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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Central Election Commission cancels registration of 110 candidates for Rada

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Central Election Commission (CEC) on March 15 canceled the registration of 110 candidates in the March 31 Verkhovna Rada elections after Ukrainian tax officials submitted information on improprieties in their financial declarations.

The decision most intensely affected the Party of Greens of Ukraine, 31 members of which are no longer parliamentary candidates, the All-Ukrainian Political Union Fairness, which had 22 members removed, and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which had 18 candidacies nullified by the CEC decision. The Yabluko Party also took a direct hit, with the CEC throwing its leader, Mykhailo Brodskyi, and second-in-command, Viktor Chaika, out of the race.

The move by the CEC came several weeks after the exclusion of Crimean Parliamentary Chairman Leonid Hrach by order of a Crimean district court from local elections to the Crimean Parliament. The court said the well-known Communist politician had failed to fully declare his assets, including an apartment he owns. However, this is the first time the CEC has taken a stand on improper financial reporting.

Mr. Brodskyi said the move by the CEC was illegal and politically charged. "The CEC has no right to cancel the registrations of candidates," explained Mr.

Brodskyi. "Mr. Riabets (chairman of the CEC) either forgot to read the law or he is ignoring it."

Mr. Brodskyi said he would appeal to the Supreme Court of Ukraine, where he expected to win his case.

CEC Chairman Mykhailo Riabets defended the decision, stating that it was made on the basis of objective analysis of the information provided. He said that if the various candidates could provide documentation showing that their financial declarations were forthright and honest, their candidacies could be renewed.

At the center of the allegations against Mr. Brodskyi is an undeclared 177,000 hrv investment in a private company and the purchase of an automobile. Mr. Chaika is accused of failing to declare a 188,000 hrv investment.

Vasyl Odarych, a Yabluko party member, defended his colleagues at a press conference and explained that the Chevrolet automobile was purchased 29 days after the party submitted the financial declarations of its candidates and, therefore, could not have been counted as part of anybody's assets at the time of the filing.

Mr. Chaika added that the other charges came as a result of peculiarities in the way the financial reports are designed and the failure of the CEC to help the candidates make sure they filled out the applications properly.

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## Both houses of U.S. Congress pass resolution urging fair and transparent elections in Ukraine

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives and the Senate, acting on March 20 and 21, passed resolutions urging the government of Ukraine to "enforce impartially" its law on elections of national deputies of Ukraine and "meet its commitments on democratic elections."

The companion resolutions also called on Ukraine to "address issues identified by the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] in its final report on the 1999 presidential election, such as state interference in the campaign and pressure on the media" and to "allow election monitors from the ODIHR, other participating OSCE states, and foreign and domestic private institutions and organizations full access to all aspects of the parliamentary election process."

Senate Resolution 205 was unanimously approved late on Wednesday, March 20. The measure was sponsored by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.); co-sponsors in the Senate were Sam Brownback (R-Kansas), Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.).

The House acted a day earlier, passing the House Resolution 339 by a vote of 408-1. The resolution was introduced by Louise M. Slaughter (D-N.Y.), along with Reps. Joseph Hoefel (D-Pa.) and Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), and had more than 30 co-sponsors.

Addressing his colleagues, Sen.

Campbell stated:

"As of today, with less than two weeks left before the elections, it remains an open question as to whether the elections will be a step forward for Ukraine. Despite considerable international attention, there are credible reports of various abuses and violations of the election law, including candidates refused access to media, the unlawful use of public funds and facilities, and government pressure on certain political parties, candidates and media outlets, and a pro-government bias in the public media.

"Ukraine's success as an independent, democratic, economically successful state is vital to stability and security and Europe, and Ukraine has, over the last decade, enjoyed a strong relationship with the United States. This positive relationship, however, has been increasingly tested in the last few years because of pervasive levels of corruption in Ukraine and the still-unresolved case of murdered investigative journalist Heorhii Gongadze and other issues which call into question the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to the rule of law and respect of human rights."

Rep. Christopher J. Smith (R-N.J.), co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, explained the reason for this congressional interest in Ukraine: "An independent, democratic and economically stable Ukraine is vital to the well-being of all Ukrainians to the stability and security of Europe; and we

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## First annual Summit of Ukrainian Organizations opens dialogue on engaging today's youth

by Andrew Nynka

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — The creators of the inaugural Summit of Ukrainian American Organizations readily admit the idea started small — an informal discussion with today's youth, on engaging today's youth, over pizza and soda. The resultant brain trust, held March 15-17, however, attracted over 60 leading diaspora representatives and activists to the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort and set the stage for future discussions and cooperation.

Although the summit concluded without a sweeping initiative or distinct solution regarding the topic of engaging today's "youth" — a term conference participants jokingly agreed should be interpreted liberally — Andriy Wowk, national president of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) and event co-organizer, called it "completely satisfying" and said the event "should be repeated in other major diaspora hotbeds such as Detroit and Cleveland."

"A meaningful dialogue has been started," said Marco Shmerykowsky, national vice-president for UESA and co-organizer of this year's summit held in New York state's Catskill Mountains.

"We're walking away with a better understanding of the successes and failures various organizations have had in engaging the younger generations in our dias-

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Participants of the morning session exchange ideas on the topic of "Our Organizations Today."

Andriy Wowk

## ANALYSIS

## U.S. steps up its pressure on Ukraine to hold free elections

by **Taras Kuzio**  
RFE/RL Newswire

The visits to Ukraine last month by Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky and former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who now chairs the National Democratic Institute (NDI), coupled with the NDI report that emerged from Dr. Albright's mission and two new resolutions introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, reflect increasing U.S. concern at the direction in which Ukraine is heading.

Orest Deychakiwsky, an adviser at the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, said, "They all point to strong manifestations of U.S. concerns about the upcoming elections, as these will be an important indication of whether Ukraine moves forward in its democratic development and integration into Europe."

There are four main reasons for the present U.S. concern over Ukraine. First, both U.S. and Russian leaders believe that Ukraine's independence is now secured, and support for the "Belarusian option" is confined to only the extreme left. A January report by the Polish Eastern Studies Center concurred, concluding that no "serious political groups" are likely to emerge in Ukraine to clamor for union with Russia.

Ukraine's leaders, therefore, can no longer blackmail the West by talking of the threat of "Russian imperialism." Consequently, the West has more leverage over Ukraine in criticizing its domestic poli-

cies when those policies are incompatible with its declared goals of "returning to Europe." At the same time, the Ukrainian leadership has less room to maneuver by playing off the West against Russia to extract the maximum advantage from both sides, as it repeatedly did in the 1990s.

U.S. criticism of Ukrainian domestic policies does not signify, as Ukrainian leaders mistakenly believe, that the United States no longer sees Ukraine as strategically important. Nevertheless, the U.S.-Ukraine "strategic partnership" remains more declaratory than real – and of more importance to Ukraine than the United States. In 2000 the United States accounted for only 5.8 percent of Ukrainian exports and 2.5 percent of imports.

Secondly, Western views on human rights, press freedom and corruption in Ukraine have changed for the worse since the late 1990s. A major irritant is the Soviet-style discrepancy between official rhetoric and actual policies. This view has gone so far that, in private, U.S. officials sometimes describe Ukraine as "Kuchmastan." The Center for Peace, Conversion and Foreign Policy, a Kyiv think-tank, concluded in a January paper that the new U.S. administration "has no more faith in the assurances and declarations of Ukrainian officials about their commitment to democratic values and European integration."

U.S. assistance to Ukraine this year requires that the State Department submit to Congress within 60 days of the enactment

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## Ukraine begins looking to the post-Kuchma era

by **Taras Kuzio**  
RFE/RL Newswire

Ukraine is experiencing a "crisis of power," the country's popular former prime minister, Viktor Yushchenko, recently said. And nowhere is this more evident than in how Ukraine's elites are already thinking of how the post-Kuchma era, which begins in November 2004, will look like and what their role in it will be.

The oligarchs are conscious of the fact that President Leonid Kuchma's power has declined since 2000 and that their positions and often ill-gotten gains may not be secure in the post-Kuchma era. As the respected weekly *Zerkalo Nedeli/Dzerkalo Tyzhnia* wrote on December 29, 2001, far fewer businessmen and politicians are "willing to get closer to him," while many of them "are trying to play it safe" by "diversifying their political stakes like they diversify business investments."

There are growing signs that businessmen, such as Oleksii Kucherenko Zaporizhia Oblast chairman and former head of Intergaz, are tacitly or covertly supporting Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine. Those members of Ukraine's elites, such as former Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, who are unhappy with Kuchma now have in Mr. Yushchenko a strong alternative candidate who is patriotic, reformist and moderate.

Mr. Yushchenko is always diplomatic in his interviews when referring to President

Kuchma or Ukraine's other oligarchs, except when referring to the former first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Viktor Medvedchuk, whom he does not see as working for the "good of the state." The only oligarch group that is irrevocably hostile to Mr. Yushchenko is the Social Democratic Party (United) [SDPU].

Although it is frequently assumed that the executive and oligarchs are allies, the reality is more complex. While the two sides need each other, the relationship is characterized more by distrust and instability. Since 1997 President Kuchma's mistrust of all outsiders, apart from his family, has grown; it is a pattern similar to the situation late in Boris Yeltsin's presidential era in Russia. During the Kuchmagate scandal, Mr. Kuchma complained that none of Ukraine's elite groups supported him during the five months (November 2000-March 2001) when his position was in danger.

Although no oligarch group has ever been accused of backing what Mr. Kuchma describes as this "provocation," only an oligarch group could have had the resources and motives to undertake such action, possibly with the external support of Russia. Of Ukraine's oligarch groups, the finger has been increasingly pointed at the SDPU.

An example of the instability of the current system is how oligarchs' groups are used and then discarded by the executive if they outlive their usefulness. Two recent examples are the destruction of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's Hromada in 1998-1999 and the SDPU's recent falling out of favor.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Shevchenko statue unveiled in Warsaw

WARSAW – The foreign ministers of Poland and Ukraine, respectively, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz and Anatolii Zlenko, unveiled a statue of Ukrainian national poet Taras Shevchenko in Warsaw on March 13, PAP reported. The statue by Ukrainian sculptor Anatolii Kuscha stands on the square bearing the poet's name near the former presidential Belweder Palace. A metal plaque on the plinth carries a line from Shevchenko in both Polish and Ukrainian: "Pole, brother, give me your hand, give me a place in your heart, and we will regain our happiness, in the name of Christ, a quiet Eden!" (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Kuchma sees his bloc in control

KYIV – Leonid Kuchma said on March 19 that he believes a parliamentary majority in the new Verkhovna Rada will be created around the For a United Ukraine election bloc led by presidential administration chief Volodymyr Lytvyn, UNIAN reported. "I do not see any other political force around which a majority could be created in the future Parliament, regardless of whether someone likes this or not," Mr. Kuchma noted. He said the state should be run by professionals, adding that "the time when the state was governed by female cooks has passed." The president also voiced the need for amending the law on political parties in order to prevent their "cloning" and noted that "having 140 parties in the country is an absurdity." He also spoke in favor of introducing a higher voting barrier – around 7 percent – for blocs of parties seeking parliamentary mandates. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Symonenko warns of Kuchma majority

KYIV – In an election campaign broadcast on Ukrainian Radio on March 13, Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko told viewers that authorities want to create a pro-presidential majority of at least 300 deputies in the Verkhovna Rada by using administrative resources and vote rigging in the March 31 ballot. This majority, according to Mr. Symonenko, is expected to amend the Constitution in order to allow President Leonid Kuchma to remain in office for a third term, "or perhaps for a lifetime." Mr. Symonenko also suggested the existence of a sinister plan under which Ukraine is to be divided into three parts "in line with [former U.S. National Security Adviser Zbigniew] Brzezinski's instructions": right-bank Ukraine run by Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc,

left-bank Ukraine "influenced" by the pro-Kuchma For a United Ukraine bloc, and Crimea. Mr. Symonenko did not divulge who would run Crimea, but added that "extremist-minded elements in Crimea among the Crimean Tatar population are being used by Our Ukraine to stir up society." (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Yushchenko cites Russian interference

