the Caspian News Agency on September 12. Mr. Kasianov said Ukraine delivers to Uzbekistan products from its metallurgical, chemical and electronics industries, tires and medications, and imports natural gas, cotton fiber, textiles, copper, zinc, and agricultural produce from Uzbekistan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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An open letter to Kuchma from Myroslava Gongadze

Following is the text of an open letter sent to the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, by Myroslava Gongadze, the wife of journalist Heorhii Gongadze who has been missing since September 16, 2000, and is presumed murdered.

Mr. President:

On September 16 one year will have passed since my husband, Heorhii Gongadze, an independent journalist known for his articles and statements critical of the regime in Ukraine, and you personally, disappeared after being under surveillance and psychological threats. At that time you stated that you will personally supervise the investigation of his case.

During this year of investigation, I spent hundreds of hours with law enforcement agencies.

First I was forced to prove to them that a crime had been committed against Heorhii Gongadze and that it was directly related to his professional activity. The Procurator General's Office of Ukraine refused to recognize us, his family, as people who had suffered, stating that since no crime had been committed there can be no victims.

After Heorhii's headless body was discovered in the vicinity of the village of Tarascha near Kyiv, I spent one month attempting to identify the remains and body jewelry found by the burial place. Afterwards, with the help of friends, family and society, a number of examinations were conducted – none of which could establish the cause and time of death. Law enforcement agencies, which kept the corpse for 10 days without refrigeration and began examinations of the corpse even before it was identified, have done everything to obscure any facts that

shed light on this crime.

Today, one year after the murder of Heorhii, I am writing this letter to remind you, and the world community, that this killing – which provoked the biggest political crisis in the 10 year history of independent Ukraine, and whose investigation was demanded by influential international organizations, politicians and world leaders – remains unsolved.

There is no investigation of this case.

Law enforcement agencies continue to ignore the demands of his relatives.

Facts which point to the involvement of President Kuchma, in the killing still have not been explained.

The body of my husband, Heorhii Gongadze, has not been laid to rest.

Throughout the so-called "investigation" I tried to help and provide guidance, to find the truth. I met numerous times with the heads of the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine and this gives me the right to state that without an international investigation, without the inclusion of foreign experts, Ukrainian law enforcement authorities will be unable to solve this crime. And until such an independent investigation is called and the charges against you cleared, I shall consider you responsible for destroying my husband, Heorhii Gongadze.

From the very beginning of the investigation of the killing of my husband, I declared that the Gongadze case will differ from tens of other crimes committed against political activists and journalists in Ukraine. For years now investigations in such well-known cases have gone unsolved.

Who ordered the killing of the newspaper editor Borys Derevianko?

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FBI to join...

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tened to stalwart opponents of the president representing diverse ideological underpinnings – such as National Deputy Moroz of the leftist Socialist Party, National Deputy Anatolii Matvienko of the centrist Sobor Party and Levko Lukianenko, leader of the rightist Conservative Republican Party – call for him to step down.

The speakers indicated that Mr. Kuchma is responsible for Mr. Gongadze's death and disappearance and called on the nation to mobilize to produce a more open society and a free press.

"Heorhii Gongadze died because he wanted the truth," said Mr. Lukianenko. "And this regime is scared of the truth."

Mr. Moroz said that while the world's attention is focused on the terrorist acts that recently took place in New York and Washington, it must be noted that Ukrainian authorities have wielded their own brand of terrorism.

"It is much worse when the state, the authorities sanction terrorism," said Mr. Moroz.

Mr. Gongadze's mother, Lesia, who has been very visible and forceful in the last year in criticizing the pace and content of the investigation, made another plea to the Procurator General's Office to authorize an additional set of tests to conclusively identify a mostly decomposed body that still lies in the Kyiv city morgue, which she doubts is her son's

body. The murdered journalist's mother believes that the body was switched as part of a government cover-up.

Meanwhile, in a poll of 710 Kyivans conducted on September 13 by the respected Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Research, fully one-third of the respondents said they believe the body found in Tarascha in mid-November does not belong to Mr. Gongadze. More than 27 percent said they believe he is dead, while 16 percent said he is alive.

In addition, 58.5 percent said they believe the murder investigation into the case of the missing journalist would never be solved, while 30 percent responded that it would be solved.

The city of Lviv, where Mr. Gongadze lived with his mother for many years, also held commemorations on the anniversary of his disappearance, including a tree-planting ceremony in the city center on September 16 organized by the For the Truth civic organization, an anti-Kuchma organization.

That same day the Lviv organization of the National Journalists' Union of Ukraine presented a posthumous prize "For Journalistic Courage," to the late journalist's mother along with an award worth 10,000 hrv.

Meanwhile in Tarascha, the For the Truth organization built a commemorative burial mound on the site where the partially buried remains thought to belong to Mr. Gongadze were found in mid-November. A birch cross and a portrait were placed atop the memorial.

Lviv mourns U.S. victims of terrorism

by R. L. Chomiak

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

LVIV – An open-air memorial service and a requiem for the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack in New York was held in the center of Lviv, near the Shevchenko monument, on September 17.

It was organized by the Rev. Borys Gudziak, rector of Lviv Theological Academy, a native of Syracuse, N.Y. The participants were the Academy faculty and students, members of the Youth for Christ organization and Lviv citizens.

The Rev. Gudziak explained that the purpose of the "spontaneously arranged gathering" was threefold: to express sympathy for the victims, to show "our responsibility for the planet Earth" and "to pray for peace that [the terrorist act] would not begin a chain reaction" of further violence.

"Although these events took place far from here," the Rev. Gudziak said in a statement to the press, "we cannot stand idle. They have affected and disturbed us.

Today, Ukrainian students see themselves as citizens of the world and they pay particular attention to these dramatic and profound events of the world."

Nine priests of the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Churches joined the Rev. Gudziak in a concelebration of the requiem service (panakhyda) for the victims of the attack in New York. Young people held the flags of Ukraine and the United States, and banners of the Youth for Christ organization.

Another member of the organization held a sign reading: "The tragedy in America calls for a rethinking of the direction in which humanity is heading today. Ukrainian Youth for Christ."

At the end of the gathering the Rev. Gudziak called on those present "to carry our solidarity to the rest of the city. Let us be witnesses to peace in our world."

A stirring rendition of the "Star-Spangled Banner" played over the sound system ended the early afternoon memorial service in the heart of the 745-year-old city of Lviv.

UNA-UNSO denies statement welcoming attacks

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Three days after a press release appeared in which the Ukrainian radical right paramilitary organization UNA-UNSO allegedly stated that it welcomed the terrorist attacks on the United States as a source of "moral satisfaction," the organization denied responsibility for the statements and said the incident was part of a disinformation effort being waged against it.

On September 17, the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self Defense Organization, a radical right political organization with a paramilitary wing, refuted any connection to remarks supporting terrorism and explained that its website had been invaded by hackers who had placed the statement supporting the attacks on the site, which was then picked up by news agencies.

In the same statement UNA-UNSO explained that it condemns terrorism and offered condolences to the families of those who perished in the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11. It said that messages of sympathy and condolences had been presented to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and to Ukrainian government offices, and that the organization had organized a blood drive

among its members and supporters for victims of the terrorist acts.

The disclaimer came after Interfax-Ukraine published an article on September 14 in which it reported that the UNA-UNSO had said it considered the attack on the United States to be retribution for past U.S. aggressions, including the atomic bombing of Japan, the Vietnam War, and air raids on Libya, Iraq, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. The statement falsely attributed to the UNA-UNSO noted that "the boomerang of history had begun to swing back."

In distancing itself from the Interfax-Ukraine story and the statements that appeared on its website, the UNA-UNSO said it believes a major reason for the disinformation effort was to set the stage for the upcoming trial of 19 of its members on charges arising from violent clashes between militia and demonstrators protesting the administration of President Leonid Kuchma that took place on March 9.

Yurii Tyma, head of the executive committee of the UNA-UNSO, which took an active part in the demonstrations and has vocally opposed the Kuchma administration, said on September 19 that the false information released to Interfax-Ukraine on September 14 is the latest in a series of

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Terrorist attacks on U.S.: the international reaction

Special from RFE/RL Newswire

Five presidents issue joint statement

TALLINN – Presidents Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland, Tarja Halonen of Finland, Lennart Meri of Estonia, Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia and Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania issued a joint statement in Tallinn on September 18 condemning international terrorism and expressing solidarity with the United States, ETA reported. Mr. Meri declared: "We are unanimous that this was a declaration of war on all countries sharing the principles of democracy, freedom of speech, and human rights."

Polish leaders sign book of condolences

WARSAW – "America, we are with you," President Aleksander Kwasniewski wrote in a special book of condolences the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw made available to the public on September 13. Those signing the book also included Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, Foreign Affairs Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Senate Speaker Alicja Grzeskowiak, Sejm Deputy Speaker Marek Borowski and Warsaw Mayor Pawel Piskorski. The same day, Polish radio stations honored the memory of the thousands of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States with 10 seconds of silence on the airwaves.

Terrorist attacks...

(Continued from page 1)

away line-of-site, and noted that "When I was evacuating the building, just around the corner I could see smoke and flames from the attack."

"We've lost a large portion of the Navy Command Center personnel," Capt. Szyszka explained, "but the functions of the command center still have to be carried out." Capt. Szyszka acknowledged that some 26 individuals have been lost from his department alone.

Bohdan O. Gerulak is an architect and project manager with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and was working at his desk on the 72nd floor of the north tower, just 10 to 20 floors below the initial impact of American Airlines Flight 11, when the plane crashed into the tower. "The initial impact almost threw me off of my chair. I saw the building sway almost 20 degrees off vertical," Mr. Gerulak noted, continuing, "It didn't sound like a regular explosion. It was extremely loud, forceful, and it became obvious that something was wrong."

Mr. Gerulak noted that the immediate evacuation was orderly going down the stairs. Although there were occasional stops to allow those injured quicker passage and some congestion in the stair wells, all of his friends and associates did make it out of WTC Tower 1 safely. Mr. Gerulak estimated that it took 35 minutes to reach the bottom and said he noticed wreckage strewn throughout the tower.

After reaching the lobby, Mr. Gerulak noticed that service, police and fire personnel were stationed approximately every 15 feet in order to encourage a swift evacuation and help those who needed assistance. "Unfortunately, I'm left to believe that all of those service personnel have perished staying to the very end in order to help us get out safely," Mr. Gerulak commented.

After clearing the towers Mr. Gerulak walked until a stranger offered him shelter, a TV to watch the events and some refreshments. "I was stunned to see what was happening and to imagine that not more than an hour earlier I had been in those towers," Mr. Gerulak remembered. "I was a member of the World War II generation. I've seen and remember the sights of destruction. This event brought back many of those memories," he commented.

The Hryckowian and Romaniw families have jointly owned the Beekman Street Deli, located at 140 Nassau St. in New York for over 20 years. Many of the area's police and fire units are frequent customers of the store, located just two blocks away from what rescue workers have dubbed "ground zero," the site of the collapsed

Twin Towers.

Stephanie Hryckowian remembers hearing someone outside her store scream that a plane had just flown into the north tower. After walking out of her store to get a better look, Ms. Hryckowian saw smoke spewing out of the building; she said the fire coming from the building was burning "red hot."