IVANO-FRANKIVSK – Our Ukraine election bloc leader Viktor Yushchenko said on March 19 on local radio and television in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast that the statements of some Russian officials are "unfriendly" and constitute "direct interference in Ukraine's internal affairs and electoral process," UNIAN reported on March 20. Mr. Yushchenko was apparently referring to a recent pronouncement by Russian presidential administration chief Aleksander Voloshyn, who reportedly said that For a United Ukraine, the Social Democratic Party (United), and the Communist Party of Ukraine are the blocs that promote strengthening Russian-Ukrainian relations. "Unfortunately, [Our Ukraine] includes political forces that have overtly anti-Russian positions," UNIAN quoted Mr. Voloshyn as saying. Mr. Yushchenko stressed that Our Ukraine is not a radical bloc and does not harbor anti-Russian sentiments. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Activist cites anti-Western hysteria

KYIV – Roman Bezsmertnyi, a political coordinator of the Our Ukraine bloc, has said some Russian politicians and spin doctors are trying to influence the election campaign in Ukraine by provoking anti-Western sentiment, UNIAN reported on March 20, quoting the Our Ukraine press service. "They have steered toward stopping Ukraine's advance to Euro-Atlantic structures by artificially fanning anti-Western hysteria," Mr. Bezsmertnyi noted. According to Mr. Bezsmertnyi, "short-sighted political forces" in Ukraine allow Russian spin doctors "to use some [Ukrainian] television channels to implement their long-term geopolitical plans." (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Newspaper accuses U.S. of interfering

KYIV – *Fakty i Kommentari*, the Kyiv-based pro-presidential daily tabloid, has accused the U.S. of leading an effort to boost the election chances of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine and opposition parties, as well as of sponsoring some 300 NGOs in order to obtain an election result that would suit Washington. "As for

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# Newly consecrated Bishop Hlib Lonchyna celebrates first liturgy

*Religious Information Service of Ukraine*

LVIV – Father Hlib Lonchyna was ordained to the episcopacy of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) at St. George Cathedral in Lviv on February 27. In accordance with the Julian calendar this was the feast of St. Cyril, apostle to the Slavs. Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia and Bishop Yulian Voronovskiy of Sambir-Drohobych were the ordaining bishops. Bishop Lonchyna, who will serve as auxiliary bishop of the Lviv archeparchy (patriarchal curia of the UGCC), was granted the titular see of Baretta.

On March 1 Bishop Lonchyna served his first episcopal liturgy at the Lviv Theological Academy, where he had previously been a teacher. His mother, Orysia, and sister, Natalia, were present at the liturgy. His brother, Father Taras Lonchyna, and a number of other priests concelebrated the liturgy. In addition to family, friends, staff and students of the academy, a number of Bishop Lonchyna's former students also came for the liturgy.

Father Borys Gudziak, rector of the LTA, thanked Bishop Lonchyna and mentioned some interesting biographical facts: Bishop Lonchyna and his brother were both long-time members of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in the United States. The new bishop came from a long line of priests, though his late father, Bohdan, was a lay activist in the Church and a philologist.

Father Gudziak then presented Bishop Lonchyna, a senator of the newly founded Ukrainian Catholic University, with recordings and transcribed interviews from the academy's Institute of Church History telling of the activities of the bishop's relatives in Ukraine.

Bishop Lonchyna then told the congregation, students and staff of the academy, and others in attendance: "I was formed in this atmosphere which Metropolitan Andrey founded and Patriarch Josyf continued in the diaspora. So I feel that I am one of you." The bishop reminded all that "the Church is not you, not me, but we." He then gave the congregation the Old Testament blessing of Aaron, and gave each of the faithful his episcopal blessing.

Bishop Lonchyna returned to the chapel

of the Lviv Theological Academy to serve an episcopal liturgy on Saturday, March 2, for the catechists of the LTA's Catechetical-Pedagogical Institute. Sister Luiza Ciupa, SSML, director of the institute, had invited Bishop Hlib. As part of a day of recollection for the catechists, after the liturgy Bishop Lonchyna shared his memories of Patriarch Josyf with the catechists. In honor of the 100th anniversary of Patriarch Josyf's birth, the UGCC has proclaimed 2002 the "Year of Slipyj" and is marking it in various ways.

## Biographical information

Hlib Lonchyna, Monk of the Studite Order (MSU), was born February 23, 1954, in Steubenville, Ohio. He completed his studies in philosophy and theology in Rome at the Papal Urbanian University and at the Papal Oriental Institute, where he received his doctorate in liturgy in 2001. He was tonsured at the Monastery of St. Theodore the

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Bishop Hlib Lonchyna is greeted by the faithful in Lviv.

## INTERVIEW: Lviv's new bishop comments on his assignment

*On February 25, two days before his episcopal ordination, Father Hlib Lonchyna gave an interview to the Religious Information Service of Ukraine. Following are excerpts of the interview.*

**Father, what duties and responsibilities will you have as a bishop of the Curia of the UGCC?**

First of all, as head of the liturgical community, the bishop leads the faithful in prayer, religious services and all spiritual matters. The basic task of the curial bishop is to assist the head of the Church. Whenever the patriarch is not able to participate personally, he sends the auxiliary bishop as his representative. In addition, the auxiliary bishop helps the head of the Church in managing all pressing affairs concerning the entire UGCC. This includes meeting with people, planning and scheduling events, dealing with correspondence, visiting churches and institutions, and receiving guests.

I have, in addition, some individual duties. His Beatitude Lubomyr Husar wants

to entrust me with the spiritual care of Ukrainian immigrants in the countries of southern Europe, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece, where there is no bishop. I will have to get acquainted with the problems Ukrainians face in these countries, visit the local communities, organize ministerial work and take an interest in people's lives.

Another task that lies on my shoulders is the work of the liturgical commission, which includes examining the state of affairs, preparing translations, writing new services, for instance, in honor of the newly proclaimed blessed, and so on. During the first six months of my service as bishop, first and foremost I need to make all the arrangements regarding accommodations and office space and then get acquainted with the issues I will be responsible for. Only then will I be able to get down to work.

**How can you use your experience from the apostolic nunciature in Kyiv for your episcopal service in the future?**

The year and a half that I spent in the

nunciature gave me invaluable experience on many levels.

At the ecclesial level, I gained a comprehensive view of the Catholic Church in Ukraine. I accompanied the apostolic nuncio when he was visiting different religious communities in Ukraine. Earlier, I was only aware of the Greek-Catholic reality, whereas now I know more about the Latin rite in Ukraine. Even though there are many believers of non-Ukrainian origin, the Roman Catholic Church is not a Church for foreigners any longer. It is a Church for Ukrainians who want to worship God according to this rite.

Therefore, I had an opportunity to learn more about pastoral ministry, as well as the difficulties and obstacles that confront parishioners, priests and bishops of both rites. In many respects, we face similar problems and could learn from each other's mistakes. We could also share our experience, resources and even facilities.

At the diplomatic level, through my position in the nunciature I met new people and

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## First volume of Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine released in Kyiv

by Roman Woronowycz

*Kyiv Press Bureau*

KYIV – A bevy of Ukrainian intellectual heavyweights from around the globe, including representatives of two respected academic societies, gathered in Kyiv on February 12 to announce the release of the first volume of the Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine.

On hand for the event, which took place at the Ukrainian Home Exposition and Conference Center, were Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko; the president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Arkadii Zhukovsky; and the vice-president of the National Academy of Sciences, Vitalii Pokhodenko; Walter Baranetsky of the New York-based Friends of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine Foundation; as well as a number of noted scholars and academics.

Mykola Zhelezniak, head coordinator of the encyclopedia project, told The Weekly that the introduction of the book is a major event in Ukrainian culture and history.

"This encyclopedia is a wellspring of information on who we are, what we are and what we have," exclaimed Mr.

Zhelezniak. "When this project is finished and the last tome is out, we will have discovered much about ourselves."

The encyclopedia, which is expected to consist of 25 volumes with some 65,000 entries at its completion, was developed to document the development of Ukrainian society and culture in the 20th century and the transformation of the Ukrainian nation into an independent state, which today is a decade old.

The encyclopedia was a joint effort of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), headquartered in Kyiv, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society (SSS), an international organization centered in New York. The editorial board was co-chaired by Ivan Dzyuba from the NAS and Dr. Zhukovsky of the SSS. Leading scholars of both organizations, from Ukraine and abroad, contributed to its development.

In the preface to the text, the authors explained that, while deciding on their focus, they realized the keenest interest would be on Ukraine's current development. They decided to include significant names, events and places in Ukrainian life going back to the beginning of the century to give a fully rounded view of the processes that led

to the events of the last decade.

The encyclopedia covers not only notable individuals from Ukraine, but also Ukrainians living abroad and even non-Ukrainians who made significant contributions to the country's development. The criterion used to establish what individuals should be included was "a tangible contribution by the individual in the development of science, culture, business or the social institutions of Ukraine," according to the coordinating committee's press release. Among those included are a large number of scientists, philanthropists, actors, athletes, literary figures, as well as political, community and state leaders.

There is also much data about the various regions, counties, cities, towns and villages of Ukraine; their histories, economies, cultures and geographic surroundings. Important dates and events of 20th century Ukraine are noted as well.

The first volume, which covers entries beginning with the letter "A," contains 2,732 articles, 1,628 illustrations (some in color), 50 tables and charts, and 12 maps. Volume II, which is due out in the summer, will cover the

letter "B." Two more volumes, to include entries through the letter "T," will be ready by the end of the year, with a fourth volume expected to be ready for print.

The encyclopedia, the first of its kind about Ukraine, was in part financed by philanthropist George Soros' International Renaissance Foundation and the Friends of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine Foundation, as well as through donations by individual benefactors, many of them Ukrainians living abroad.

Upon receiving an initial, special copy of the first volume, President Leonid Kuchma noted the encyclopedia's importance. "Every government official, businessman and organization leader should have a copy of this book," he said.

The first volume of the Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine can be ordered by writing the Coordinating Bureau of the Encyclopedia of Modern Ukraine, National Academy of Sciences vul. Volodymyrska 54, Apt. 517, Kyiv, 01601, Ukraine; telephone, (044) 221-6784; e-mail, esu@esu.com.ua.

The cost is \$20. Payment arrangements should be made with the Coordinating Bureau.

## Ukrainian, Russian and Moldovan presidents meet in Odesa

by **Maryna Makhnonos**

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ODESA – The presidents of Ukraine, Russia and Moldova agreed on March 17 to work jointly to eliminate the problem of smuggling and other illegal business activity from the Moldovan breakaway Transdnister region, as well as to help Moldova economically in its energy sector.

Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Moldova's President Vladimir Voronin agreed to organize a meeting of their countries' top customs and border guard officials in the Moldovan capital of Chisinau this week. Representatives of the Transdnister region were expected to join the meeting.

The agreement was reached during the presidents' one-day summit in the Black Sea port of Odesa, which was organized on Ukraine's initiative.

An undercurrent of the official discussions was the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine, though the topic was not on the official agenda.

The Transdnister region, a Russian-speaking separatist area that broke away from Moldova 11 years ago, is not recognized internationally, but has support from Russia. The region declared independence in 1991 after a brief and violent war that killed some 1,500 people over fears that Moldova was seeking reunion with Romania.

Moldova is a former Soviet republic located between Romania and Ukraine. Before being annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, Moldova was part of Romania. Two-thirds of Moldova's population are of Romanian descent, while the rest consists of Ukrainian, Russian, Bulgarian and other minorities.

The smuggling of arms, gasoline and other goods thrives in the Transdnister region and costs Moldova huge sums of lost taxes. The illegal products are believed to be exported to other former Soviet republics. The Moldovan government and the self-proclaimed government of the Transdnister region have tense relations. Mr. Voronin has accused a pro-Russian separatist leader of financing the recent anti-government protests with demands to ban the general use of Russian language. Furthermore, he said the separatists are trying to undermine

the Moldovan authorities because they have pledged to fight smuggling in the Transdnister region.

After meeting with Presidents Kuchma and Putin, Moldovan President Voronin stated that his country stood always for the "broadest status for the Transdnister region in the structure of Moldovan Republic."