"At that point you could see something falling out of the building – I didn't know it at first, but then realized they were actually people. It was so terribly sad to see and know that there's nothing you can do. It is an extremely helpless feeling," Ms. Hryckowian recalled.

Ms. Hryckowian related that the next thing she remembers is an intensely high-pitched, missile-like sound. As she looked up, she could see the impact of United Airlines Flight 175 as it dipped one of its wings and flew directly into tower 2. She described seeing the resulting "red-hot flames – unimaginable red hot flames."

"I don't know if I can describe it any better than saying that the resulting fire was not normal. You could see the intensity of the flames from down on the street," Ms. Hryckowian stressed.

Hundreds of people were running down the streets, Ms. Hryckowian recalled, away from the trade center. Between 50 and 75 people came in to the store in order to use the phones, buy water and watch the events on the TV. Ms. Hryckowian recalled: "You could hear so many of the people as they were watching the events exclaiming: 'Oh my God, I was on the 48th floor,' or 'Oh my God, I was on the 72nd floor.'" Ms. Hryckowian said she did not hear anyone mention a floor above the 80th of the 110-floor structure.

As the tower of dust, debris and smoke moved through the area, many individuals found shelter in the Beekman Street Deli where workers kept the doors open for people to, quite literally, pile in.

People began stacking up outside the storefront window; many of them could not breathe or see because of the dust and smoke outside. "We couldn't see more than a foot in front of us. It was pitch black and we continued to try and pull as many people inside the store as we could," Ms. Hryckowian noted. "We wet as many towels as we had in the store and began passing them out to people so that they could breathe and protect themselves in case of fire."

Once the workers in the deli realized that the buildings had collapsed, they began taking stock of their own damage. In the coming hours the deli supported the FBI, fire, police, doctors and rescue workers by providing them with food, water, shelter and a place to find comfort. "Amazingly we still had water, power and gas until we evacuated late Tuesday night. So, many of the workers came here when they needed some time away

from the rescue work," Ms. Hryckowian remembered.

Once evacuated, the deli's employees did not return until Saturday, September 15, to evaluate the damage and begin the process needed to re-open the deli. As of Monday, September 17, at 6 a.m., the deli was once again opened and filled with customers. Ms. Hryckowian noted that they're selling to tourists, rescue workers, and business and financial employees returning to New York's financial district.

Aside from these personal stories of persons affected by last week's terrorist attacks, it is worth noting also that many Ukrainian American, Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian organizations, among them churches, religious, political and community groups, have held memorial services, supported relief work and contributed in various other ways to the effort to aid the victims of this calamity and re-establish what once was.



Andrew Nynka

The Ukrainian-owned Beekman Street Deli, located in New York City's financial district.

Consulate General in New York and Mission to U.N. mark Ukrainian Independence Day



Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – On September 6 the Consulate of Ukraine in New York City, located at 240 East 49th St., held a celebration to commemorate Ukraine's 10th year of independence. Hosting the reception was Consul General of Ukraine Serhiy Pohoreltzev. Pictured above during the reception at the Ukrainian Consulate are (from left): Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltzev, his wife, Svitlana, and Olympic figure skating champion Viktor Petrenko.



Irene Jarosewich/Svoboda

NEW YORK – Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations on Friday, September 7, hosted a reception on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. In attendance were more than 100 representatives of United Nations member-states, many members of the General Secretariat of the United Nations as well as Ukrainian officials and Ukrainian American community activists. The event also included a brief concert program and a photo exhibit. Addressing the gathering in both English and Ukrainian, Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Valeriy Kuchinsky, stated: "For centuries, my nation has struggled for its statehood. For centuries Ukrainians have believed in the ideals of freedom, democracy and sovereignty. Ten years ago we made our dream come true." Seen above is Ambassador Kuchinsky (second from left) with colleagues from the U.N. General Secretariat.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Plummeting interest rates mean it's a good time to shop for mortgages

by Stephan Welhasch

This is a great time to shop for a mortgage loan. Interest rates are lower now than they have been in the past 25 years. As the U.S. economy continues to sputter, in most parts of the country 30-year fixed-rate mortgages are hovering around 7 percent.

Financial experts know that fixed-rate mortgages are definitely the way to go in today's market, since the short-term benefits of an adjustable-rate mortgage pale in comparison to the longer term risk of higher rates.

Whether you're buying a new home or considering refinancing your existing mortgage, now is a great time to do it. If you are paying one or more percent above the current rate of interest and you're not planning to move in the near future, you should not hesitate to consider refinancing your home.

Once upon a time, shopping for a mortgage was relatively simple. You stopped in at a couple of banks or savings and loan associations and asked what their current rates were. You picked the lowest one and usually signed up for a fixed-rate loan. Shopping for a mortgage loan today is a little more complicated. You will find not only many new types of mortgages, but also new types of mortgage lenders as well. Just check your newspaper or cruise the Internet and you will see many lenders with various rates and products. It can be a confusing process, but it doesn't have to be if you do your research correctly.

It is true that when shopping for a mortgage loan one should compare "apples to apples." Take for example a \$150,000 UNA 15 year fixed-rate mortgage with "0" points and compare it with

what some lenders charge for their 15-year fixed-rate mortgages with "0" points. When you comparison shop this way you will not be confused by the various products and rates being advertised. As a rule, you should not try to compare adjustable rates to fixed rates unless you know how.

When comparison-shopping, it is advisable also to look at the difference between the interest rate (i.e. 6.75%) being advertised and the APR (which might be as high as 7.25%). The APR includes all other finance charges above the 6.75% rate advertised, up-front "points" or "loan origination fees," legal fees, etc. If there is a significant difference between the two, then find out what all the extra closing costs are before you sign anything.

To calm your concerns and to have your questions about mortgage loans answered just call your mortgage expert at the Ukrainian National Association, and he or she will take the time to assist you and suggest a financing program that best suits your needs. UNA members can enjoy peace of mind in knowing they're getting value-added service and a great rate. The UNA offers its members financing for owner-occupied one(-), two(-) and three(-) family homes. A jumbo mortgage loan program is also available to Ukrainian churches and organizations.

To find out more about the UNA's First Mortgage Loan Program, its Jumbo Loan Program, or refinancing your home, call the UNA today! You can also find out more about UNA's insurance and financial products, as well as the many fraternal benefits the UNA offers its members. Call 1 (800) 253-9862, ext. 3036, and ask for Stephan Welhasch.

Weekly bids farewell to summer interns



Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Weekly this summer was fortunate to have two student interns on its staff – Peter Steciuk (left), a "returnee" who joined our crew late last summer, and Andrew Olesnycky, a new addition who originally came on board to help out while Mr. Steciuk was away for three weeks running things as "bunchuzhnyi" at Plast camp. Both interns stayed on in August as The Weekly prepared its special issues dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. Mr. Steciuk, 20, of Convent Station, N.J., is a junior majoring in government at Harvard University, while Mr. Olesnycky, 19, of Maplewood, N.J., is a sophomore majoring in journalism/science writing at Lehigh University.

MEMORANDUM

The Philadelphia District's Fall Organizing Meeting has been rescheduled for
Saturday, October 6, 2001 at 1:00 PM
at the UUARC, 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
Stefan Hawrysz, District Chairman

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ANNUITY RATES

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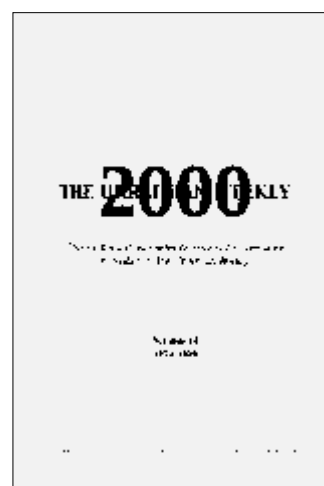
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The Ukrainian Weekly 2000 Volume II



To mark the end of one millennium and the beginning of another, the editors of The Ukrainian Weekly have prepared "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," a two-volume collection of the best and most significant stories that have appeared in the newspaper since its founding in 1933 through 1999.

Volume II, now available, covers events from 1970 through the 1990s. All subscribers to The Weekly will receive a copy in the mail, but additional copies may be ordered from our Subscription Department.

New subscribers to The Weekly who may not have received Volume I, published last year, may order it now.

To order additional copies, send \$15 per copy/per volume to: The Ukrainian Weekly, Subscription Department, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Additional donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund will be welcomed.

UNA

Mortgages

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Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

"In God we trust"

This week *The Ukrainian Weekly* offers a guest editorial: the pastoral message issued in the wake of the terrorist attack on the United States by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States.

We all share an unusual heaviness and sadness in our hearts and feelings of shock because of the acts of terrorism that have occurred this past week in our nation. Thousands of innocent lives have been impacted. Many lost their lives or were hurt in the buildings that were struck down. Others lost their lives in the airplanes hijacked for use in terrorism. Many others sacrificed their lives in their desire to help and save those hurt and trapped in the buildings affected. Other innocent victims include families and friends of these victims, including children who have been orphaned.

All of us are left with the feeling of having been violated, assaulted, and without the safety and security we have come to enjoy and expect. We wonder what we are to do, and how we can help.

Our faith leads us to offer our genuine feelings of sadness, hurt, anger, confusion, as well as concern for the many victims to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Any burden should not be borne alone, but entrusted to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Entrust yourself to pray for the souls of all the victims, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for God's mercy upon them, that they may enter into His merciful kingdom. Pray for the families of the victims of this tragedy, that they come to know God's presence, His companioning walk with them in their loss, His love and comfort for them. Pray for all those who so generously have given and will give of themselves to assist those in need of their professional help. Pray for strength and God's blessings upon the many health, government and public officials who devoted and will devote extraordinary energy and dedication in the service of those afflicted.

Allow your faith to help you arise and generously give of yourself in your love of your fellow person in need. Give the gift of life by donating blood in local blood drives. Give the gift of support and compassion in volunteering to serve families and people affected by this tragedy. Give the gift of a listening ear to many of those needing to be helped through feelings of shock and hurt. Choose to gather with others in prayer and be of mutual encouragement and hope in your churches and within organizations. Allow yourselves to grieve the loss with others, and share it with Jesus.

Those and other actions reflect our hope as followers of Jesus Christ, a hope that is especially needed at such times of tragedy and hurt. Christians are called to be primary instruments of hope and comfort to our fellow brothers and sisters of America, as opposed to being avenues of despair and calls for tribulation. It is in such times as these that the true nature of each of us is revealed to our brothers and sisters in our communities of America.

Choose to be messengers of compassion and hope, providing all that we most need at this time. God will be at our side to guide and comfort us, and to bless us in ways only He can as we come to cope with this tragedy.

I entrust all of our sorrows and hurts to our Blessed Mother, Mary, who enwraps her omphor/mantle of loving, maternal protection around us, hearing our intercessions, seeing our tears, feeling our confusion. She knew and experienced all these at the foot of the cross of Jesus, yet she gently leads us to our hope in our Resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Know of our prayers and the prayers of our entire Church for all the victims of this tragedy, for all those affected and for our entire nation, the United States of America. Let us go forward remembering that "In God we trust."

Sept.
29
1866

Turning the pages back...

September 29 marks the 135th anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Hrushevsky, one of Ukraine's most distinguished historians, publicists, scholars and writers. Hrushevsky, born in Kholm in 1866, was a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the USSR Academy of Sciences and the All-Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

In 1907 Hrushevsky co-founded the Ukrainian Scientific Society, was one of the founding members of the Society of Ukrainian Progressives, a political party formed in 1908, and was arrested in the fall of 1914 and later exiled to northeastern Russia for stirring Ukrainian nationalism. He was released on March 17, after the February Revolution, and was then elected the chairman of the Central Rada which later became the revolutionary parliament of Ukraine.

On April 29, 1918, Hrushevsky was elected the first president of the newly formed Ukrainian National Republic. Shortly thereafter, a coup d'état led by Pavlo Skoropadsky overthrew Hrushevsky's government. Returning to his scholarly activities Hrushevsky completed over 1,800 works and is regarded as one of Ukraine's leading academic scholars who, according to the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, "realized the principal task of Ukrainian historiography (i.e., the synthesis of the entire Ukrainian historical process), as the organizer of Ukrainian national scholarship, and as a civic and political activist and one of the most prominent figures of the period of the liberation struggle."

Hrushevsky's scholarly activity included work in the history of literature and archeology and he was also highly regarded for writing various tales, dramas and short stories. As a publicist, Hrushevsky founded and published various Ukrainian newspapers, prominent among them were *Ukrainskii Vestnik*, *Selo* and *Zasiv*.

Hrushevsky is most widely known for his landmark work "History of Ukraine-Rus" which was first published in 1898. His historical scheme was rejected by Soviet authorities as "nationalistic" but is regarded by historians as an accurate assessment of Ukrainian history. Hrushevsky died in Kislovodsk in 1934 and was buried in Kyiv's Baikove cemetery.

Source: "Hrushevsky, Mykhailo," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Volume II, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988.*

REACTION TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE U.S.

President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine

Following is the September 12 address by President Leonid Kuchma to the people of Ukraine regarding terrorist attacks in the United States. The text was released on September 13 by Ukraine's Consulate General in New York.

Dear compatriots:

Yesterday, on September 11, 2001, an unprecedented horrible crime was committed against the United States of America, against the American people.

Millions of people around the globe are deeply shocked by what they have seen and heard.

The exact number of human and material losses is still unknown; however this woeful count will be tremendous. This terrorist act has no historic precedent in terms of its scale, cruelty and cynicism.

On your behalf, my fellow citizens, and on behalf of the whole Ukrainian nation, I have sent President of the U.S.A. George W. Bush words of deep condolence and pain for the grief that fell upon the country and its people, and of strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

This sorrow has left no country and no nation indifferent.

We are facing the fierce snarl of terrorism – a weapon of blind and ruthless hatred that shall not stop for anything. We once again saw that in our time terrorism knows no national borders or state frontiers.

The tragic events of September 11 represent a challenge not only for America and its people. This is a challenge for the whole world, for everyone who wishes to live in accordance with God's commandments and the laws of humans, not beasts.

It was not accidental that the terrorists chose the time just before the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly to strike a destructive blow against the U.S.A.

The closeness of the modern world is especially evident today. At the same time, its vulnerability to diabolic villainy and the ingenuity of the forces of evil wishing to rebuild it in their way is evident as well.

Therefore, facing this threat, the whole civilized world must close ranks and demonstrate its unity, conformity and coordination of actions to effectively counteract evil plans and intentions. This is a principal position of Ukraine, which has put forward and is putting forward initiatives aimed at uniting efforts to combat international terrorism.

Today no one should doubt the urgent need for developing and deepening cooper-

ation in this field between states and special services, and for preparing joint documents on the international and regional levels.

We are ready to submit and we shall submit relevant proposals. This must be a joint action plan that will reliably safeguard against the slightest possibility of recurrence of anything similar to yesterday's tragedy.

At the same time, the need to get rid of all double standards, in particular those defining terrorism and crimes, and the need for practical actions resulting from this, are evident as well.

A terrorist must be called a terrorist, and a criminal must be called a criminal, irrespective of the guise under which they are acting and the political camouflage under which they are hiding.

In addition to its international aspect, the problem of preventing and combatting terrorism has an important internal dimension.

Realizing the tragedy of what has happened in these days, we must draw serious and adequate conclusions, without downplaying possible threats.

I consider it to be our mutual obligation to ensure discipline, organization and order. This as well relates to service, professional and civil responsibility for everything that is done at assigned position, in the state and society as a whole.

These days do not tolerate flippancy, carelessness and disorder.

Those services and people tasked to protect your peace and order, your safety, must and shall perform their duties objectively, competently and responsibly.

Relevant decisions and recommendations have been made at the meeting of the National Security and Defense Council that I summoned today. Their implementation will be specially controlled. We have enough forces and means to protect our state and its citizens.

Terrorism shall not be tolerated; it has no place in the modern world.

Dear compatriots:

Sorrow hurts, but it unites as well. We see the unity with which the American nation, its political leaders and authorities have reacted and are living through this national tragedy.

I call for similar strengthening of unity here in Ukraine. The eternal norms of morality, humanity and mercy tell us to do so.

In these difficult times let us be wise, considered and farsighted people, conscious of our duties before the present and the future.

Ukrainian World Congress

With sadness, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) sends its heartfelt condolences to families and friends of all Americans who died or suffered injury as a result of the events of September 11. Our sympathies lie as well with Ukrainian Americans, known and unknown, included on that list. We pray for the repose of the souls of the dead as well as for the recovery of the living. May God grant to the departed life everlasting as martyrs in the struggle against terrorism.

The World Council on Social Service (WCSS) at the UWC stands ready to assist in any manner possible. While our means are relatively meager, through our global network, in particular in the United States, we shall attempt to assist anyone in need, seeking our help. In particular, any suffering Ukrainian American should phone our headquarters in Toronto at (416) 323-3020.

Terrorism is not an instrument of nor a plague upon any one society or state. It needs to be addressed by the world community acting in good faith, without stereotyping or blind vindictiveness. Only a joint and global effort can eradicate this scourge which seeks the innocent as its victims. The UWC stands ready to lend its support and urges ethnic Ukrainians throughout the world to assist their governments in this salient struggle. We encourage governments to manifest a resolute determination devoid of prejudices. May the Lord guide us in this endeavor!

For the Ukrainian World Congress:
Askold S. Lozynskyj, President, UWC
Olga Danylyak, Chair, WCSS

REACTION TO THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE U.S.

Ukrainian National Association

To our UNA members and newspaper readers:

Like all Americans throughout the world, we are shocked and deeply saddened by the horrifying acts of violence perpetrated on innocent people in New York City, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families of the victims and all who have suffered as a result of those atrocities. Our prayers are with you.

We urge our UNA members and newspaper readers to make donations to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund by calling 1-800-HELP NOW or visiting their website at www.redcross.org. and by donating blood.

God bless America!

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association Inc.
Ulana M. Diachuk, President
Martha Lysko, National Secretary
Stefan Kaczaraj, Treasurer

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

Sadness, sorrow and disdain have filled the hearts of the Ukrainian American community as the United States became the target of a massive terrorist attack on Tuesday, September 11. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), as a representative organization of the Ukrainian American community, would like to express its deepest sympathies to the victims and the families of those who were affected by the terrorist acts perpetrated upon our nation.

We deplore this cowardly act of violence, the faceless nature of terrorist activities, and the inhumanity and complete disregard for human life. Such barbaric acts defy the principles of democracy and humanity, the cornerstone of America and other peace-loving nations throughout the world. It is to this call to democracy and the building of a better world that the Ukrainian American community has dedicated its resources and expounded its energy for the last 100 years of its immigration to "the land of opportunity."

Despite the horror and tragedy we have witnessed, the tremendous resolve of the American people must not be underestimated. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America commends the massive, swift and heroic response of emergency personnel, average citizens and volunteers who have risked and, in some cases, given up their lives to save the lives of their brethren. Sacrificing one's own life to save the life of another is the greatest gift of human self-worth, respect and kindness. We, Ukrainian Americans, citizens of the United States, stand behind our local, state and federal governments in their rescue and recovery efforts, and we pledge our unwavering support to assist the victims and their families during this tragic time in America's history.

The untold numbers of innocent victims and survivors of the terrorist attacks, among them Ukrainian Americans, remind us as a community to garner our strength and resources to assist those afflicted by this horrific misfortune. In times like this, the world unites, and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America would like to thank our brethren in Ukraine who have expressed their solemn regrets and sympathies to us as a community dealing with this painful moment in American history.

Furthermore, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America urges the Ukrainian American community to aid in the recovery and rescue efforts by donating blood at local blood banks or volunteering their time. Those who would like to contribute financially to assist the victims and their families may send a check or money order made out to UCCA – World Trade Center Relief Fund, c/o Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

America must remain unified during these trying times. We will recover and persevere!
God bless America!

On behalf of the executive board of the
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America:
Michael Sawkiw Jr., President
Marie Duplak, Executive Secretary

Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

On behalf of the executive board of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC), I want to extend our deepest sympathy to all those affected by last week's tragedies.

During a visit to Washington, several years ago, the late Vyacheslav Chornovil, speaking about the Chernobyl disaster, noted that "the radioactive cloud that today drifts over Chernobyl may tomorrow find itself over Washington." This observation spoke of the dangers of nuclear energy, but it may also be understood in the context of the horrific tragedy that has just befallen the United States.

If ever we were complacent on the shores of our adopted homeland, this is no longer the case. Let us respond as heroically as we can. As the gamut of emotions from panic, disbelief, dread and anger wave over us, we need to resist the temptation to despair that can beset a people in such times.

We urge all our members and supporters to lend whatever assistance they can, be it by contributing money, donating blood or consoling those who need our love.

One thing all of us can do is offer our prayers for the victims of the heinous crimes that took place, for their families and for our leaders, who need courage and keen discernment to exercise their powers in the best possible way in bringing those responsible for these monstrous deeds to justice.

Ihor Gawdiak, President
Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



The end of one era – the beginning of another

For most living Americans, no event has been more horrific than the September 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. Much like Pearl Harbor, this assault on America will surely define whatever follows. By the time this goes to print (I'm writing this the day after) we'll know better how the world changed when the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center came down.

As for this column, it was supposed to be a happy reflection about the long view of history and the miraculous way centuries of conflict came to a symbolic close at the 10th anniversary celebration of Ukraine's independence in Kyiv on August 24, of how the presence there of Ukraine's, Russia's and Poland's leaders marked the end of a wretched era and the hopeful beginning of another.

Now, instead of basking in the afterglow of Ukraine's decade of independence, I find myself pondering how the attacks on New York and Washington mark the end of an innocent era for America and the beginning of an uncertain struggle with shadowy forces who have no scruples or conscience.

Tragically, Ukrainian history has been one driven by those who mercilessly pursued their agendas, heedless of morality. Mere words evoke boundless horror: panschyna (serfdom), slavery at the market in Kafa, Bolsheviks, Nazis, KGB, Gestapo, Collectivization, Holocaust.

That's why this year's Independence Day celebration in Kyiv was so joyous and triumphant. It could be fully appreciated only in the context of Ukraine's history of slavery and mass murder. Those who were there or, like me, viewed photos on the Internet, saw thousands of children, dancers, gymnasts, soldiers and others march past a reviewing stand where the presidents of Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine together celebrated Ukraine's independence. Just for good measure, there were tanks, rocket launchers and missile carriers. Acres of blue-and-yellow flags flapped on both sides of the Khreschatyk, while overhead blue-and-yellow warplanes etched the sky with brightly colored contrails.