"Both sides just need to work constructively on this problem," Mr. Voronin said.

President Voronin said he had informed his counterparts about the political situation in Moldova. However, Mr. Putin's chief of staff, Alexander Voloshyn, on March 17 denied that the three leaders had met to consult over the Moldovan unrest, saying recent mass protests are the country's internal affair.

The three leaders also discussed economic cooperation and agreed to unite Ukrainian and Moldovan electricity grids, as well as to supply Moldova with Russian natural gas to slash electricity costs for ordinary Moldovans by about 20 percent, Mr. Putin said.

The leaders also talked about cooperation in the framework of the Eurasian Customs and Economic Union that includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. President Voronin said that his government has sent an appeal to join the association, which he said has a great cooperative potential.

### Kuchma and Putin meet separately

Before President Voronin's arrival, Presidents Kuchma and Putin had a separate meeting to discuss cooperation in the spheres of energy, taxation, high technology, defense, free trade zones and transport corridors. Mr. Putin praised the last year's \$10 billion trade volume between Russia and Ukraine, but urged measures to increase it. Asked whether closer ties between Russia and Ukraine may contradict both countries' relations with the European Union, Mr. Putin strongly denied the idea.

"They [close ties] help, because we are getting stronger and are more interesting as partners," Mr. Putin said. He added that both countries may have a real influence on European economy with greater use of Ukraine's pipelines in future. "They will take into account our opinion, and our own economies will be much

more stronger," he said.

Some Ukrainian politicians and experts said earlier last week that President Putin's visit was aimed at discussing Ukraine's upcoming parliamentary elections. However, Ukrainian and Russian officials repeatedly denied the suggestion.

"I don't believe that the meeting of both presidents can influence the arrangement of powers in Ukraine," Mr. Voloshyn told journalists during the summit.

"The meeting is only a solution of pragmatic and economic problems," said the chief of Ukraine's presidential administration, Volodymyr Lytvyn, speaking upon arrival in Odesa hours before the presidential meeting.

### Comments on Ukraine's elections

However, several days after the tripartite summit, Ukrainian news reports quoted President Putin's chief of staff, Mr. Voloshyn, as saying that the pro-presidential For a United Ukraine Bloc, as well as the Communist and the Social-Democratic (United) parties are the only powers in Ukraine that are friendly to Russia.

In addition, Russian ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed alarm that the former Ukrainian prime minister's bloc, Our Ukraine, which leads the race in recent polls, includes the movements that "are against Ukrainian-Russian ties."

According to the Interfax news agency, our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko characterized the Russian officials' remarks as "unfriendly." Mr. Yushchenko called the comments a "direct interference into Ukraine's internal affairs and election process."

"It's a pity that some Russian officials consider it a normal thing," Mr. Yushchenko commented of Mr. Voloshyn's notion. At a briefing following the summit, President Putin said that the outcome of Ukraine's parliamentary elections would not change the pace of bilateral relations.

"It's a nationwide consensus in Russia to develop relations with Ukraine," the Russian president said. "I would like to hope that we will see the same approach by Ukrainian colleagues, whoever wins the elections."

## Central Election...

(Continued from page 1)

"This was a mousetrap set against Brodskyi and me," said Mr. Chaika, who added that he and Mr. Brodskyi had consulted with tax specialists specifically to avoid the situation in which they now find themselves. "I just want to tell [the CEC] not to catch fish with a golden hook because the hook will end up being more costly than the fish."

The Yabluko Party leadership also announced plans to go into opposition against the government and the Kuchma administration because it perceived that the actions against it were pre-election political maneuverings at the expense of Yabluko Party candidates. Mr. Brodskyi said he would invite current opposition leaders Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party, Yulia Tymoshenko of the Batkivschyna Party, as well as Viktor Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine Bloc to address a special convention of the Yabluko Party.

The CEC action came the same day that one opposition member of the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksander Yeliashkevych, who chairs the parliamentary Committee on Fair Elections, had warned of just such an action. He said that he had received documents, allegedly signed by Ivan Kyrylenko, the head of the administrative staff of the For a United Ukraine Bloc and meant for the bloc's chairman, Volodymyr Lytvyn, which enumerated several strategies to discredit the opposition in the last days before Election Day.

Mr. Yeliashkevych said the tactic to nullify some candidacies via disqualification by the CEC, including members of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Yabluko Party, was mentioned in the memorandum. The removal of certain candidates of the Party of Greens was meant to give an "appearance of legitimacy" to the CEC's move, explained Mr. Yeliashkevych.

National Deputy Serhii Moskvin told Interfax-Ukraine that the Party of Greens was not planning to appeal the CEC decision to a Ukrainian court.

"Going to court would be stupid and expensive," said Mr. Moskvin, whose party has historically been close to the Kuchma administration. Mr. Moskvin added, however, that he was troubled by the fact that the financial forms submitted to the CEC and to the State Tax Administration are very different.

The For a United Ukraine Bloc had three members disqualified as well, a fact that could make the assertions by Mr. Brodskyi and Mr. Yeliashkevych look questionable.

State Tax Administration Director Mykhailo Azarov is the leader of the Regions of Ukraine Party, which is part of For a United Ukraine, and is a candidate for the Verkhovna Rada on the bloc's slate.

## UMANA board proposes extending right to vote, hold office to all active members

CHICAGO – In its first meeting of 2002, the board of directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) met on Saturday, February 2, to discuss the continuing revitalization of the largest health care professional organization in the Ukrainian American community.

President Ihor Voyevodka, M.D., (Northern California) presided over a gathering of representatives from many UMANA chapters in the United States and Canada. Present were Vice-President Ihor Fedoriw, O.D., (Pennsylvania), President-elect Bohdan Iwanetz, M.D. (Illinois), Secretary Arianda Nychka-Czartorysky, M.D., (New York Metro), Treasurer Andrij Iwach, M.D., (Northern California), Sponsorship Coordinator Roman Dykun, M.D., (Illinois), UMANA News Editor Adrian Baranetsky, M.D., (New York Metro), Archivist Maria Hrycelak, M.D., (Illinois), WFUMA Representative Roxolana Horbowij, M.D., (Maryland) and Luba Komar, M.D., (Toronto).

Dr. Iwanetz updated the body on early

preparations for the scientific conference scheduled to take place in Chicago in June 2003. Attendees will hear speakers discussing the latest developments in the field of infectious diseases. New additions to this convention program will include a clinical poster presentation by medical/dental students and residents, and a judged "physician art show" for UMANA's budding artists.

Dr. Voyevodka presented a request for support from *The Ukrainian Weekly* for its "Copies for Congress" project. Since *The Ukrainian Weekly* thoroughly covers the activities of UMANA, the board felt that support of this project would expand the organization's contacts and influence in Congress. This support would be in keeping with the spirit of interaction with Washington started by UMANA's then-president Dr. Roman Goy at the "Synergy" conference in 1999. The board unanimously approved a donation of \$1,000 to the "Copies for Congress" project.

In what may yet prove to be a far-reaching proposal, the board began discussions on the merit of expanding the

right to vote and hold office to all members who currently fulfill the requirements to be active members. At present, only regular and emeritus members are entitled to vote at branch meetings or the Assembly of Delegates. These are health care professionals of Ukrainian descent, with an appropriate university degree, and licensed to practice in their area of health care in the United States or Canada.

There is, however, a growing segment of the UMANA membership that belongs to other categories of membership encompassing the health care profession. UMANA includes pharmacists, Ph.D.s and other science degrees, R.N.s, students, residents, fellows, and an expanding group of individuals trained in Ukraine and surrounding countries, who have yet not attained a U.S. or Canadian degree or license. According to the current by-laws, these groups cannot vote or be elected to office in UMANA.

The board of directors agreed to present changes to the by-laws to expand the right to vote and hold office to include all quali-

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## First annual Summit...

(Continued from page 1)

pora organizations," said Mr. Shmerykowsky.

The need for such a conference, according to Summit 2002 organizers, developed from examining the demographics of various Ukrainian community groups which revealed an increasing average age of membership and a lack of younger participation. Mr. Wowk also called The Ukrainian Weekly's October 28, 2001, editorial, which posed the question, "Where have all the students gone?" a "catalyst" for the event.

The Summit 2002 Organizing Committee, composed of Oleh Holynskyj of UESA, Ariadna Nychka of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), Wasyl Kinach of UESA and Messrs. Wowk and Shmerykowsky, described the goal of the summit as "a brainstorming session for raising ideas and challenging current assumptions."

Summit 2002 began unofficially with an evening reception and cocktail party on Friday, March 15, during which participants were able to mingle with old acquaintances or establish new contacts.

Saturday's 9 a.m. breakfast officially opened Summit 2002 with a prayer from the Rev. Iura Godenciuc in the Soyuzivka main dining hall. Mr. Wowk then began the two-part working session of the summit in the Main House library by welcoming guests and outlining the moderated panel format.

Conference organizers sought to address the summit theme of "Engaging the Younger Generation in Ukrainian American Organizations" by presenting a morning panel to highlight "Our Organizations Today," moderated by Roma Hadzewycz, editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly, and an afternoon panel, moderated by Irene Jarosewich, editor-in-chief of Svoboda, to begin the dialogue on "Our Organizations Tomorrow."

Saturday morning's two-hour session included panelists Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, first vice-president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and head of its Math, Physics and Technical Section; Paul Farmiga, president of the Rutgers University Ukrainian Students Club; Marianna Zajac, president of the Central New York Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA); Stephen Kaczaraj, treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association (UNA); Mr. Shmerykowsky; Bohdan Vitvitsky, current vice-president, founding father and first president of the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey (UAPBA); and Dr. Ihor Voyevodka, president of UMANA.

Questions posed to the morning panel included: What are the history and goals of your organization? Why are young members important to your organization and how have you attempted to attract them?

After each panelist gave a brief organizational history and description of current objectives, Mr. Farmiga commented that the differing levels of importance placed on youth involvement are relative to each individual organization. Taking the case of his group, for example, Mr. Farmiga went on to say that as a university student club, active youth involvement is vital.

Ms. Zajac and Dr. Andrushkiw then noted that, due to a much higher average age in the UNWLA and the Shevchenko Scientific Society, respectively, their organizations have historically required significantly less youth involvement but stressed the hope that this would change.



Andrew Nynka

Participants of the first annual Summit of Ukrainian Organizations at the UNA estate Soyuzivka.

"We no longer live in a tight-knit Ukrainian ghetto," said Ms. Zajac. Dr. Andrushkiw echoed that sentiment and stressed that geographically dispersed members are one of the greatest challenges to his organization.

Mr. Kaczaraj added that still another reason for declining youth involvement may stem from the fact that current youth is being raised with very little knowledge of various diaspora organizations or how they benefit the Ukrainian community.

"Perhaps our community has done a poor job in explaining the history and value of diaspora organizations," said Dr. Vitvitsky.

For that matter, Mr. Kaczaraj explained that much of today's youth "enrolled in the UNA from the first few years of their life are not even told they're members. Once they turn 18 many cash out of their [insurance] policies and leave the UNA."

Out of all those who participated in the first panel, only UMANA's Dr. Voyevodka said its membership has seen steady increases in what seems to be an "apparent rebirth."

In offering some solutions to summit participants, panel members agreed that a dialogue should include topics on why individuals are still members of the Ukrainian diaspora.

"We seem to be on auto pilot," argued Dr. Vitvitsky. "We should think about restructuring many of the organizations created in the early 1900s to make more sense with the way we operate now."

Suggestions were also made to target smaller, more specific audiences in an attempt to engage youth.

Following a brief lunch in the Soyuzivka dining room, summit participants began the two-hour afternoon panel on the topic "Our Organizations Tomorrow."

The afternoon panel included Christina Baranetsky, president of the Columbia University Ukrainian Students Club; Yuri Blarovich of the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation (UACF); Jaroslav Kryshchalsky of the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA); Alex Kuzma, executive director of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF); Dr. Andrew Liteplo, young adults' coordinator for the New York Plast branch; Lida Mykytyn, vice-president of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM); the Rev. Ivan Mazuryk of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian



Olena Welhash addresses Summit 2002 participants.