As part of my own private Ukrainian Independence Day celebration, I turned to an essay, "Czech and Slav," by Karel Havlicek that I had read a long time ago. Writing in 1846, he analyzed the relationship among Russians, Ukrainians and Poles, observing how "each in turn tried to establish its primacy over the two others. First Kyiv and the Ukrainians ruled – but the great empire of Volodymyr (Monomakh) fell and with it the prospects of independence for the Ukrainians."

Leaping over the centuries (as those who take the long view are able to do), Mr. Havlicek described Poland and Russia as predators ("wolves," he calls them; Ukraine he depicts as "the lamb"). Then, in a remarkable geopolitical image, he sums up centuries of conflict: "Ukraine is the apple of discord which fate threw between these two nations. Thus the suppression of Ukrainian liberty revenges itself on Poland and Russia." Those two countries, he writes, "buried the national spirit of Ukraine and began to divide the great body and, as generally happens in such cases, they began to fight and have not yet ceased. Thus we have seen three great Eastern Slav

nations, each one of which hates the other two and also has a just reason for it."

That was in 1846. If only Mr. Havlicek could have seen the conflicts that would come in the next century and a half: popular uprisings, two world wars, arrests, massacres, deportations, famines, the Iron Curtain, the Cold War. Ukraine was at the crux of nearly all those atrocities and, invariably, Russia and Poland were key players as well, with disastrous results for all three nations. That's why the image of the three presidents jointly celebrating Ukraine's independence is so momentous, so propitious. Ukraine's independence removes that "apple of discord" that Mr. Havlicek wrote about 155 years ago.

Still, not everyone familiar with the histories of Ukraine, Russia and Poland is prepared to accept the smiles and good wishes at face value. Rightly or wrongly, many saw Russian President Vladimir Putin's presence at the celebration as his way of showing that Moscow still plays a major role in Ukraine. Given his KGB background and the hard feelings Ukrainians have toward that institution and the country he leads, it's not hard to understand why many viewed Mr. Putin's presence in Kyiv in more sinister terms.

As for Poland, many of her people look back on the uprising of 1863 against the rule of Tsar Alexander II, the "Miracle on the Vistula" in 1920, the Katyn Forest massacre in 1940 or the Poznan workers' demonstrations of 1956 as if they had happened yesterday. In each of these events, Poles faced off against Russian rule. Clearly, many Poles have no love for Russia and little trust for its leaders. That's why Poland was so adamant about joining NATO in 1996 and no doubt that's why President, Aleksander Kwasniewski was in Kyiv on Independence Day: to lend moral support to President Kuchma and keep an eye on President Putin. Mr. Kwasniewski knows that Poland's future depends on Ukraine's continued independence.

As for President Kuchma, the Independence Day celebration was a triumph. At his inauguration in 1999, he had waved a bulava – the mace that Ukraine's leaders carried as a symbol of their office from around 1550 to 1750 implicitly associating himself with the long line of hetmans who had fought either Poland or Russia or both, invariably suffering defeat or humiliating accommodation. I can't tell whether President Kuchma, flanked by the presidents of Poland and the Russian Federation, saw himself as a latter-day Hetman, triumphant where earlier ones had failed, but I know that's how I saw him.

Regardless of what might have been in the hearts of each of the three leaders or what their true motives are, it's fair to see their joint presence at Ukraine's day of triumph as a symbolic end to an age-old era of enmity among their nations. That can only be good. Together, these three Slavic neighbors have nearly 240 million people, and for the first time in half a millenium or more they are independent and on the surface, at least, on good terms with each other.

Just in time for them to join other civilized nations in supporting the United States in this new era of global struggle against conscienceless terrorism. God help us in that struggle.

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY: Celebrations throughout North America



Rockland County Ukrainians gather to mark Ukrainian Independence Day.

Rockland County

by Vasyl Luchkiw

NEW CITY, N.Y. – Ukrainians of Rockland County, joined by the village, county, state and federal officials, commemorated the 10th anniversary of independent Ukraine.

The festivities began on Sunday, September 26, at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Spring Valley, N.Y., where the Rev. Ivan Tykhovych celebrated liturgy for the Ukrainian people followed by panakhyda services for all who gave their lives fighting for Ukraine's independence.

After the liturgy, one of the largest gatherings of Ukrainians in Rockland County assembled on the grounds of the county office complex. Present were representatives of all waves of Ukrainian immigration, as well as a very good representation of other ethnic groups of the county. Vasyl Szozda, commander of Ukrainian American Veterans in Rockland County, raised the Ukrainian

national flag while the assembled sang the Ukrainian national anthem.

The master of ceremonies, Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw, was also the keynote speaker. He reminded those assembled about U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 222 and stated that passing resolutions is not going to help Ukraine. Ukraine needs immediate help and not another resolution, he said, explaining that the Ukrainian people are tired of resolutions and almost totally disenchanted with the Western "resolutions." It seems that the government of Ukraine by and large does not care much about the country's future and the "neighbor to the north" is just waiting for an opportunity to again colonize the country, he added.

Next to speak was Rep. Benjamin Gilman, who assured everyone that the United States will implement H.R. 222 by providing funds to help Ukraine out of its crises. The assembled rewarded Rep. Gilman with long applause.

State Sen. Thomas Morahan, reminded the gathering that 10 years is a rather

(Continued on page 14)



Maplewood Ukrainians prepare for the flag-raising ceremony.

Maplewood, N.J.

by Andrew Keybida

MAPLEWOOD, N.J. – Mayor Vic Deluca of Maplewood on August 7 signed and read a proclamation approved by the Maplewood Township Committee, designating Friday, August 24, as Ukrainian Independence Day and commemorating the 10th anniversary of modern Ukraine's independence.

Mayor Deluca greeted the Ukrainian Americans assembled at Maplewood

Town Hall and stated that he is happy to sign the proclamation and wants to pay tribute to Americans of Ukrainian heritage who have made important contributions to political, economic and cultural life in Maplewood.

After reading the proclamation, Mayor Deluca presented the document to Andrew Keybida, coordinator, and ordered that the Ukrainian flag be flown in front of Town Hall on August 24 alongside the American flag to "pay trib-

(Continued on page 14)

Passaic, N.J.



PASSAIC, N.J. – Local Ukrainians marked the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence on August 24 by raising the blue-and-yellow flag of Ukraine at Clifton City Hall. American and Ukrainian patriotic songs were sung and over 100 people attended, including elected officials. Seen above (from left) are: Freeholder Peter Eagler; Assemblywoman Nia Gil; John Burtyk, chairman of the New Jersey Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Ron Fava, acting sheriff of Passaic County; the Rev. Joe Szupa of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rev. Oleh Zhovnirovych of the Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church; Ukrainian advocate Teodor Marsch; Adam Stec, president of the Bergen and Passaic Chapter of the UCCA; and Mayor Jim Anzaldi. Also present was Assemblyman Jerry Zecker.

– Tom Hawrylko



The local choir performs during Ukrainian Independence Day in Toms River.

Toms River, N.J.

by Ostap Jakubowycz

TOMS RIVER, N.J. – The Ukrainian American community in the Toms River, N.J., area celebrated the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on Sunday, August 19, at St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic Church, commencing with a holy liturgy officiated by the Rev. Augustine Molodowitz.

Father "Gus," as he is fondly called by parishioners, commenced the event with a sincere and moving sermon about Ukraine and its struggle for its identity in the world.

A concert and dinner followed, with the proceeds going towards the church building fund. The dinner and the concert were almost single-handedly prepared and directed by two of the most loyal parishioners and Ukrainian patriots, Peter and Olga Hrycak (who just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary). Not

only did they cook and bake the entire menu, they purchased and paid for all the required produce and supplies.

The concert opened with the choir singing, "God Bless America, and continued with renditions of Ukrainian poems and Ukrainian national and folk songs by a choir comprising parishioners from St. Stephen's parish. Accordion accompaniment was provided by Osyp Fedyna, one of the those who carried the huge Ukrainian flag into the Parliament building in Kyiv in 1991.

The concert participants ranged in age from 7 to 80 plus. Our 7-year-old concert participant, Vira Levchenko, surprised the audience with her graceful and professional dancing. The concert ended with the Ukrainian national anthem sung by the choir and the audience.

The parishioners' dedication and hard work produced a grand concert, a delicious Ukrainian dinner and a profit of \$1,100 for St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY: Celebrations throughout North America

Saskatoon

by Al Kachkowski

SASKATOON – The huge outdoor stage in the north Bessborough park was filled with people. At a predetermined moment, 500 blue and yellow helium-filled balloons drifted skyward as a recorded rendition of "Ukraino" by singer Taras Petrynenko emanated from the stereo system, filling the air with soul-stirring music.

The balloons rose quickly in the evening shadows cast by the Sheraton-Cavalier Hotel. When they hit the sunlight there were audible "oohs" and "ahs." The 300 people on stage rocked back and forth in unison to the music, arms extended skyward. Many of the estimated 1,000 people witnessing the balloon release had tears glistening in their eyes as they watched the stage and followed the balloons, savoring the event, and realizing they were part of a spectacle never before seen by Saskatoon's Ukrainian community: a very special celebration of 10 years of Ukraine's independence.

It was 7:20 p.m. on Saturday, August 25 and the balloon launch culminated a three-hour concert extravaganza featuring 24 numbers by 18 performing groups from Saskatoon and Prince Albert.

Master of ceremonies George Hupka and Lesia Sorkokan-Normand informed the audience of historical and other interesting facts as they introduced the performing groups one by one. The program began with a colorful welcome by the Pavlychenko Dancers and culminated with "Sche Ne Vmerla Ukraina" led by the Lastivka Choir, as well as a rousing Hopak by the Yevshan Dancers. The stage was filled by the 200 performers and other young people for the balloon launch.

Saturday's celebrations began with a parade at 1 p.m. Hundreds of appreciative people lined the streets and applauded as the all-Ukrainian parade made its way through downtown Saskatoon. Costumed dancers, choirs, musicians, antique convertible cars transporting dignitaries, St. Goretti Bilingual School, the Bayda Kozaks and the Vegreville Chamber of Commerce float, complete with a large pysanka made a colorful spectacle indeed.

Following the parade, hundreds of people filled the park to enjoy food and beverages served by various Ukrainian groups. Children's activities, including face-painting and interaction with the



A balloon launch culminates the Ukrainian Independence Day concert in Saskatoon.

Bayda Kozaks, kept the younger folk occupied. Others brought their lawn chairs, took up the best places for the concert and visited with their neighbors while enjoying the majestic surroundings in the park at the base of Saskatoon's landmark hotel, the Delta Bessborough.

A colorful array of tents provided shade for the vendors, a fortune teller, the face-painting station and dressing rooms for the entertainers. It is estimated that several thousand people stopped in at the festive site during the course of the day. After an extremely successful (most vendors were sold out) and enjoyable day, many patrons could be heard suggesting that the festivities become an annual event.

Following the concert, two live bands, Saskatoon's Skylarks and Vegreville's Soul Spice provided dance music. The final 20 minutes featured recorded Ukrainian disco music and a lively Hopak at 10 p.m. rounded out an evening of dancing and socializing enjoyed by young and old.

The two-day celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine, began at 4:30 p.m. on Friday,

August 24, at Saskatoon's City Hall. In the presence of 200 people, Mayor Jim Maddin assisted honored seniors Stephen Kuzma and Dr. Savella Stechishen in raising the flag of Ukraine to mark the beginning of Ukraine Week in the city. Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Michael Wiwchar led Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox clergy in a moleben service. Responses were sung by cantors and a choir consisting of members of both churches.

Celebrants then moved to the Adam Ballroom in the Bessborough Hotel for the gala anniversary banquet. Master of ceremonies Stefan Franko called on provincial, civic and university officials to convey greetings. Entertainment was provided by the Mycyk family instrumental trio and vocalist Larry Klopoushak.

An essay contest for Saskatoon students of high school and undergraduate university students was held in conjunction with the celebration. The following winners, from the 13 entries received, were announced: first prize, (\$200) – Oksana Prokopchuk, Saskatoon; second prize

(\$100) – Christina Senchuk, Hamilton, Ontario; and third prize (\$50) – Chera Tenaschuk, Saskatoon. The top two essays, the first written in Ukrainian, were read and were greeted with warm applause.

Myron Kowalsky, speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, gave an informative account of events leading to the declaration of independence by the Ukrainian Parliament on August 24, 1991. His presentation was enhanced by his personal account of what happened in August 1991 when he was in Ukraine on a Saskatchewan governmental mission.

A highlight of his presentation was his showing of a full-page color photograph from a newspaper showing Zhanna Pintusevich-Block beating U.S. runner Marion Jones at the World Athletic Championships in Edmonton this year – Ms. Jones' first defeat in 42 100-meter finals. He called that event "a moment of pride for Ukraine and Ukrainians." Mr. Kowalsky's presentation was acknowledged with a standing ovation by the 215 attendees of the banquet.

(Continued on page 14)

Arnold, Pa.

ARNOLD, Pa. – The parishioners of both St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church and Holy Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Church marked the 10th anniversary of the freedom of Ukraine in a joint moleben and reception on Saturday, August 25. This marked the first time in 76 years that the two parishes, only one block apart, prayed together.

The Rev. Canon Dr. John A. Ropke, pastor of St. Vladimir Church and the Rev. Joshua Anna, pastor of Holy Virgin Church, worked to bring their two parishes together for this event. After 75 years of no contact between the two parishes, the Rev. Ropke was invited last year to attend the Orthodox parish's 75th anniversary, which he did. Last Christmas the Rev. Ropke then invited the Rev. Anna and his parishioners to attend a Christmas program at his church, which they did.

On August 25, the Rev. Ropke and his parishioners walked in procession from St. Vladimir Church to Holy Virgin Church at 7 p.m. for the joint service. The Rev. Ropke was greeted at the door of the Orthodox Church with traditional bread, salt and oil. The pastors then entered the church along with their council members and members of their parishes. During the service the pastors and their parishioners prayed together in the Orthodox church.

After the service the parishioners of both parishes processed together to St. Vladimir Hall for a joint reception.

During the reception, the Revs. Ropke and Anna talked about the past years of separation and mistrust and agreed: "That was then, this is now." The Rev. Ropke, pastor of St. Vladimir's Catholic Church for the past five years, and the Rev. Anna, pastor of Holy Virgin Orthodox Church for the past year, said they look forward to many more years of cooperation in the spirit of Christian love.



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Exhibit of oils by Andrei Kushnir to open in Washington gallery

WASHINGTON – “American Light 2001,” an exhibition of recent oil paintings by Andrei Kushnir opens at Taylor & Sons Fine Art, 660 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, on September 29, and continues until November 3. The centerpiece of the exhibit is “Sky Meadows,” the cover subject of an illustrated color catalogue accompanying the show.

As noted in the exhibition catalogue, with text by Michele Taylor, Mr. Kushnir’s paintings are grounded in the tradition of American landscape painting, reaching back to the late 19th century poetic tradition of landscape and the

luminists of the Hudson River School.

Today, as suburbanites and rural inhabitants are increasingly engulfed by insatiable urban growth, the catalogue notes, “more and more people ... (are) trying to find the idealized natural world we dream of, the world that Andrei Kushnir portrays with sincerity and painstaking love. He (has) nourished in us the dream of Eden, but his natural world is the world of the 21st century, without overt drama, sentiment or religious allusion; in short, with none of the trappings of a Victorian perspective. His work is cool yet tender, and he resists the temptations of metaphor and

symbolism, letting the strength of his realism and quiet good taste drive us to our perfected natural world.”

In his paintings of nature, the artist, in seeking to capture the constantly changing yet timeless aspect of a given landscape, looks for the universal.

His exhibit of last year titled, “My River,” was devoted to the Potomac, a river with which he possesses a close kinship and has been painting for many years, successfully evoking subtle reflections on its nature and meaning. Mr. Kushnir stated, “I see the Potomac as a convenient reminder of how tenuous

everything is, a little like life itself.”

A resident of Bethesda, Md., Mr. Kushnir has exhibited his plein-air oil paintings in over 50 juried shows in galleries and museums throughout the United States. His works have been accepted in shows judged by curators from the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of American Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and the Corcoran Gallery.

A reception (black tie optional) will be held for the artist on Saturday, September 29, at 6-9 p.m. at Taylor & Sons Fine Art. For additional information call (202) 546-0021; or e-mail talorarts4u@earthlink.net.



“River Islands in Spring” by Andrei Kushnir (12 x 24 inches, oil on canvas).

“Roll Call” booklet available online

CALGARY – In 1999 the first listing of thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans imprisoned during Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914-1920 became available in booklet form. Titled “Roll Call: Lest We Forget,” it was compiled by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk with the assistance of Natalka Yurieva and Roman Zakaluzny.

This roster included the names of over 5,000 men, women and children who were interned in 24 Canadian concentration camps during the First World War I period.

Due to the overwhelming response of the print version of “Roll Call,” the names of more internees have been uncovered. In order to keep the information as up-to-date as possible, “Roll Call” will now be available on the web at: http://www.infoukes.com/uccla/images/Roll_Call.pdf.

Commenting on this new development, the director of special projects for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Borys Sydoruk commented, “Releasing this information on the UCCLA website will make it possible for surviving internees, family members, friends and genealogists to uncover more details about what their forefathers in this country endured during this relatively unknown episode in Canadian history.”

“We invite those who have additional information about persons interned during this period to contact us and share their sources, as we intend to add an appendix to “Roll Call” which will allow us to develop this listing. Perhaps we will eventually be able to complete a list of all those who were victims of Canada’s first national internment operations,” Mr. Sydoruk added.

Stetch features Ukrainian-inspired pieces in solo concert

KATONAH, N.Y. – Jazz pianist John Stetch appeared recently in a solo concert at the Caramoor International Festival 2001, in a program of works by Thelonious Monk, Gershwin, Charlie Parker and Ukrainian-inspired selections of his own composition.

In a review of the concert, which appeared in the August 7 issue of *The Journal News* serving Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties, it was noted that Mr. Stetch won the audience over “with his prolific technical proficiency and angular modern style that blends jazz, classical and Ukrainian folk melodies.”

In introducing his pieces, Mr. Stetch mentioned his heritage and explained his Ukrainian pieces, titled “Zabava,” “Carpathian Blues” and “Famine (Improvisation).” With reference to the latter, the newspaper noted, “His playing evoked the horrors of Stalin’s forced starvation of Ukrainian peasants in 1933 by conjuring sounds that resembled dark clouds and menacing troops, with sunny chord bursts representing the triumph of the human spirit.”

The first-place winner of the 1998 Prix de Jazz du Maurier at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Mr. Stetch began his performing career in Montreal while attending McGill University. During that time he recorded frequently for CBC’s *Jazzbeat* and since then has recorded six CDs as a leader, two of which have been nominated for Juno Awards. His composition skills earned him second place in the Thelonious Monk International Competition.

Currently residing in Valley Cottage, N.Y., he has been touring internationally with his group which recently completed tours of Canada, Brazil and Israel. In addition to club dates in New York with his trio, Mr. Stetch’s other recent bookings include solo concerts at the I.S. Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, which were broadcast this fall on Branford Marsalis’ NPR program, “Jazz Set,” and dates with the TannaReid Quintet. Mr. Stetch continues to work with Rufus Reid as a member of Reid’s new quartet. After his solo concert at

Caramoor, he also performed with James “Blood” Ulmer, Rashied Ali and Reggie Workman, filling in the piano chair for John Hicks, as part of the New Age Quartet.

In addition to his performance credentials, Mr. Stetch is also a clinician and has been teaching workshops at universities and high schools in the United States and Canada.

He is on the roster of Steinway Artists and has just been awarded a yearlong grant from the Canada Council for composing. His latest CD, “Heavens of a Hundred Days,” was released on Justin Time Records.



Jimmy Katz

Jazz pianist John Stetch.

City of Detroit marks tricentennial, welcomes *Batkivschyna*

DETROIT – The city of Detroit on July 19-22 celebrated its tricentennial, marking 300 years since the date when French explorer Marquis de Cadillac established the first permanent settlement on the banks of the Detroit River. The Ukrainian-American community played an active role in the weekend celebration by welcoming the Ukrainian tall ship *Batkivschyna* as part of a tall ships festival hosted by the American Sail Training Association (ASTA).

Despite oppressively hot and humid weather during much of the weekend, the Ukrainian schooner attracted thousands of revelers who toured the ship and helped raise thousands of dollars for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF).

On Thursday, July 19, the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich., hosted a special reception in honor of Capt. Dmitrii Birioukovitch and his crew. The reception also paid tribute to the many settlers of Ukrainian heritage who have made important contributions to the cultural life of Detroit and surrounding communities for more than a century.

The program chairman, Anatoli Murha, president of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, opened the evening by thanking Capt. Birioukovitch for his initiative and vision in embarking on his expedition to educate the world about Ukraine, its rich history and its struggle for freedom.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the vitality and cultural riches of our Ukrainian community in Michigan," said Mr. Murha. "We're especially proud of the role that the Detroit community has fulfilled in preserving the musical and cultural heritage of Ukraine, especially during those bleak decades when Ukrainian national consciousness was persecuted by the Soviet government."

Mr. Murha introduced Alexander Kuzma, executive director of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, which helped sponsor the *Batkivschyna's* Great Lakes Expedition that culminated in the Detroit 300 celebration. Mr. Kuzma thanked the Detroit community for helping CCRF to establish model hospital partnerships in Lviv, Poltava, Rivne, Dnipropetrovsk and other Ukrainian cities.

"Your generosity has improved remission rates for children with cancer and leukemia, and helped to reduce infant mortality by 50 percent or better in some of our partner hospitals," he said.

Mr. Kuzma also thanked the crew of the *Batkivschyna* for bringing the ship to Detroit as a goodwill ambassador for CCRF and its humanitarian mission. "You have come to Detroit not to mourn the fate of Ukraine's children, but to fight for their future," Mr. Kuzma underscored.

Among the special highlights of the program was a passionate address by May Beck, the long-time



Against the backdrop of the Detroit skyline, the Ukrainian schooner *Batkivschyna* arrives at its dock in Windsor, Ontario, following the Parade of Sail on July 22.