Panelist Jaroslav Kryshchalsky speaks during the afternoon session.

Catholic Church; and Michael Sawkiw, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

Mr. Sawkiw talked about a synergy among organizations and said a key to

recruiting new members is tapping the "professionalism of our organizations."

The afternoon panel discussants also agreed, without dissent, that future

(Continued on page 21)

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Vital signs at a summit

Soyuzivka played host last weekend to a special Summit of Ukrainian American Organizations held to explore the topic "Engaging the Younger Generation in Ukrainian American Organizations." Convened on the initiative of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, which recently experienced a youth-oriented restructuring of its leadership, and organized with the cooperation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and the Ukrainian National Association, the conference succeeded in attracting some 65 participants – leaders and activists representing diverse organizations, backgrounds and generations.

The focus of the summit was youth – the next generations of our community, who constitute the potential members and leaders of our organizations and institutions. The key question: How do we attract these younger generations, get them involved and keep them involved? (It was significant that the term "younger" was purposefully left undefined, and was intended to serve only as a relative concept.)

The participants of the conference ranged from students age 19 and up to veteran community types of senior age. And the community organizations themselves spanned a range of generations – from the eldest, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, which next year marks its 130th anniversary, to the continually reborn Ukrainian clubs on university campuses. (Of course, no one could argue with a Ukrainian Catholic priest when he said he represents the oldest organization of all, Christ's Church.) It was noteworthy also that among the participants were a number of newcomers, immigrants from Ukraine – some already involved, others seeking a niche for their interests.

As our readers may recall, it was an editorial published in this newspaper in October 2001 that had raised the question "Where have all the students gone?" That editorial about the umbrella organization of Ukrainian student clubs known as SUSTA raised the crucial question of "active engagement" in our community life. The first answer to the editorial's question came two months later from Christina Duzj, who informed readers that our students are indeed alive and well, and that they generally believe "that being Ukrainian is central and fundamental to their lives." Another response came in January of this year, in the form of yet another question: "Where have the young professionals gone?" Recently elected UESA President Andrij Wowk pointed to "another missing generation of sorts in a broader scope: individuals in their 20s and 30s who are in the process of developing their careers." He broached the idea of holding a summit of organizations to tackle the question of "what can be done to engage the missing demographic group" in the Ukrainian American community.

From its inception, to its conclusion, "Summit 2002," as it is already being called for short, sought a looser brainstorming format than what our community normally expects from its conferences. The goal was to generate ideas, challenge assumptions, attack misconceptions head-on. And the conference participants included all of the attendees, panelists and non-panelists alike. There were no passive listeners here. As was made clear from the start, all were encouraged to share their ideas; the panelists were simply there to lay the groundwork for a fruitful exchange.

And guess what? The format worked! And what's more, the subjects of the conference, the younger generations, were the primary reason for its success. Thanks to their involvement, the participants did so much more than just speak about our youths (they didn't have to pose the old "De nasha molod?" question), they spoke directly with them. The communication was direct, respectful, unhindered – and energizing. One participant underscored: this was "a convergence that has changed everything."

Summit 2002 was indeed an auspicious beginning. It is our fervent hope that it will lead to more contacts, both formal and informal, that will benefit our entire community. Given the vital signs that we witnessed at Soyuzivka, and the demonstrated need for a true community of Ukrainians, we are sure this initiative can have far-reaching success if it is continued and expanded.

March  
29  
1998

### Turning the pages back...

Four years ago, our Kyiv correspondent described the scene on the eve of the parliamentary elections of March 1998.

"Kyiv is in the throes of a political election season like any in the West. Maintenance workers busily scrape political posters off public buildings; by the next day new posters are plastered on the walls. ... Mailboxes are filled daily with campaign bills and flyers ... Radio and TV news programs mercilessly interview candidates to present their views and platforms," wrote Roman Woronowycz.

However, not all the news was good.

"Where people gather the talk inevitably turns to the March 29 elections. Their mood, however, does not reflect the optimism and the hope portrayed by the politicians in their words and advertisements. It is a mood of apathy, inevitability and pessimism ... Kyivans talk of ... too many parties and not enough good choices," Mr. Woronowycz noted.

In Kyiv, the center of attention was the Lazarenko-Kuchma feud, which played out in the press almost on a daily basis. New accusations of corruption and financial improprieties cropped up weekly. The campaign had taken on controversial and, at times, even violent dimensions. A popular Kyiv businessman and candidate for mayor, Mykhailo Brodskiy, was arrested for alleged illegal financial wheeling and dealing less than two weeks before the elections. Odesa Mayor Edvard Hurvits and Oblast Chairman Ruslan Bodelan were locked in a political confrontation, during which several supporters were kidnapped or shot.

Yulia Hasheva, a 21-year-old student, said that although she was sick and tired of the political bickering and barely believed that the elections would be fair, she was definitely going to vote. "I understand that the government and those around it will choose its own people, but I believe that people must vote." Oleksander Slezovsky, a 42-year-old chauffeur, said, "I don't trust the people in government or the candidates. I don't think anything will change. I will vote, however. I will cross out the names of all the candidates."

Source: "Kyiv mood on the eve of elections: apathy, inevitability and pessimism" by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 29, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 13.

## EASTER PASTORAL

### Jesus Christ is among us!

*Easter pastoral message of Metropolitan Stefan Soroka to the reverend clergy, religious, seminarians and faithful of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States of America.*

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

"Peace be with you!" I greet you with the words with which Jesus Christ greeted His apostles on the day of His resurrection, and with the promise of joy He extended to the myrrh-bearing women at the empty tomb. The accounts of Jesus' resurrection appearances are among the most joyful and moving in the Gospels, and are truly inspiring and instructive.

The devoted women were rewarded for their persevering dedication. They are the first to meet the Risen Lord, with Mary Magdalene "called by name," and given a poignant personal encounter.

The apostles assembled in the upper room receive the breath of the Spirit from Jesus, and the authorization to continue His mission from the Father, with the authority to forgive sins.

The doubting Thomas is given the opportunity to touch the Lord and to be convinced of the resurrection, and to proclaim his faith, "My Lord and my God."

The downcast disciples on the road to Emmaus ask the Lord to stay with them and then recognize Him, very meaningfully, at the breaking of the bread. Then they run to Jerusalem to share the news with the other apostles, their hearts aflame from their intimate encounter with Jesus.

The apostle Peter experiences the kindness and forgiveness of Jesus, who simply asks him, "Do you love me?" Peter's threefold "yes" makes up for his threefold denial of Jesus. He is given his pastoral authority: "Feed my lamb, feed my sheep."

Before Jesus leaves the apostles at His ascension, He entrusts them with His mission to the world: make disciples, baptize and teach. He gives them the assurance of His presence with them to the end of time. With that assurance the apostles go out into the world fearlessly and perseveringly to establish the kingdom of God.

How powerful an influence the appearance of the Risen Christ had on the lives of the apostles and the women who went to the empty tomb. They were transformed! They were renewed! They were empowered with complete trust in the Risen Lord and a complete surrender to serve Him.

Easter means the same thing for you and for me! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is more than a historical reality. Jesus lives! Jesus Christ is among us!

And Jesus invites us to live in a higher realm of existence! St. Paul said to the Colossians: "You have been raised up in company with Christ." He spoke of the resurrection, not as a future prospect, but as a present reality. They had already been raised up with Christ. You and I have already been raised up with Christ! The Risen Christ is among us and helps us!

I certainly can share that I have known the Risen Christ, and am growing in my own awareness of His presence – not in physical form before my eyes, but with the touch of caring and compassionate hearts that He has sent in times when I have been saddened or burdened; with His mystical presence offering me the words and courage needed to face difficult challenges; and in helping me to serve people who presented themselves with particularly great needs. And on more than a few occasions, receiving a divine hug of love that no words could ever describe, but only tears of realizing His joyful presence could express.

Each of you could add your own testimony to the growing awareness of the presence of the Risen Christ in our lives. And, once the Risen Christ has become real to us, we then have the responsibility to make Him visible in and through our lives. This is our challenge and our invitation for all of us sharing together in the royal priesthood of Christ. The Risen Christ is to be realized in and through the lives of His followers (you and me) through our love for one another, forgiving one another, genuinely wanting the best of ourselves and for one another, reaching out of our own personal fears for ourselves and for our security, and going broke with our emotions for the welfare of others, bonding together as a Church family to do works of charity for the poor and the disadvantaged, and in building our parish family spirit. In short, doing as Jesus did as He walked among mankind.

Christ is risen my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, and is among us! Devote time to realize His loving presence among you! Allow Him to be seen in and through your lives in all you say and do!

A most blessed Easter to all of you, filled with His presence within you and among you!

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

**The Most Rev. Stefan Soroka**  
Archbishop of the Philadelphia  
Archeparchy  
Metropolitan for Ukrainian Catholics  
in the U.S.A.

## UMANA board...

(Continued from page 4)

fied members who show activity in the organization, including payments of dues. The board felt that, though there may have once been a reason for exclusivity, such reasoning is no longer valid. Furthermore, hosts of talented individuals were being denied the opportunity to participate in, change and improve the largest and oldest Ukrainian American health care organization in the Western world.

The board concluded that it was in the best interests of UMANA to open its

arms to all qualified individuals and encourage even further organizational growth. The by-laws changes will be presented for discussion and vote at the upcoming UMANA Assembly of Delegates in June 2003.

After resolving several housekeeping issues, the meeting concluded for the day, to be reconvened at the Ukrainian Institute in New York City on April 6, under the gracious hosting of President Alexandra Kushnir and the New York Metro Chapter of UMANA. For further information readers may contact the UMANA national office at (773) 278-6262.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Visit our archive on the Internet at: <http://www.ukrweekly.com/>

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fellow Ukrainians and their identification

Dear Editor:

It is very disappointing to report that Larissa Shevchenko, although chronicled by "Dateline: New York" (September 30, 2001) as an opera singer of Ukrainian descent, is actually written up in the Met's "War and Peace" program as being Russian born in Lvov, Russia [sic]. Frankly, it doesn't impress me if an artist of any kind is of "Ukrainian descent" unless they say they are such – to the world.

To get my attention, to get me involved, to get me to buy a ticket, you have got to be Ukrainian all the time – not just to get my attention, to get me involved or to get me to buy a ticket. Maybe I'm too demanding. Others may state that I am too Ukrainian for an American-born person. Maybe so. But tell me, what's wrong with that?

We are or should be taught not to be ashamed or feel humiliated by our birthright. Maybe what we lack is pride. It may be high time for Ukrainians to feel some of this sensation themselves – really feel it, shout it out: "I'm proud to be Ukrainian! This is my heritage!"

If artists from Ukraine don't find it good PR to admit to the American and other artistic markets that they are indeed Ukrainian, then why should we publicize them as such to our Ukrainian readers? This kind of Russian-apron-strings attitude smells of Oksana Baiul's "Oprah" episode. In other words, "I'm Ukrainian when I need to be Ukrainian. I'm Ukrainian when it's convenient and profitable. I'm Ukrainian because I can get the bleeding hearts in the diaspora to help me." This hardly is laudatory.

My belief is that if you are Ukrainian, be Ukrainian – don't pretend in hopes of getting somewhere or getting a helping hand. This is the Soviet training that Ukrainians need to discharge. Let us all remind each other that being Ukrainian or of Ukrainian descent (the "born-here" types, like me) is an honor, not a disgrace. Our Ukrainian history, culture and traditions were and remain on such a high level that nations throughout history have killed us for it all and have claimed it for themselves. The treasure troves stolen from Ukraine and especially Kyivan Rus'-Ukraine are enormous!

Having prominent Ukrainians traveling the world seemingly ashamed of stating publicly that they are Ukrainian, continues to bleed Ukraine dry of its true celebrity status and drains its economy. Though it is not often realized, if a country has famous people or famous places, the economy can ride these coat-tails via tourism and business investments. These celebrities are actually a commodity that can help Ukraine grow economically. They can draw attention to Ukraine's struggle and its great need for financial support.