President of the Detroit City Council who helped bring the Ukrainian community into the mainstream of Detroit's social and economic life. Now in her 90s, Ms. Beck is greatly respected not only for her civic achievements, but for her role in promoting Ukrainian culture, as well as for turning Detroit into a mecca for Ukrainian immigrants after World War II.

Speaking eloquently and at times poetically, Ms. Beck awed many in the audience with her command of the Ukrainian language and her sweeping overview of Ukrainians' place in the history of Detroit and the world.

Another moving moment during the welcoming reception was a presentation by Lubomyr Hewko, a member of the Plast's Chornomortsi fraternity, who presented Capt. Birioukovitch with a commemorative book marking the 50th anniversary of Plast in Detroit. Mr. Hewko shared some of the history of the Chornomortsi fraternity, including the fact that Plast's Chornomortsi were authorized by the Ukrainian National Republic in exile to use the banner of the Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet. Today the fleet of independent Ukraine once again flies that historic banner.

The Ukrainian branch of the Detroit 300 Committee published thousands of copies of a commemorative booklet welcoming the *Batkivschyna* and highlighting the vitality of the Ukrainian community in Detroit.

Many of the region's Ukrainian organizations played an active role in supporting the *Batkivschyna's* mission. Among these were Ukrainian American Veterans Post 101, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Ukrainian Sports Club, Ukrainian Nurses' Association, the Ukrainian Future Credit Union, the Ukrainian Selfreliance Michigan Federal Credit Union, and the Michigan Chapter of CCRF.

(Continued on page 21)



Dr. Maria Baltarowich and Roma Dyhdalo, president of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund – Michigan Chapter, serve as volunteers during the Detroit 300 celebration aboard the Ukrainian schooner *Batkivschyna*.



Capt. Dmitrii Birioukovitch speaks during the welcoming ceremony.



The Revs. Mykola Slokotovich and Marian Procyk officiate during a prayer service.

Buffalo CCRF hosts Ukrainian schooner during July 4 holiday

by John Riszko

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The Buffalo Chapter of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) revitalized itself and the Ukrainian community in hosting the schooner *Batkivschyna* during the July 4 holiday. This successful event was a result of the dedication and hard work of the chapter's new directorate, a trio of young ladies – all recent graduates of the University at Buffalo – committed to alleviating the sufferings of the young victims of Chernobyl.

Inspired by a successful commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the 10th anniversary of the Buffalo Chapter of CCRF earlier this year, the young CCRF and community activists Olenka Bodnarskyj-Gunn (chapter president), Christina Paszkowsky and Laryssa Petryshyn were able to rally the Ukrainian community in the western New York region as well as in neighboring Ontario to support the *Batkivschyna's* appearance in Buffalo as part of the

(Continued on page 21)

Fleet's flagship hosts meeting between Plast group and Ukraine's naval officers

by Roma Hadzewycz

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine – A historic meeting and ceremony bringing together members of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and Ukraine's naval fleet took place here aboard the flagship of the Ukrainian Navy, the Hetman Sahaidachnyi, on August 19.

The event was a key component of a special tour of Ukraine, the Black Sea Journey (Chornomorskyi Reis) organized in August by the Black Sea fraternities and sororities of Plast active in both the diaspora and Ukraine. The tour was dubbed "Ahoy, Ukraine."

The meeting marked what is seen as the beginning of cooperative efforts and joint activities involving Plast, or more precisely its Chornomortsii fraternity, and Ukraine's naval forces.

According to Lubomyr Hewko, who as chairman of the Black Sea Council that encompasses the Chornomortsii fraternity and the Chornomorski Khvyli sorority has the title of Morskyi Vovk (Sea Wolf), the first contact between the youth organization and the navy actually took place several years ago when the Chornomortsii funded a prize for a graduate of the Naval Forces Institute officer training program. Presented to a graduate who wrote the best Ukrainian-language academic work, the prize is part of an effort to support the navy's Ukrainianization program.

The meeting aboard the Sahaidachnyi, as well as a subsequent meeting between leaders of the Chornomortsii and Ukrainian naval officers that took place a day later at the Sevastopol Hotel, focused on continuation of maritime traditions and cooperation in various spheres, among them publication of a book of naval terminology, preparation of a video on sea scouting, and promoting interest in both sea scouting and the naval forces.

Participating on behalf of Ukraine's naval forces were Capt. Orest Maruschak, assistant director of the Ukrainian Navy's education administration, and Lt. Vadim Gontcharenkow of the Hetman Sahaidachnyi. Also present was Lt. Commander Volodymyr Leschenko of the Slavutych, the Ukrainian fleet's command and control ship, which visited New York

(Continued on page 23)



Roma and Markian Hadzewycz

The flagship of the Ukrainian fleet, the Hetman Sahaidachnyi, docked at its home port of Sevastopol.



Chornomortsii tour participants and Ukrainian naval officers pose for a commemorative photograph on the frigate Hetman Sahaidachnyi.



Roksolana Rakovska (right) takes the oath of the Chornomorski Khvyli Plast sorority in a ceremony conducted by her sorority sisters, (from right) Ksenia Kolcio, Magda Kolcio and Olenka Kolodiy, on the aft deck of the Sahaidachnyi. Looking on are Ukrainian naval officers, members of the Chornomortsii Plast fraternity and tour participants.



Chornomortsii from the United States, England and Ukraine on the gangplank of the flagship of Ukraine's fleet.

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Russian Internet...

(Continued from page 2)

tial Internet publications as Strana.ru, Lenta.ru, Vesti (<http://www.vesti.ru>), and Gazeta.ru.

Mr. Brams said he believes that the inauguration of the Ukraine.ru website reflects Russia's increasing political interests in Ukraine and the Kremlin's intention to influence Ukraine's information sphere in the run-up to next year's parliamentary elections. He commented: "It is obvious that the Ukraine.ru project will vigorously participate in the division of money that will be spent by Ukrainian politicians and parties for advertising in the upcoming elections. There is no doubt that this informational project will be ... one of the most frequently visited websites devoted to Ukraine."

Mr. Brams added that in the first two days of its existence, the Ukraine.ru website already outdistanced Ukrayinska

Pravda, Ukraine's most popular website, in the number of website hits per day by some 10 to 30 percent.

Mr. Brams also argues that the Ukraine.ru website is primarily intended for Ukrainian users. He cites Russian Internet developer Anton Nosik to support his point:

"The newly created Ukraine.ru is hardly pursuing informational goals. The target audience of any Moscow media outlet that writes about Ukrainian matters is Ukrainian readers, not Russian ones. And the Russian media tell those Ukrainian readers: this is how the Kremlin is viewing Kuchma, your elections, candidates, Lazarenko and Tymoshenko. The stance of the Big Brother may be of interest for some people in Kyiv. As for Russian readers, if they suddenly become interested in Ukrainian topics, they will look for Ukrainian information resources, not for a 'look from Moscow.'"

Maplewood, N.J.

(Continued from page 8)

ute to the Ukrainian people for their courage in the struggle for freedom and independence of Ukraine."

The recipient of the Maple Leaf Award in 1993, Mr. Keybida accepted the proclamation and stated: "The Ukrainian American community in Maplewood is very grateful for the proclamation. I extend my personal thanks to all who have supported Ukraine's cry for freedom in this Town Hall during these past 36 years. Your generous endorsement of Ukraine's independence helped to bring to fruition the joyous freedom that 50 million Ukrainians are enjoying today."

At 9:30 a.m. on August 24 members of the Maplewood's Ukrainian American community met at Town Hall to commemorate the 10th anniversary of independence of Ukraine.

The Rev. Bohdan Lukie CSsR, pastor of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church of Newark, N.J., opened the ceremonies

Rockland County

(Continued from page 8)

short time in history. However, the fact that Ukraine survived for a decade shows how serious Ukrainians are about their independence. He said he sees this as a positive sign and as a prediction of a bright future for Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Similar thoughts were expressed by the County Legislator Dr. V.J. Pradham, who said he sees a similarity in the fight for freedom of his nation, the people of India, and of Ukrainians.

Theodore Dusanenko, charter member of the County Legislative, dwelled upon the meaning of Ukraine's independence to the third generation of American Ukrainians. He related how his parents, born in the United States, eagerly awaited the glorious day when Ukraine would renew its independence and how, shortly thereafter, both of them departed this world as if to say, "our work is finished here and it's time to move on."

At the end of the ceremonies Dr. Luchkiw thanked everyone, especially the Ukrainian community's guests, for helping commemorate this first truly Ukrainian jubilee. He separately thanked Rep. Gilman and the officers and members of the Ukrainian American Veterans of Rockland County for sponsoring these festivities.

The celebration was closed with a prayer.

with a prayer and asked God's blessings for the people of Ukraine who are enjoying the freedom regained 10 years ago.

"Today on August 24, 2001," the Rev. Luckie said, "we happily celebrate the 10th anniversary of this glorious dream. Ukraine is now a young democracy, struggling painfully to grow to maturity. It looks enviously to America, the land of the free and the brave, wishing that some day, some day soon, Ukraine will fully share all the wonderful ideals of a totally democratic country."

Mayor Deluca greeted over 60 community leaders and friends, many of them in traditional Ukrainian attire, and stated that he was happy to sign and read the proclamation commemorating the 10th anniversary of modern Ukraine.

After accepting the proclamation from the mayor, Mr. Keybida reviewed Ukraine's conditions prior to the declaration of independence on August 24, 1991, and underscored that he envisions a bright future for the country.

The delegation proceeded outdoors with the Ukrainian flag to participate in a flag-raising ceremony. During the solemn moment when Mayor Deluca hoisted the American and Ukrainian flags, the assembled sang the national anthems of the United States and Ukraine.

Saskatoon

(Continued from page 9)

Provincial media coverage of the celebration was provided by CBC radio and CTV television. The Saskatoon StarPhoenix acknowledged the event with a large color photograph and a page 3 write-up in Monday's paper, which quoted 10th Anniversary Committee Chairman Larry Trischuk as saying: "It's quite an important event for a lot of people, whether they're Canadian-born or whether their parents or grandparents came from Ukraine... I think what it does is provide a sense of identity."

The concert participants (in order of appearance) were: the Pavlychenko dancers, Lastivka choir, Trembita youth band, Yevshan dancers, musicians Don Sovyn and Mark Klopoushak (tsymbaly and guitar), Ukrainian Dance School, Veselka Singers of Prince Albert, Rushnychok dancers, Trischuk Family fiddlers, Barvinok Dancers of Prince Albert, Saskatoon School of Dance, tsymbaly player Matthew Gruza, Prince Albert Ukrainian Singers, poet Valeri Zinchuk, bandurist Tania Makuch, Vesnianka dancers and the Nahachewsky Family, violinists and humorists.

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Chicago proud of its chamber orchestra



Mariyana Zajac

Seen at a reception following a concert of the Ukrainian Artistic Chamber Orchestra are (from left): conductor Zeonid Modryzkyj, Ukraine's Chicago Consul Ludmila Protasova, baritone Bohdan Kosopud and violinist Daria Horodysky.

by Orysia Antonovych

CHICAGO – Ukrainians in Chicago are very pleased to have a professional chamber orchestra whose main objective is to promote the Ukrainian musical heritage in the context of world culture. Its founder and conductor is Zeonid Modryzkyj.

Mr. Modryzkyj was born in Drohobych, Ukraine. There he completed his studies at the Faculty of Music at Ivan Franko Pedagogical University. From there he went to Lviv to study at the Lysenko Conservatory, where he specialized in conducting for opera and symphony.

After working at the Theater of Music and Drama in Drohobych and at the Lviv Opera, he worked as an intern in the Shevchenko National Theater of Opera and Ballet in Kyiv for two years.

Mr. Modryzkyj came to the United States in 1994 and three years later founded the Ukrainian Artistic Center Chamber Orchestra. This orchestra has performed with Polish opera productions and at various community events.

The recent concert at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art on Saturday, June 30, verified the high caliber of this orchestra. Writer and critic Alexandra Mudry thanked the orchestra, wishing them continued success, and pointed out the invaluable contributions the new immigrants are making in the arts.

Among the examples she recalled was the Bohdan Lepkyi concert at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Auditorium in which the main participants were members from the new Blahovist choir, whose artistic director and conductor was Olesia Konyk-Kozak from Lviv. (The new conductor of this excellent choir, known for its church music, is Olena Novyk who studied choir conducting in Kyiv).

Another example cited by the speaker was a concert in memory of Volodymyr Ivasiuk at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. This concert was organized by Olha Vynnychuk, a dramatic soprano who knew Ivasiuk personally, and who brought together the most talented new immigrants from Ukraine to honor the

martyred composer.

At the reception following the Ukrainian Artistic Center Chamber Orchestra's concert, Ludmila Protasova, Ukraine's consul in Chiago, expressed her enthusiastic hopes that the orchestra will continue to thrive.

The program, which was made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, included music of W.A. Mozart, J. Benda, J. Kyshakevich, M. Kolessa, Kh. Hliuk, M. Leontovych, V. Barvinsky and M. Skoryk. The guest pianist was Gene Schlabach, and the vocalist was baritone Bohdan Kosopud.

The orchestra is composed of: Olena Hirna, Yaroslav Rudnytsky, Vera Khytra, Daria Horodysky, Ester Mytkovetska, Tania Butkovska, violins; Andrey Vasylenko, Taras Mysiv, violas; Yurii Jatsynych, cello; Anatoliy Khavkin contrabass; Ihor Palamar, oboe; Myron Bohun, bassoon; and Yevhen Kopach, Vasyl Yakovchuk, horns.

The members of this orchestra are selected from among the most talented musicians, many of whom have performed with the Lviv Philharmonic.

There is a large influx to Chicago of artists from Ukraine, and it is often difficult for newcomers to find an appropriate forum for their talents. Mr. Modryzkyj deserves great credit for undertaking the task of creating an orchestra in which accomplished musicians get exposure. They also have an opportunity to work in a milieu where they can nourish their talent.

It is hoped that this talent will receive financial support from foundations, businesses and individual benefactors. The major sponsors for the June 30 concert were Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union and 1st Security Federal Savings Bank.

The Ukrainian Artistic Center Chamber Orchestra was featured in August as part of Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations in and around Chicago.

For information regarding the chamber orchestra, call Mr. Modryzkyj at (773) 342-0436 or (847) 502-1496.



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В четвер, 4 жовтня 2001 р.

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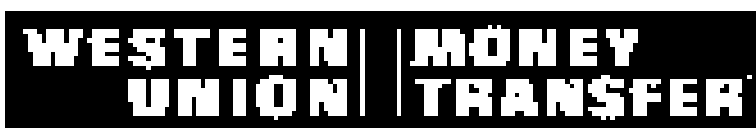
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Floridians support Iowa State U. exchange program

AMES, Iowa – Thanks to the support of the Ukrainian American community of Venice/North Port, Fla., a long tradition of student exchange between Ukraine and the United States can continue.

Iowa State University has exchanged more than 400 faculty and students with universities and high schools in Ukraine since the 1980s. The majority of the participants have been Ukrainian faculty and students involved in programs in U.S. high schools and universities. These exchanges have focused on agriculture, forestry, food safety, the environment and journalism.

ISU recently completed several U.S.-Ukraine exchange projects supported by the U.S. government. Now, in order to maintain a high level of exchange activity, ISU has turning to private donors for support. ISU extended thanks to Dr. Michael and Roxolana Yarymovych, Dr. Michael and Ivanna Jean Holowaty,

Wasył and Veronica Bardysch, Bohdana Bilowchtchuk, Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak, Julian and Yara Helbig, Tekla Kruk and Irene Levy-Roll, Joseph and Mary Lesawyer and Jerry and Irena Zynycz.

The Ukrainian American community of Venice/North Port responded generously in helping ISU reach its annual goal of \$20,000 by contributing \$11,300 towards that goal in June and July. However, more donations are needed.

For further information on the Ukraine-American Exchange Program operated by ISU, please contact Dr. David Acker, Assistant Dean, 104 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011-1050; or Stefan Dwojak, 5054 Southern Pine Circle, Venice, Fla. 34293-4259, telephone; (941) 493-6318. (Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak have been supporting the exchange for six years).

Ukrainian Gift of Life celebrates anniversary

ORADELL, N.J. – Trustees, advisory board members, volunteers and benefactors celebrated the fourth anniversary of Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc. (UGOL) here at the historic Blauvelt Mansion. Also in attendance were Iryna Boretsky and her 2-year-old son, Vitaly, one of 63 children brought to America for heart surgery through the organization's efforts.

The guest speaker, Ukraine's vice-consul in New York City, George Shevchenko, expressed his personal gratitude and that of all Ukrainian people for the UGOL's "generous and charitable work for the children of Ukraine." He underscored that without this program children like Vitaly would die because of current economic conditions in Ukraine. Although there is a continuing need to bring children with complex defects to the United States, he noted that the organization's aid for surgeries that can be done in Ukraine comes at a time when Ukraine needs assistance to administer care to its people.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was welcomed as a new member of the advisory board of Ukrainian Gift of Life. UGOL President George Kuzma related the archbishop's personal support for the "Operation Child Cardio-Care" (OCCC) program that permits people of the diaspora to sponsor surgeries that have had a high success rate performed by competent medical professionals in Ukraine.

"So many people were generous to me when I was appointed metropolitan, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share this generosity with a child who is in need," explained Archbishop Soroka. With those words, he personally donated \$1000 to purchase the consumables for the surgery in Ukraine of a child with a congenital heart defect.

Like the 25 other individuals, and church and school groups that have sponsored children since January 2000, Archbishop Soroka will receive the name of a specific child (at least 30 children are awaiting such an opportunity at any given time). Photographs of the child, letters from the child's family and information from the hospital (e.g., diagnosis, scheduled date of surgery and ongoing reports) will follow.

UGOL's newly initiated Heart and Spirit Award (a decorative wooden plate, hand-carved in Ukraine, with an appropriately inscribed metal plate) was presented to some of those who had demonstrated exceptional support for the organization's mission to facilitate and accelerate self-sufficiency in the area of pedi-

atric cardiology in Ukraine.

Among the award recipients were Hal and Judy Kawalek, who hosted several children and their mothers in America and also sponsored a child's surgery in Ukraine, bestowing the \$1,000 to each other as a Christmas gift in the midst of their own health and financial problems.

Other recipients were Lydia Welyczkowski, who introduced seven new translators to the list of volunteers; David Breen, who donated the cost of reproducing diagnostic videos and 1,000 copies of a WB11 documentary about UGOL; David and Lyne Feeney, who opened their homes for production of the video while they hosted the featured child; Peter Tymchenko, who secured equipment needed at the surgical hospital in Lviv; and Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y., and St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia, for support of OCCC.

All who attended received a copy of the documentary, "Journey to Heal a Child's Heart," the story of Ukrainian Gift of Life. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the documentary for viewing by potential OCCC sponsors or in making a tax-deductible contribution to UGOL may contact: Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc., 233 Rock Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452; telephone, (201) 652-4762; e-mail, ugolinc@aol.com.

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Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

Even while some supporters of the bill conceded the argument had merit, there was a consensus among them that the real reason for Communist opposition was tied to a general belief that the bill was designed to support and encourage relations with the Western diaspora.

"The Communists were against it from the very beginning, primarily because of their anti-Western attitude and their perception that the bill was developed for the Western diaspora," explained National Deputy Mykhailo Ratushnyi, who voted for passage.

Even today the Western diaspora remains for many Communists nothing more than the "bourgeois nationalists" and the "traitors" propagated for decades by the Soviet regime.

Mr. Ratushnyi said that in reality the bill would not have benefited the Eastern diaspora, Ukrainians in Russia and Kazakstan, who are in closer geographic proximity to Ukraine and more closely tied to the country.

"The point was to allow them to return to Ukraine once a year for 120 days to visit their family and friends," said Mr. Ratushnyi.

National democratic parliamentarians who supported the bill but doubted whether it could have passed constitutional muster explained that it contradicted the basic law with regard to the definitions of a Ukrainian citizen and a foreigner, and their respective rights.

"I voted in support of the draft law even though it is in conflict with the Constitution on certain points," said National Deputy Roman Zvarych, who was born in New York, but gave up his U.S. citizenship some years ago in favor of a Ukrainian one.

Mr. Zvarych said the Constitution clearly states that a Ukrainian is a person residing on the lands of Ukraine. It also clearly states the rights of a Ukrainian and does not extend them to foreigners. He said, however, that he understands and agrees with the premise that historical wrongs must be corrected

and a means must be identified to do this.

"There were those who were historically forced to leave Ukraine for any number of reasons, including my parents," explained Mr. Zvarych. "We need to find a mechanism to recognize this and to right this wrong."

He criticized the authors of the rejected bill for not clearly identifying and developing the legal basis for the draft law.

"If the point is to allow certain foreign nationals easier access to Ukraine, then the bill becomes discriminatory in favor of a specific group of foreigners," said Mr. Zvarych.

He explained that at the heart of the matter is a question that Ukrainians in the diaspora need to ask themselves: whether they are Ukrainians or Americans and Canadians of Ukrainian extraction.

"If they feel they are Ukrainians, then why don't they return to live here?" queried the U.S.-born, Ukrainian national deputy.

Mr. Ostash, the author of the bill, explained in an interview the day before the vote that he believed the law is needed to stimulate travel by diaspora members to Ukraine; to instill in students of Ukrainian heritage a desire and give them a way to study in Ukraine, or at least take part in student exchanges; and to make it easier for ethnic Ukrainians abroad to strengthen entrepreneurial contacts and make business investments as well as philanthropic contributions.

He said the draft law was developed with the help of diaspora leaders, as well as Mykhailo Horyn, chairman of the World Coordinating Council of Ukrainians, Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress and Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak, chairman of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia.

National Deputy Ratushnyi said he believes the bill, which cannot be resubmitted to the legislative body until the next session, will be reworked and reintroduced with similar content during the next session of the Verkhovna Rada.

The Board of Directors and the Memorial Committee of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center cordially invite you to attend

the Dedication of the Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery

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An open letter...

(Continued from page 3)

Where did Mykhailo Boichyshyn, a leader of the Rukh Party, disappear?

Who murdered member of Parliament Vadym Hetman?

What really happened to Vyacheslav Chornovil?

Who murdered Ihor Aleksandrov?

Who destroyed Heorhii Gongadze?