If this kind of self-inflicted anti-Ukrainianism continues, rather than diminishes, after Ukraine's 10th independent year, then maybe we should first

screen "Ukrainians" to see how Ukrainian they really are before we ourselves become their promoters. After all, you have to have credentials, references, experience when looking for a job. Maybe we should adopt such cold business practices with our so-called brethren?

In the meantime, there are plenty of other people of real Ukrainian descent to write about here in America, Canada or elsewhere, whose horns need tooting and backs need patting because they make a difference and a positive contribution to the Ukrainian awareness cause.

Lillianna Chudolij  
Clifton, N.J.

### Please broaden coverage of music

Dear Editor:

In January and February you featured a series profiling current native Ukrainian pop groups which, frankly, surprised me and led me to consider the cultural reporting of *The Weekly*.

The first thought that came to mind was the focus of *The Weekly* on classical music. It seems to me that two weeks do not go by without *The Weekly* reporting on a classical music performance featuring Ukrainians, be it a tenor's opera appearance, a soprano's solo concert, or a chamber orchestra's latest performance. When considering the wide variety of Ukrainian-produced music (both in Ukraine and around the world), I consider this a narrow viewpoint. That was why the profiling of pop groups surprised me – very much out-of-character for the paper, but very welcome.

The second thought I had regarded my somewhat large music collection – I am a bit ashamed at just how few Ukrainian-produced albums (of all genres) I own when compared to English. I only buy what I think I will like – the disparity of numbers is not because Ukrainians produce music I would not buy, but because I do not know about the music I would buy. In this, the profiles were lacking – sure, now we all know about the bands, but is their sound any good?

My suggested solution is twofold: 1. Start reporting more on Ukrainian rock and pop performances – don't give-up reporting on classical musical, but just mix-it-up more; for this, a good start could be whoever played the latest zabava in the area (Was the band its usual self? How long was the kolomyjka portion? etc.) 2. Begin to periodically review (by a knowledgeable critic) a current Ukrainian album. Band bios are good for filler if the review is short, but let's hear about the music. A really neat trick would be to review a zabava band's latest album in the same issue as its performance review.

I hope you will seriously consider these suggestions.

Denys Petrina  
Pacific Grove, Calif.

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### Shevchenko, Gogol and the Ukrainian language

At a reception on Capitol Hill in 1985, I spoke with Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, then boss of Soviet Ukraine. When I described the episode to others, the first thing many people asked was whether he spoke Ukrainian. After all, Shcherbytsky was notorious for his hard line against the language, and he was never heard to speak it in public. As it turned out, his Ukrainian was perfectly fine. As for my protest to him over Russification in Ukraine, he dismissed it as a non-issue. "People speak whatever's easiest for them. Most Ukrainians prefer Russian," he commented.

I would say that's still true. Just as it's been for centuries, the Ukrainian language is a project, a work in progress that reflects certain realities, particularly political ones.

In March we honor Ukraine's national poet, Taras Shevchenko. No one is more identified with the Ukrainian language. In the 1830s, both he and his countryman, Mykola Hohol – the world knows him as Nikolai Gogol – made their way to St. Petersburg, the Russian capital, where people went to be noticed, to make a career.

Born near Poltava in 1809, Gogol was five years older than Shevchenko. At the age of 22, he made it big as writer with "Evenings on a Farm Near Dykanka," a collection of sentimental and humorous stories about rural Ukraine. He followed up with "Taras Bulba," the story of the Kozak who executes his own son for betraying his people. Gogol's most celebrated work is "Dead Souls," in which a con artist buys the papers of serfs who had died since the last census to serve as collateral for a loan to buy an estate with living souls.

Although Gogol wrote about Ukraine, he did so in Russian for a Russian audience. Ukraine, for them, was much like Texas is to Americans: a rustic frontier with lots of colorful characters. Taras Bulba and the Kozaks were heroes much like Sam Houston or Davy Crockett. For Russians, "the Ukraine" was part of their country, just as the "the Midwest" is part of the United States or "the Yukon" is part of Canada.

The same year that Gogol published *Taras Bulba*, 19-year-old Taras Shevchenko also was living in St. Petersburg. But, unlike Gogol, he was a serf painting fences, walls and tile roofs. His master pocketed the earnings. By some miracle, a group of St. Petersburg intellectuals befriended the young slave, were impressed with his intelligence and talent, and bought him his freedom.

He then enrolled in art school and began a career as a professional artist. Like Gogol, Shevchenko was immersed in Russian culture and society, speaking Russian with patrons, friends and publishers. He was also a voracious reader, familiar with the works of Homer, Virgil, Dante, Shakespeare, Schiller, the Bible, etc., all of which he read in Russian – there were no Ukrainian translations. He even kept his diary in Russian.

Despite this, Shevchenko was assertively Ukrainian and chose that language for his poetry collection, the "Kobzar," published in 1840. Here, Shevchenko tapped into the same material Gogol used: Ukrainian folk mythology, village lore, the glory of the Kozaks. His secret poems – the ones that got him arrested – aggressively condemned serfdom, tsarism and Russian domination of his homeland.

Witnessing the excavation of ancient burial mounds in Ukraine, for example, Shevchenko wrote a bitter poem, "The Plundered Grave." From their perspective

the Russian archeologists were taking treasures from the provinces to display at the Hermitage Museum in the capital. For Shevchenko, they were grave robbers, plundering Ukraine's heritage.

Gogol, the Russian writer, won praise and rewards for his work. As for Shevchenko, the critics ripped him for writing in a "dead language." For disfranchised Ukrainians, though, the "Kobzar" was a sensation. Orphaned at an early age, Shevchenko was truly a child raised by a village. He embraced the stories, tragedies and values of the Ukrainian peasant, then gave it all back in the form of gorgeous verse in a language the people understood. Instinctively, he knew that their liberation was linked to their language. The tsar sensed this as well. Two years after Shevchenko's death in 1861, he banned Ukrainian – a ban that prevailed until 1906.

Fortunately, western Ukraine was ruled by Austria-Hungary. There, inspired by Shevchenko, Ukrainian culture burgeoned. Activists even smuggled tiny bootleg copies of the "Kobzar" across the border to keep memory of Shevchenko alive in tsarist-ruled Ukraine.

In the decade following the collapse of the Russian Empire, Soviet Ukraine experienced an explosion of literary energy. It ended in horror in the 1930s, as tens of thousands of Ukraine's intellectual elite were arrested and murdered because of their devotion to their language and culture. Not surprisingly, people began preferring Russian over Ukrainian, and careerists oriented themselves on Moscow. What is surprising is that the Ukrainian language survived at all. Even Shcherbytsky spoke it fluently.

What's also astonishing is how the language has survived in the diaspora, even into the second and third generations. Immigrants and refugees from Soviet terror sent their children to Ukrainian Saturday schools and gave them a college education. These children and grandchildren now have responsible positions in business, academia, the arts and government. That's how I got to attend the reception honoring Shcherbytsky. And that's how I found out he spoke Ukrainian. It was the only language we had in common.

That scene is now repeated many times, only in much friendlier contexts. Ukrainian officials, businessmen, artists and others are coming to the West to find a Ukrainian-speaking diaspora that is eager for them to succeed. And even though Russian is easier for them, just as English is easier for us, we speak Ukrainian or at least make sure the translators use Ukrainian, not Russian. All this is a small part in the project, the work in progress that the Ukrainian language has been for so long.

Slowly, Ukrainian is working its way into more general usage. In Ukraine it's become a prerequisite for any politician seeking national office, for any diplomat who seeks a coveted posting. Even the Russian ambassador to Ukraine promised to learn the language. (He's still working on it.)

Shevchenko, I think, would be pleased to see where his steadfastness over the language issue has brought his people. It's just taken a while to get there, and there's still a long way to go. As for Gogol, his magnificent works are well worth reading – in the original Russian or any number of fine translations, including English and his native Ukrainian.

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

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

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## Ukrainian Debutante Balls

### Twelve debutantes introduced at Chicago's annual ball

CHICAGO – The annual Chicago Debutante Ball was held on February 2 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel. The sponsors of the event were members of the Ukrainian Veterinary Medical Association, the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America Inc., Illinois Branch, and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Illinois Branch.

The evening started with the presentation of seven debutantes and their escorts: Areta Ljubic and Markian Skirnyk, Tanya Skubiak and Daniel Baluch, Renata Hulyk and Markian Gorchynsky, Katherine Sidelnik and Jeremy Hrynewycz, Annette Sosenko and Lukash Markewych, Areta Kovalsky and Daniel Proczko, and Natalie Holovaty and Roman Kashuba.

The debutantes and their escorts were presented to the guests by Dr. Ihor Jastremsky, head of the Ukrainian Veterinary Medical Association. Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak produced the exquisitely choreographed program, while John Steciw provided the musical arrangement.

After the debutantes' presentation, the dinner began with an invocation delivered by the Rev. Myron Panchuk. During the dinner Dr. Jastremsky greeted the guests, along with Roman Byskosh from the UESA and Dr. Bohdan Charkewycz, head of the Illinois Branch of the UMANA.

– Motria Sosenko



Debutantes and their escorts at Chicago's annual ball: (front row, from left) Markian Skirnyk and Areta Ljubic, Daniel Baluch and Tanya Skubiak, Markian Gorchynsky and Renata Hulyk; (back row) Katherine Sidelnik and Jeremy Hrynewycz, Annette Sosenko and Lukash Markewych, Areta Kovalsky and Daniel Proczko, and Natalie Holovaty and Roman Kashuba.

### Newark Plast's ball presents 12 members of scouting group

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Plast-Pryiat and the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization branch of Newark, N.J., held the annual Plast debutante ball on Saturday, February 2, at the Hanover Marriott's Grand Ballroom.

The masters of ceremonies were Maria Welyczkowski and Lubodar Olesnycky, who presented the 12 beautiful debutantes to the Ukrainian American community. The presentation included members of the "Maky" and "Kalyna" troops from Newark and the "Piranhas" from New Brunswick.

Family members, friends and guests watched as the debutantes and their escorts entered the room with grace, elegance and poise. The promenade of debutantes was choreographed by Oksana Bauer.

The program also included a welcome from the branch's president ("stanychna") Roksolana Misilo; a welcome on behalf of the debutantes delivered by the leader ("hurtkova") of the "Maky," Olha Halibey, and a benediction by the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in

Newark.

The girls presented to society accompanied by their escorts were as follows: Olha Halibey with Antin Durbak, Alexandra Kachala with Mark Chraplyvy, Christina Laschuk with Nicholas Poruchynsky, Natalie Mandzy with Daniel Tyshovnytsky, Katie Nahnybida with Adrian Wirt, Julianna Pedersen with Michael Pylyp, Alexandra Rakoczy with Daniel Koziupa, Tamara Rychok with Peter Krup, Christina Semanyshyn with Gavin Harkins, Laryssa Wirstiuk with Yuriy Lojko,

Kristina Wirt with Alexander Oryshkevych and Liliana Yaworsky with Maxim Artymyshyn.

Over 450 guests enjoyed the ball to the music of the Tempo and Zolota Bulava orchestras. It was a magical evening for the debutantes, their families and guests alike.

A special program book featuring a biography and photo of each debutante was prepared as a keepsake for all those attending the ball.

– Irene Turynsky  
and Daria Semanyshyn



Young Plast members and their escorts at the Newark Plast branch's annual ball.

## Ukrainian Debutante Balls

### Philadelphia engineers sponsor annual society event

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – The 48th Engineers' Ball of the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) was held here on Saturday, February 9, at the Park Hyatt Hotel. This year's ball included the presentation of debutantes, a banquet and a dance to the music of the Tempo orchestra.

After the cocktail hour, Metodij Boretsky, head of the Philadelphia Branch of the UESA, opened the event and greeted the guests, especially Metropolitan Stefan Soroka and the head of the executive board of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Andrij Wowk. He also introduced the master of ceremonies, Dr. Volodymyr Karpynych.

After the formal opening, the following eight debutantes and their escorts were presented: Natalia Hanusia Soroka with Alexander Bezushko, Diana Shcherba with Mychajlo Radano, Larysa Natalia Kostrytska with Eryk Ryzanov, Chrystyna Oksana Hud with Ron Hankevych, Irena Zarichna with Alexander Knihnytskyj, Alexandra Maria Fedorijchuk with Mychajlo Dmytro Blahyj, Oksana Lasovska with Antin Durbak and Maria Nestor with Oleh Stupen.

The debutantes and their escorts were formally greeted by Mr. Boretsky and introduced by the master of ceremonies. Mr. Boretsky congratulated each debutante and pinned ribbons on them with the assistance of Iryna Kinakh and Jaroslava Halaway. Andrea Kalyta, Maria Cyhan, Marusia Cyhan and Ms. Halaway prepared the debutantes for the presentation ceremony.

After the debutantes' presentation, the dinner began with an invocation delivered



Debutantes, their escorts and the ball committee (from left): Andrea Kalyta, Metodij Boretsky, Iryna Kinakh, Volodymyr Karpynych, Oksana Lasovska and Antin Durbak, Irena Zarichna and Alexander Knihnytsky, Larysa Natalia Kostrytska and Eryk Ryzanov, Natalia Hanusia Soroka and Aleksander Bezushko, Diana Shcherba and Mychajlo Radano, Chrystyna Oksana Hud and Roman Hankevych, Alexandra Maria Fedorijchuk and Mychajlo Dmytro Blahyj, Maria Nestor and Oleh Stupen, Jaroslava Halaway, Marusia Cyhan and Marijka Cyhan.

by Metropolitan Soroka. About 300 people attended the dinner, and more than 500 person enjoyed the dance held afterwards.

The committee that organized the 2002 Engineers' Ball was composed of Mr.

Boretsky (chairman), Larysa Zaika, Marta Shyprykevych, Ihor Kovaliv, Wasyl Kaminsky, Olenka Chaburska, Woldymyr Horbovyj, Myron Bilas, Mychajlo Komanovsky, Orest Hanas and Petro

Shtompil. In addition, Mr. Horbovyj, Bohdan Turcheniuk, Ms. Zaika and Mr. Kaminsky assisted the ball committee.

– Metodij Boretsky

### Washington association hosts Malanka/debutante ball

WASHINGTON – On January 12 three young ladies made their debut at the annual Malanka and debutante ball of the Ukrainian Association of Washington Metropolitan Area ("Obiednannia"). The event was held in the elegant Grand Ballroom of the West End Washington Marriott on 22nd Street Northwest in the nation's capital.

Sophia Nakonechny-Smith, the co-president of Obiednannia, welcomed everyone, including notable guests, Minister Counselor of the Ukrainian Embassy Volodymyr Yatsenkivsky and his wife, Olha. She also introduced her executive board: Halyna Breslawec (co-president), Irene Kost (secretary), John Kun (treasurer) and Richard E. Smith (marketing consultant).

Ms. Breslawec delivered opening remarks, noting that the goal of the association is to unite and network Ukrainians in Maryland, Virginia and Washington via functions such as the traditional Malanka. She then introduced the debutante coordinators: Chrystia Shashkewych-Oryshkevych and Yaromyr Oryshkevych.

After the parents of the debutantes were introduced, each debutante entered the ballroom and gave her mother a bouquet of flowers. The debutantes were then presented to the community along with their escorts during a promenade, followed by the first dance.

The Rev. Taras Lonchyna, pastor of Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md., gave the invocation. After dinner, music was provided by Veseli Chasy from Chicago. Debutantes and their escorts



Natalie Sluzar

The debutantes and their escorts, as well as organizers of the event (seated from left): Larissa Wasyliwskyj, Natalia Balko, Nina Fontana; (standing) Halyna Breslawec, Sophia Nakonechny-Smith, Mark Babiak, Alexander Oryshkevych, Adrian Hruszkewycz, Chrystia Shashkewych-Oryshkevych and Yaromyr Oryshkevych.

enjoyed an enchanting evening to be treasured for a long time.

A few announcements were made wel-

coming the New Year, and the debutante coordinators thanked all who attended this year's gala, and invited everyone to

return in 2003 for the next ball.

– Chrystia Oryshkevych

## Ukrainian Debutante Balls

### Chervona Kalyna Ball continues a longstanding tradition

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball held on January 26 here at the Hanover Marriott Hotel introduced eight debutantes and their escorts to Ukrainian American society.

The debutantes this year were Anastasia I. Berezowsky with her escort, Adrian Wirt, Ariana C. Flis with Victor Sulzynsky, Katya J. Gaynor with Alexander Oryshkevych, Adrianna D. Hankewycz with Alex Knihnicki, Andrea S. Heimur with Maxim Artymyshyn, Andrea O. Kebalo with Michael Kindrat-Pratt, Laryssa A. Rybak with Vsevolod Makarenko and Deanna L. Stawnychy with Daniel Bojcun.

Before the presentation, Ihor Sochan, chairman of the Debutante Ball Committee, greeted everyone present, especially the honored guests: Consul General of Ukraine in New York Serhiy Pohoreltzev; the deputy to the ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Volodymyr Jacenkiwskyj; deputy to the ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations, Volodymyr Krochmal; and the military advisor of Ukraine to the United Nations, Col. Victor Hvozda.

Orest and Marta Kebalo were the hosts for the official ceremony. Each debutante was led by her father to her escort, which was followed by the first dance. The choreography of the debutantes' first dance was arranged by Ania Bohachevska-Lonkevych.

Before the banquet, the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., delivered the invocation, after which the debutantes were greeted by the Consul General Pohoreltzev.

Two bands, Tempo and Luna, entertained the guests throughout the evening.

A lot of preparation and hard work were put in months before the ball to make this festive affair successful. The Kalyna



Andrij Wowk

Debutantes, their escorts and committee members at the annual Chervona Kalyna Ball.

Committee consisted of Mr. Sochan (chairman), Jaroslaw Stawnychyj (assistant chairman), Bohdan Tytla (art work for the press), Olha Stawnychy (flowers), Ihor Dekajlo (mailing of invitations), and members Bohdan Mychajliw, Marko Nynka, Taras Lisowskyj and Roman Chubatyj.

Young adult members of the Chervona

Kalyna Fraternity of Plast helped as ushers. The ballroom decorations, program layout and very attractive coasters (which guests took home as souvenirs), were done by Marijka Sochan-Tymyc of Montreal.

On the last page of the ball's program, which listed all debutantes with their photographs, was a reproduction of an invitation to

the First Plast Ball, held on March 1, 1930, in the National Home of Stryi Ukraine. The organizers of this ball were members of the Chervona Kalyna Fraternity in Stryj. Thus, a tradition started 72 years ago continues here, so far from Ukraine.

– Oksana Kuzyszyn

### Ukrainian American Youth Association presents debutantes

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – The 38th annual debutante ball sponsored by the Ukrainian American Youth Association took place on Saturday, February 9, at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains, N.Y. Twelve lovely debutantes were escorted and partook in the elegant evening.

The evening began with a poolside cocktail party where the attendees of the debutante ball mingled and socialized. The cocktail was followed by a banquet. Presiding over the evening were the masters of ceremony, Jaroslaw Palylyk and Lida Mykytyn, who had the honor of introducing the debutantes and their escorts, presenting the interests and accomplishments of the debutantes, and setting the stage for each debutante to be met by her parents and be introduced to the Ukrainian society.

During the banquet, the debutantes and their escorts performed a quaint Viennese waltz, choreographed by Hryhoriy Momot. They were greeted by the Rev. Bohdan Danylo of Stamford, Conn., who inspired the debutantes and their escorts with his warm wishes and blessings.

The banquet smoothly transitioned into the "zabava." The dance floor filled up quickly with many youths enjoying good music, romantic waltzes, an exciting kolomyika and lively rock and roll. The Zolota Bulava orchestra entertained the entire evening. But all good things must come to an end. It was time to part until the next event.

The ball is a special event for each debutante. It is a highlight in her SUM life, as well as a pleasant memory in her personal life. The Ball is also a joyous event for the

parents of the debutantes as well as for SUM, the organization in which these debutantes grew up. Both the parents and SUM get to step back and realize the fruits of a Ukrainian upbringing and witness the transition of each debutante to an active, contributing member of the Ukrainian community.

The honored guests of the evening were

the following debutantes: Ulana Blahy escorted by Michael Pawliwsky, Andrea Bybel escorted by Wolodymyr Yurcheniuk, Katrusia Wyrsta escorted by Danylo Pushchak, Lesia Harhaj escorted by David Odomirok, Anna Zarovniy escorted by Stephan Frytz, Tania Zajac escorted by Roman Iwaskiw, Olha Kryzhalkiw escorted

by Maksym Salvator, Chrystyna Lesiuk escorted by Wolodymyr Wyrsta, Stephanie Pushka escorted by Matthew Wodzinsky, Roksolana Stets escorted by Hryhoriy Yasynsky, Christina Charuk escorted by Taras Czebiniak, and Oksana Czebiniak escorted by Stephan Ros.

– Lida Mykytyn



Rich Steinitz

SUM's debutantes with their escorts and committee members responsible for the 2002 ball.

# PRE-ELECTION PROFILES: Ukraine's top 10 political blocs

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's March 31 elections to Parliament are a two-pronged affair. The election law passed by the last Verkhovna Rada requires that half the 450 parliamentary seats should be decided by a proportional system, while the other 225 should be chosen in a majoritarian system. In plain speak, that means voters who enter the voting booth on Election Day will choose both a political party of their choice and an individual representative from a list of district candidates.

The individuals with the majority of votes in each of the 225 electoral districts will get a seat in the next Verkhovna Rada, as will all political organizations that attain at least 4 percent voter support. The parties that pass the threshold will then divide the other 225 seats proportionally, according to the percentage of support given them in the popular vote.

Thirty-five political parties and blocs are registered for the elections. Many of them are marginal political organizations or ones hastily established to attempt to secure the interests of a particular group of people or even simply a single individual.

There are 10, however, that are serious players – even if some of them do not have serious political agendas – on Ukraine's political scene with every chance to gather the 4 percent of electoral support needed to seat members in the next Verkhovna Rada.

Following is a primer on who they are and what they stand for.

## Our Ukraine Bloc

Led by charismatic ex-Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, the Our Ukraine political bloc is an organization built around a personality. In fact, one of the main criticisms against it is that this rather disjointed coalition is being used by several of its members as a free ticket into the Verkhovna Rada. Some experts have said the coalition will dissolve as soon as the next Verkhovna Rada is installed.

The bloc has remained at the top of pre-election polls throughout the campaign season, and could likely replace the Communist Party as the top vote-getter in the March 31 poll.

Mr. Yushchenko began looking for political partners in the months after he was removed as prime minister in 2000. The organization he has gathered around himself consists of politicians and businessmen dedicated to a conservative center-right ideological approach to politics, with an emphasis on continued reform and ethics in politics.

Four political parties make up the core of the Our Ukraine bloc: Viktor Pynzenyk's Reform and Order Party, Hennadii Udovenko's National Rukh of Ukraine, Yurii Kostenko's Ukrainian National Rukh and Petro Poroshenko's Solidarnist Party.

Six other parties make up the balance of the political coalition, most notable among them being the Liberal Party, which is led by Volodymyr Scherban, the chairman of the Sumy Oblast Administration.

Mr. Yushchenko has pursued a policy of not antagonizing the powers that be, while casting himself as a non-opposition alternative to the pro-presidential and pro-oligarchic political forces. While some members of Mr. Yushchenko's bloc support a movement to oust President Leonid Kuchma, the former prime minister has said he does not see himself in the role of an opposition leader and believes there must be constructive dialogue and cooperation with the presidential administration.

The Our Ukraine platform is based on a continuation of the reform policies began by the Yushchenko govern-

ment and guided by a four-point plan to: renew the European tradition of the development of individuality; institute moral and transparent relations between society and authority; develop an effective economy for the well-being of each person; and utilize the opportunities of global development for the construction of a strong society.

Website: [www.razom.org.ua](http://www.razom.org.ua).

## The Communist Party

While it is the political party with the largest national organization and strongest grassroots support, nonetheless, the popularity of the Communist party of Ukraine is declining, mostly because the core of its support – senior citizens – is literally dying off.