I am convinced that I am asking these questions of the right person. You, as the president, are responsible for the situation in the country and for how officials whom you appoint perform their duties.

You, Leonid Kuchma, as the President of Ukraine, carry the responsibility for the existence of corruption, fear and the manipulation of the government in

Ukraine. You are responsible for a system that allows journalists to be murdered. Until the investigations of crimes against journalists and politicians in Ukraine are complete and the truth established, the Ukrainian government will not be able to call itself democratic and Ukraine cannot be considered a stable European country where human rights and freedom of the press are respected.

You, the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma, carry the responsibility for the future of this country in the eyes of every one of its 50 million inhabitants, in the eyes of millions of Ukrainians living overseas and in the eyes of the world.

Myroslava Gongadze
September 12, 2001
Washington

UNA-UNSO...

(Continued from page 3)

attempts to discredit his organization.

"For several years now disinformation has been thrown about regarding our organization to scare the population," explained Mr. Tyma, who is a former national deputy. "It could be our political competition or government structures that are responsible."

Mr. Tyma explained that he had even read reports in the Russian press recently that the UNA-UNSO was involved in the bombings of apartment buildings in Moscow several years ago, which the story used as a pretense for considering the organization's possible involvement in the U.S. terrorist acts.

"We have never supported actions where peace loving people are affected or

killed. This was true in Abkhazia and the Transdnier. Only sick people do such things," said Mr. Tyma.

Mr. Tyma is a leader of an organization that has a limited but very dedicated and disciplined membership, mostly youths. The organization espouses a nationalistic pan-Ukrainian ideology, but it also has lent active support to separatist and nationalist movements in the Abkhazia region of Georgia and the Transdnier conflict of Moldova, and is said by some to be actively supporting the Chechen rebellion in Russia.

Nineteen of its members, including its leader, Andrii Shkil, were arrested shortly after bloody altercations between state militia and demonstrators in Kyiv on March 9 and charged with "provoking mass unrest." Their trials are scheduled to begin the week of November 1.

The National Board of Selfreliance Association of American Ukrainians Inc.

with all its branches and members,
expresses deep shock and profound sorrow
at the deaths of countless innocent people
in the United States, who were murdered
in a series of cowardly terrorist attacks.

We share the heavy sorrow
of President George W. Bush,
the American people
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Bohdan Mychajliw, President
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Buffalo CCRF...

(Continued from page 12)

area's annual Friendship Festival that celebrates the friendship of Americans and Canadians.

On July 3 the Batkivschyna navigated the Welland Canal, which unites Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, and sailed into the Buffalo harbor, where it was welcomed by the historic century-old Buffalo fireboat the Edward M. Cotter. The Ukrainian ship docked at the Erie Basin Marina in the heart of downtown Buffalo.

In the evening hundreds of onlookers witnessed the formal Ukrainian welcoming ceremony. Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic priests prayed for the welfare of the Batkivschyna crew; community and civic leaders welcomed all of the participants; children and students in Ukrainian dress recited poems and sang songs all in praise of the noble efforts undertaken by the Batkivschyna's captain and crew to help relieve the horrific consequences of Chernobyl.

One honored guest at the welcoming ceremony was Lt. Gen. Whitley of the U.S. Coast Guard, who with the able assistance of Yuriy Hreshchyshyn, a CCRF chapter member, was responsible for arranging Batkivschyna's entry into the Buffalo harbor.

That evening the Dnipro Ukrainian Home hosted the crew of the Batkivschyna with a very traditional and hearty Ukrainian celebration.

July 4 was the day of the Friendship Festival and the Ukrainian schooner was the main attraction. Due to a well planned and effective PR blitz – the event was covered by all major media in the Buffalo area – the turnout exceeded all expectations.

Tents lined the knoll around the dock where members of the community's

Ukrainian civic and religious organizations sold home-made Ukrainian food, Ukrainian arts and crafts, and the now famous Batkivschyna t-shirts.

The festival stage featured a multicultural program organized by the Buffalo Chapter displaying the talents of Buffalo's varied ethnic groups. Most prominent in the program were the Ukrainian Chaika Dancers of Hamilton, Ontario, the Dunai Dance Group from St. Catharines, Ontario and the Zoloti Struny Bandura Group from Rochester, N.Y.

It was a memorable experience for all who attended. The work of the organizers resulted in a successful event that not only created a great sense of achievement and solidarity for the workers and participants, but also fostered a sense of pride and accomplishment for the Buffalo chapter of the CCRF as it raised \$7,000 for the children of Chernobyl.

City of Detroit...

(Continued from page 12)

On Sunday, July 22, the Batkivschyna took part in the official Parade of Sail featuring over 20 ships from around the world that created a colorful flotilla stretching from Wyandotte to Belle Isle. Earlier in the week, the Ukrainian schooner docked on the Canadian side of the Detroit River in Windsor, Ontario's, picturesque Dieppe Park, where it drew thousands of tourists from both sides of the border.

From Detroit, the Batkivschyna continued its expedition to Bay City and Muskegon, Mich. The schooner was scheduled to visit Milwaukee and Chicago to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's Independence at the end of August.



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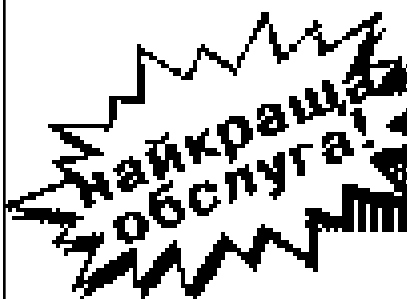


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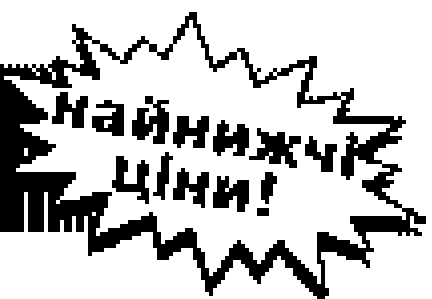
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Fleet's flagship...

(Continued from page 13)

last year to participate in the International Naval Review 2000.

Mr. Hewko described the meetings as a "cordial, held in a Ukrainian atmosphere and with Ukrainianization in full view."

The August 19 event also a historic first as it occurred aboard the flagship of the Ukrainian Navy and included a special induction ceremony for a Lviv member of the Chornomorski Khvyli sorority, Roksolana Rakovskiyi.

At an informal reception in the captain's dining room, Mr. Hewko spoke of the work of the Black Sea units of Plast and, along with Nestor Kolcio, who heads the senior fraternity of Chornomortsi, presented emblems of the Chornomortsi, their sister unit, the Chornomorski Khvyli, and the Plast sea scouting insignia to the Ukrainian Navy.

Also presented was information about Plast and its sea scouting component, including a 50th anniversary Plast jubilee book from Detroit that contains a special section about the activity of the Chornomortsi and a 1967 issue of the Plast youth magazine Yunak, whose cover bears an illustration of a Ukrainian ship called the Sahaidachnyi and whose contents are devoted to sea scouting.

Ukrainian officers presented the Plast members with a framed photograph of the Hetman Sahaidachnyi bearing a special dedication to Ukrainian scouts, and copies of the magazine of Ukraine's naval forces.

Mr. Hewko explained to the Plast delegation's hosts that the Chornomortsi

were authorized by the President of the Ukrainian National Republic in exile, Andrii Livytskyi, to fly the flag of the Ukrainian fleet at the time of Ukraine's domination by the USSR. That same flag, he noted, today flies on the ships of independent Ukraine's Navy.

The Black Sea Journey took its 25 tour participants also to Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets-Podilskyi, Khersones, Kyiv and many points in between as the group traveled through the countryside by bus.

A special stopover was in Bilohorscha, the town in western Ukraine where Gen. Roman Shukhevych, supreme commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), met his death. Today the site is marked by a memorial plaque on the house in which Shukhevych was living at the time and a nearby monument. During a brief ceremony at the monument, the Plast members paid tribute to Shukhevych, who was a member of Plast and its Chornomortsi fraternity, and was known by the pseudonym "Shukh."

In addition, the Plast delegation visited the Sokil Plast camp in the Carpathian mountains and the site of Morskyi Tabir 2001, an island in the Dnipro River 15 kilometers north of Kyiv, where the Chornomortsi and Chornomorski Khvyli held a conference with their Ukrainian counterparts.

The "Ahoj, Ukraine" tour also took in the Kyiv festivities associated with Ukraine's 10th anniversary of independence, most notably the parade down the Khreschatyk, during which tour members met up with Plast members from various parts of Ukraine in order to view the ceremonies together.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, September 28

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), New York Metro Chapter, announces that a general membership meeting scheduled for Friday, September 28, 6 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America will be cancelled and rescheduled. A future date will be announced.

Saturday, September 29

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society will hold a presentation of two recently published books of Ukrainian poetry in translation, with Prof. Michael M. Naydan, department of Slavic and East European languages, Pennsylvania State University, co-editor, with Olha Luchuk, and co-translator of the volume "A Hundred Years of Youth: A Bilingual Anthology of 20th Century Ukrainian Poetry (Lviv: Litopys Publishers, 2000), and translator of a new collection of Lina Kostenko's poetry titled "Landscapes from Memory," a bilingual edition edited by Ms. Luchuk. Both texts will be available for sale as part of the book launch. The presentation will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For more information call (212) 254-5130.

WASHINGTON: "American Light 2001," an exhibition of recent oil paintings by artist Andrei Kushnir, will open with a gala reception (black tie optional) at 6-9 p.m. at Taylor & Sons Fine Art, 660 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, and continue until November 3. The centerpiece of the exhibit is "Sky Meadows," the cover subject of a fully illustrated color catalogue accompanying the show. Exhibit hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sundays. For more information call (202) 546-0021.

Saturday-Sunday, October 6-7

CLEVELAND: Plast's adult scouts ("starshi plastuny" or "STPs") will hold a jamboree at the Pysanyi Kamin campgrounds in Middlefield, Ohio. The jamboree is for all STP members. Topics of discussion will include the election of a new head; role of STPs within Plast, fraternities/sororities and branches; communications via e-mail; website; as well as camps and other activities for STPs. Cost for the weekend: \$40. For more information and registration contact Taras Toporowych via phone, (440) 503-1414, or e-mail, tarastop@hotmail.com.

Sunday, October 7

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago is hosting a benefit banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W Chicago Ave., at 1 p.m. Donation per person: \$75; senior citizens, \$50. The keynote speaker will be Marta Zielyk, senior diplomatic interpreter, U.S. Department of State. The banquet will begin the fund-raising campaign for the museum expansion at 721 North Oakley Blvd. For more information call (312) 421-8020 Thursday through Sunday.

WOLFEBORO, N.H.: A benefit concert for "Children and Music: The Natalia Khoma Fund in Memory of Wolodymyr Czyzyk," featuring co-directors of the Winnepesaukee Music Festival and Winnepesaukee Chamber Players Peter Krysa, violin, and Rachel Lewis Krysa, cello; Ms. Khoma, cello; and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano; in a program of works by Handel, Beethoven and Brahms. The concert will be held at the Moody Mountain Farm at 3 p.m. The fund was formed last year with the aim of supporting talented young musicians in Lviv, Ukraine. For more information call (603) 569-1440.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

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

The Weekly's collection of materials about the Great Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at www.ukrweekly.com, the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.