The party of the hammer and sickle, which has been led by National Deputy Petro Symonenko since 1993, has changed in many ways. Gone is a staid and resolute devotion to Marxism and Leninism. Today its membership includes party hacks deeply involved in business. Stanislav Hurenko, the former head of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and still a red-card-carrying member of the party, comes to mind. With his business holdings (which some say are actually "communal" party holdings) he would be a legitimate candidate for the exclusive club of Ukrainian oligarchs.

What marks the party today is a decidedly anti-Western, pro-Moscow political stance along with continued support for social policy legislation, especially for pensioners.

Its main stated goals today are: first, to return control of the government to the workers; to stamp out corruption and criminality and to better the spiritual atmosphere in society; then to complete a socialist turnabout to allow for the rebirth of the economy, to guarantee each individual a job to support his family, to guarantee free medical care and education and a secure old age; and, finally, to initiate "the blossoming of Ukraine as an equal union of brotherly nations of sovereign states."

Website: [www.kpu.kiev.ua](http://www.kpu.kiev.ua).

## For a United Ukraine

This is the political bloc of power. Its chairman is Volodymyr Lytvyn, President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff, who was recruited to become the bloc's leader after the president acknowledged his support for the political organization. It is composed of five parties: Labor Ukraine, Party of the Regions, the National Democratic Party, the Party of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists, and the Agrarian Party.

For a United Ukraine is an unwieldy conglomeration of tycoons, businessmen, tax collectors and politicians. Although some of its members have stated that they would like to transform the bloc into a legitimate party after the election – and have even proposed its chairmanship to President Kuchma – the conventional wisdom is that it will lose significance and influence as the individuals and parties refocus on their own specific interests.

The bloc is a who's who of the ruling elite of Ukraine. The Labor Ukraine Party was organized by National Deputy Serhii Tyhypko, a leading banker and former first vice prime minister, and includes some of Ukraine's most monied people, not least of whom are Mr. Kuchma's son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk and Andrii Derkach, the son of a former director of the State Security Service.

Another member-party, Regions of Ukraine, was established by the current chief of Ukraine's Tax Administration, Mykhailo Azarov, and represents the interests of various Donetsk business groups. The third member of the bloc, the National Democratic Party, is

led by ex-Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko and consists of the remnants of what was once the party of power, while the Party of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists was formed by current Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh.

The bloc's platform states that unity within society is a key component for a strong and prosperous Ukraine. It offers an eight-point, goal-oriented action plan, that pledges to maintain social stability; to maintain the stability of the Ukrainian currency and GDP growth at 6-7 percent; to better conditions in the agricultural sector; and to ensure the effectiveness and responsibility of government.

A majority of oblast chairmen belong to this political bloc, as do many government officials. Its primary electoral strength lies in the eastern oblasts. Its members have considerable media holdings, including ownership of at least one national television network. The bloc has been accused by several political organizations of utilizing the government resources at its disposal to block or hamper their campaign efforts.

Websites: [www.partyofregions.org.ua](http://www.partyofregions.org.ua), [www.ndp.org.ua](http://www.ndp.org.ua), or [www.trud.org.ua](http://www.trud.org.ua).

## Social Democratic Party (United)

Viktor Medvedchuk, the former first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, chairs the Social Democratic Party (United). He is the person who perhaps most personifies the term "oligarch," when it is applied in Ukraine (as do Messrs. Pinchuk and Derkach of the For a United Ukraine Bloc, Oleksander Volkov of the Democratic Union Party, along with Leonid Kravchuk and Hryhorii Surkis from Mr. Medvedchuk's party.)

The SDPU, which deliberately chose not to bloc with other political organizations but to go it alone, has the best national party structure after the Communist Party. The party claims to have 350,000 members today, represented by 17,000 organizations located in 11,500 cities, towns and villages of Ukraine.

It has solid support in its home base of Transcarpathia, the region Mr. Medvedchuk represents in the Verkhovna Rada, and in much of the central and western oblasts, as well as in Kyiv. It has a variety of known national figures on its party slate, including Mr. Kravchuk, Ukraine's first president who retains the image of an elder statesman; Mr. Surkis, the owner of the Dynamo Kyiv soccer club and president of the Ukrainian Soccer Federation; and Oleksander Zinchenko, who owns Inter, the most popular television network in Ukraine and chairs the parliamentary committee on broadcasting.

SDPU's leader, all of whom are generally acknowledged to be wealthy, took an active interest in gaining control of key media outlets in the years before these elections. Today those investments are paying off politically. Party members have ownership or influence over three national TV networks and several key newspapers in the capital.

A key element of the party's platform is its support for "indivisible human rights and notions of social partnership," while "categorically rejecting the politics of opposition of the citizens of Ukraine in regard to national, language or class characteristics."

In its program the SDPU states that it upholds the general ideology of the social democratic movement and aligns itself with the social democratic forces of Europe. Nonetheless, it has been criticized by several European scholars, including Polish economist Dr. Marek Dabrowski of the CASE Foundation and Ukrainian political analyst Prof. Volodymyr Polokhalo for wrapping itself in the cloak of social democracy without car-

(Continued on page 13)



Viktor Yushchenko



Petro Symonenko



Volodymyr Lytvyn



Viktor Medvedchuk



Valentyna Dovzhenko

## Ukraine's top 10...

(Continued from page 12)

rying any of its ideological attributes.

Website: [www.sdpuo.org.ua](http://www.sdpuo.org.ua).

### Women for the Future Political Union

No one is quite sure how this political organization, which was organized only a year ago, became so popular so quickly. Perhaps it is a result of disgruntlement with the supposedly stronger sex's inability to lead the country out of its longstanding quagmire. Others say that President Kuchma's wife, Liudmyla, is a key behind-the-scenes player, which has allowed for government resources to aid the development of this political organization.

There is a political consensus among experts that Women for the Future was formed as a support organization for the Ukrainian state leadership. The union, which has retained a steady popularity since the beginning of the campaign season, is chaired by Valentyna Dovzhenko, who led the Ministry of Family and Youth from 1997 until it was disbanded in 2000.

Women for the Future has a curious mix of former Soviet activists and young businesswomen, including a well-known ex-Soviet and Ukrainian national deputy, Maria Orlyk, as well as Natalia Katerynychuk, an unknown 29-year-old Ternopil native who once worked as a journalist for Radio Liberty. Belying the group's name, seven of the top 20 names on its election slate are men.

At the top of its political platform, the party lists seven idealized political priorities, centered on the characteristics of the "state."

It begins with: "a state where the highest value is placed on the individual," and includes, "a state where there is a low level of poverty and a high level of prosperity," "where there is a high level of development of human potential," and "where everything is done for a bright future of its children."

Website: [www.woman.org.ua](http://www.woman.org.ua).

### Party of Greens of Ukraine

The greens have been a political power in Ukraine since they attained unexpected electoral support and parliamentary seats in the 1998 elections to the Verkhovna Rada. Founded in 1990, today they are another unorthodox political combination, this one of environmentalists and businessmen (some critics say the "green" in their name is actually a reference to the U.S. dollar).

Their charismatic, pony-tailed leader, Vitalii Kononov, is best known as a former youth activist and a co-founder of the popular Chervona Ruta music festival in 1988. The other true green is the more staid Serhii Kurikin, a founder of the Green Movement in Ukraine in the mid-80s. While there are other environmental activists in the party as well, it has an equal number of businessmen, who provide the capital that keeps the party going.

Mr. Kononov and his faction in the Verkhovna Rada, which numbers 16, generally support initiatives by the Kuchma administration and are considered one of the president's most solid bases of parliamentary support. While the party's political agenda formally calls for giving serious attention to environmental issues, in fact the party deals with those matters only superficially.

Nonetheless the Party of Greens political platform for 2002 indeed does state that the party is "the vehicle for a new concept of ecosystem development in post-industrial society." It also underscores the notion that "the state should serve the person, and not the person the state."

Among party priorities are: private ownership as a foundation of democracy and a socially protected citi-

zen; full implementation of the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights; socially oriented restructuring of the economy; development of European standards on water purity and purification; a ban on nuclear energy development; discouraging negative tendencies of economic and cultural globalization.

Website: [www.greenparty.org.ua](http://www.greenparty.org.ua).

### Democratic Union/Democratic Party Bloc

The Democratic Union/Democratic Party Bloc is another curious combination of two political currents that earlier didn't mix, but now have converged if only for the mere purpose of finding a sufficient electorate to propel them past the 4 percent threshold and into the Verkhovna Rada.

Neither party officially won a seat in the last elections, but the Democratic Union eventually formed a parliamentary faction after recruiting sitting national deputies. Its leader was the controversial Oleksander Volkov, a rich businessman and close confidante of President Kuchma, who has been investigated in Belgium on charges of money laundering. The party is considered another entrenchment of oligarchs. It also has major media outlets under its control.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party, which used to be among Ukraine's most prominent political organizations in the early 1990s, had slowly dwindled in size and influence to nearly nothing, before it somewhat unexpectedly entered into the partnership with the Democratic Union.

Interestingly, when the two parties united, Volodymyr Horbulin, another close confidante of President Kuchma, replaced Mr. Volkov as chairman of the Democratic Union and became head of the bloc. Mr. Horbulin was formerly the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council. Today Mr. Volkov's name does not appear in the bloc's candidate lists.

The party's platform – which accents that, for a democracy to work, the rule of law must prevail – emphasizes the need for the formation of the Cabinet of Ministers by a parliamentary majority; the right of the president to dismiss the Parliament if it cannot form a majority; the guaranteed rights of an active opposition; and limitations on parliamentary immunity.

Website: [www.demunion.kiev.ua](http://www.demunion.kiev.ua).

### Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc is driven by the reputation and charisma of the person of the same name. Ms. Tymoshenko, the founder of United Energy Systems, a gas and oil trading company, a former first vice prime minister and by far the richest woman in Ukraine, is a steely-strong personality who has withstood several attempts by government authorities to discredit her and incarcerate her.

She is suspected by many of corruption, most notably for her close ties to Pavlo Lazarenko, the former prime minister who is currently jailed in the United States as he awaits trial on money laundering charges. She and Mr. Lazarenko became opponents of the Kuchma administration after Mr. Lazarenko was ousted as prime minister in 1996 by President Kuchma.

Today Ms. Tymoshenko heads an election bloc that is strong on the conservative elements within the Ukrainian political spectrum, as well as those who went into active opposition to President Kuchma after the Gongadze scandal broke. It includes Lev Lukianenko and his Republican Party, Stepan Khmara and his Conservative Republican Party, Anatolii Matvienko and his Sobor Party, Vasyl Onopenko and his Social Democratic Party, as well as former Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Bilous and the Batkivschyna Party.

The bloc's undeclared short-term goal is the removal of President Kuchma and his cohorts from the corridors of power. Longer term goals, as stated in the bloc's plat-

## March 31 ballot features 33 groups

KYIV – The Central Election Commission drew lots on February 22 to determine the order in which the 33 parties and blocs registered for the March 31 parliamentary election will appear on the ballot.

The results of the drawing are as follows:

1. Communist Party
2. Our Ukraine Bloc (led by Viktor Yushchenko)
3. Democratic Party and the Democratic Union Party Bloc
4. All-Ukrainian Christian Party
5. Natalia Vitrenko Bloc
6. Party of Greens
7. Bloc Against All
8. Communist Party of Workers and Peasants
9. New Force Party
10. Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc
11. Party for the Rehabilitation of the Seriously Ill
12. Reformed Communist Party
13. Socialist Party (led by Oleksander Moroz)
14. For a United Ukraine Bloc (led by Volodymyr Lytvyn)
15. Unity Bloc (led by Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko)
16. All-Ukrainian Party of Workers
17. Reformed Liberal Party
18. All-Ukrainian New World Association
19. Justice All-Ukrainian Leftist Association
20. Winter Crop Generation Team
21. Party of Depositors and Social Protection
22. Agrarian Party
23. Social Democratic Party (United) (led by Viktor Medvedchuk)
24. National Movement of Ukraine (Rukh splinter group led by Bohdan Boiko)
25. Ukrainian National Assembly
26. ZUBR Bloc (ZUBR is the acronym of For Ukraine, Belarus and Russia)
27. Ukrainian Naval Party
28. Christian Movement
29. Social Democratic Party
30. Russian Bloc
31. Women for the Future
32. Yabluko Party
33. New Generation Party

form include: introduction of Constitutional amendments to balance the rights and responsibilities of all branches of power, including the development of an impeachment procedure; institutionalization of a structure of opposition to the government, which would carry certain rights and responsibilities; and the development of local self-government.

Website: [www.tymoshenko.com.ua](http://www.tymoshenko.com.ua).

### Socialist Party

Led by its chairman, Oleksander Moroz, this party also has been a heated source of opposition to President Kuchma, especially since the Gongadze affair began. The Socialists originated from the ashes of the Communist Party of Ukraine, which in 1991 was banned in Ukraine. As founder and leader of the new party, Mr. Moroz kept the red flag, but changed the name and strode back onto the political scene of Ukraine as a "reformed" politician. He became the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada in 1994, a post he held

(Continued on page 20)



Vitalii Kononov



Volodymyr Horbulin



Yulia Tymoshenko



Oleksander Moroz



Natalia Vitrenko

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## Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

longer-term plans ... the Americans seem to continue cherishing the hope of fragmenting Ukraine by strengthening break-away and extreme movements ... The U.S. used this scenario more than once in neighboring post-socialist countries. Therefore, the U.S. attempts, direct or indirect, to create a system of alternative public and political centers that could 'intercept' power amid 'crisis development' seem quite logical," the newspaper wrote on March 16. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Campaigner reportedly beaten by police

SUMY – Citing the press service of the Ukrainian Popular Rukh, UNIAN reported on March 18 that Oleksandra Kravchenko, a campaign activist of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine election bloc, was harshly beaten by two policemen in Sumy on March 12. According to the press service, she was attacked by members of the Velyko-Pysarivskiy District police department in Sumy Oblast: Oleksander Poliakin, the deputy head of the department, and Serhii Kornienko. Ms. Kravchenko has appealed to the prosecutor's office for protection. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### City recognizes Halychyna Division vets

IVANO-FRANKIVSK – The City Council of Ivano-Frankivsk has recognized veterans of the Halychyna (Galicia) Division as participants in combat for the freedom and independence of Ukraine, UNIAN reported on March 18, quoting a source in the city administration. The Halychyna Division was formed in German-occupied Ukraine in 1943, following a proposal from the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists faction led by Andriy Melnyk. The OUN-M viewed the division as the nucleus of a Ukrainian army necessary for winning Ukrainian independence. More than 80,000 young Ukrainians volunteered for the division, and some 13,000 of them became soldiers. The Ivano-Frankivsk authorities granted combatant status to 24 Halychyna Division veterans living in the region, most of whom are disabled former prisoners of the Soviet gulag. Under the council's resolution, they are now entitled to a pension increase and benefits in paying for public utilities. UNIAN added that the Russian community of Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast has protested the council's resolution, arguing that the Halychyna Division could not contribute to the defense of Ukraine since it fought a battle against Soviet troops in the summer of 1944. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Deputy says bloc plans to rig election

KYIV – Lawmaker Oleksander Yeliashkevych publicized documents on March 15 that allegedly contain a plan by the pro-government For a United Ukraine election bloc to rig the March 31 parliamentary election, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yeliashkevych told journalists that an employee of the presidential administration, who preferred to remain anonymous, passed to him a letter carrying a signature very similar to the one of Ivan Kurylenko, the head of For a United Ukraine headquarters, and addressed to For a United Ukraine leader Volodymyr Lytvyn. The letter was supplied with a note containing a detailed plan of measures to discredit representatives of competing blocs and cancel their registration, to falsify results of the election by members of electoral commissions, and to use opinion poll agencies and the media to pass off falsified results of the election as genuine. Mr. Lytvyn commented on March 16 that Mr. Yeliashkevych's documents are totally fabricated. (RFE/RL Newsline)

# INTERVIEW: Band leader offers insight on Zabava

*The Actions Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation established by sisters Teresa and Lily Zariczny of Bayonne, N.J. Its purpose is to identify benevolent organizations and support their philanthropic efforts through various fund-raising activities.*

*The foundation's first benefit event is dubbed "Kozaks with a Cause," a dance and party featuring a live recording by the band Zabava. Special guests include popular entertainer and musician Ron Cahute and the Syzokryli Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble. The event will be held at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, N.J., on April 13; Proceeds from the event and partial proceeds of the CD sales will benefit the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF).*

*In order to acquaint The Weekly's readers with the music of Zabava, the Zariczny sisters conducted the following interview with the band's leader, Mike Poulton.*

**How long has the Zabava band been together, and what sparked your interest in leading a Ukrainian band?**

Zabava, as Zabava, has been around for 10 years. The inception of Zabava came shortly after the members of a cabaret group, which I was in charge of the music for, called the Black Sea Kozaks went their separate ways after quite a long run. After this, wanting to continue on with the endeavors of Ukrainian music, seeing tremendous opportunity to do something great in the Ukrainian culture, while having a lot fun traveling around the world doing it, I started the group called Zabava with a number of other musicians. We're still at it today.

**How did you come up with the name Zabava?**

It was kind of a natural fit for what we do. The name in itself, "party," is exactly what we are all about. We like to do it, we like to attend them and we like to be a part of them. And it's the essence of what describes the people in the band today.

**How did you generate your first interest in Ukrainian music?**

I think it was kind of a natural inspiring aspect to my life when I started Ukrainian dancing at age 6 at the Ukrainian National Federation hall in Sudbury [Ontario]. I just knew that it was part of my soul. It's not just an interest. It's part of you.

**Have you had any formal music or theory training at all?**

Oh, absolutely. I started taking accordion lessons when I was 7 years old. I then graduated to the drums when I lost my brains at 13. My parents were glad when I found them again and went back to the accordion.

**Can you tell us a little bit about the band members?**

We are a band of six presently, including me. Andrew Schaak plays chromatic accordion, which is a button accordion. He is, in my opinion, one of, if not the most talented accordionist that one will ever find in Canada, certainly, if not in all of North America. He has also grown up in the culture and has studied accordion classically and possesses a high degree of training in classical accordion. I have seen him grow into one of the most talented musicians I have ever had the pleasure of playing with.

**How about some of the other band members?**

Then, there's John Shelegey. I believe he's been with the band playing with me the longest. John is, by trade, a chemical engineer, but while attending university he thought he'd be bored and did a double major in studio piano as well. He plays piano and keyboard with the band.

**You have some female violinists, as well as back-up vocalists.**

Yes, I have Cristina Masotti. She has been classically trained. She has spent many years with the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra and continues to play with the North Bay Symphony Orchestra. She has also spent five or six years playing in the musical scene in Toronto and is now back in Sudbury. I had to snatch her up because she's so well-trained classically that it's such a good fit. She also sings. Cristina has a tremendous voice. She has a voice that makes her a most suited female vocalist for this type of music. She's a pleasure to play music with.

Then the next person is Jeff Fuller. He has played in the rock and roll scene in Sudbury in many different bands. He has been playing with these bands since his early teens. He is one of Sudbury's best drummers. He is sought after by many other bands, but he chooses Zabava as his primary focus. He was introduced to this type of music about five or six years ago and brings a different flavor of drumming in a different style which is defining – it's the icing on the cake. His subtlety is unmatched.

Matt Foy is my guitar player. He joined the band about three years ago. What's interesting about Matt is that he has the lightest touch for this sort of music. It drives the music forward. It's unbelievable. I never really knew what the advantage to having a guitar player was until I found Matt. Matt has spent most of his musical career studying ska music and has toured with many ska bands. He has been recorded many times on different projects in that style of music. It's that style of music that he brings forth. The style is very similar. It has to be very light. That's why he's the best.

**Please describe ska music.**

It's like reggae. It's always very light with nice offbeat embellishments. It's a style all to its own that lends itself so well to what we do.

**Has your music been particularly influenced by any other band or music?**

Oh, absolutely. There have certainly been many influences. I started playing the drums at what would be the Polish hall in Sudbury with my uncle, who plays accordion as well. I started playing drums with him when I was about 14. This experience encouraged me to continue further with accordion. As far as other influences, I would definitely say that Ron Cahute has been one. It's always an extreme pleasure for one to respect someone's talent and someone's music that much and in later years end up working with them on different projects. It's a pleasure. I have tremendous respect for his achievements.

**What type of gigs do you normally play?**

Well, I would say that it would be a cross-section of all. We do many festivals. Just last year, for example, we did the largest Ukrainian festival in Canada in Dauphin, Manitoba. We did the Sunflower Festival in Detroit last year. We do a large festival called the Carousel of Nations in Windsor, Ontario, to name a few. But on the other hand, we do weddings and zabavas from Sudbury to Toronto, Chicago, Detroit and all points in between. We've also

toured Australia and Europe with the Dnipro choir and Veselka dancing group from Sudbury. We get around!

**Who was your childhood hero? Your boyhood hero?**

I would have to say my father. Definitely. My father and I were in business together for quite some time. He has tremendous savvy for what he does. We owned a supermarket together and employed 180 people in the business. It's a large multi-department supermarket that he continues to operate. He's always had tremendous savvy for what he's done. He's never one to sweat the small stuff and let other people get him down because he's his own man. I've always looked up to that and I think that that's very important in life.

I think that whatever one does in business or musically you know when you start that people will have their opinions. It is the people that you find that are envious of what you've created that are the ones to criticize. The other people are the ones who encourage you and understand that we are trying to do something for the culture while making certain people are pleased with what we do. That's motivating.

I've run into both types of people. I don't sweat the small stuff.

**So, what is your audience typically like?**

I think that it encompasses all age groups. The elder generation absolutely loves what we do because we take those old songs and give them a little bit of spice but don't mess with them that much. They love that because the traditional songs are recognizable to them. It's nostalgic. Bringing this sort of music, which is already dynamic, forward to young people has allowed us to play, yes, at the Ukrainian festivals, but also to other mainstream festivals like the Northern Lights Festival in Sudbury.

It is not culturally based at all and we fit right in and attracted huge audiences for this sort of music. We're not playing anything differently and we're not playing anything with a different edge to it. We're playing the

(Continued on page 19)

## Wedding Announcements



*Osyp Polatajko  
proudly announces the marriage of his  
daughter  
Halya Polatajko  
to  
Yurko Kozub  
of Toronto, Ontario, Canada,  
which took place  
on Saturday, August 18, 2001  
at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic  
Church in Pittsburgh, PA.*

### Congratulations to the newlyweds!

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— *The Ukrainian Weekly*

\*\*\*

*Wedding and anniversary  
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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE MANAGEMENT OF SOYUZIVKA. THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE BASED ON AGE, RACE, CREED, SEX OR COLOR.

### TO: ALL UNA MEMBERS

From January to March 2002, branches of the Ukrainian National Association will hold their annual meetings as mandated by the UNA By-Laws. It is very important that all members attend these meetings. This year, in preparation for the upcoming UNA Convention, branches will hold meetings for election of delegates. Branch meetings are announced in both The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

Participation of UNA members is important to the future of our organization.



Bishop Hlib Lonchyna with Father Borys Gudziak (left), rector of the Lviv Theological Academy, and his brother, Father Taras Lonchyna of Silver Spring, Md.

## Newly consecrated...

(Continued from page 3)

Studite in Grottaferrata (Italy) where he received his schema on December 19, 1976. He was ordained a priest on July 3, 1977, and for several years served at St. Nicholas Parish in Passaic, N.J.

From 1994 to 2000 he served as the spiritual director for Lviv's Holy Spirit

Seminary and taught Old Testament courses at the Lviv Theological Academy. He also was chaplain for the Faith and Light community in Ukraine. Faith and Light is an international movement, connected with the better-known L'Arche movement, where the developmentally delayed, their parents and friends form informal communities. In 2000 and 2001 he served as the attaché for the apostolic nunciature in Kyiv.

## Lviv's new bishop...

(Continued from page 3)

learned more about government, state affairs and international relations. Regarding my work in the office, I have acquired many useful skills, such as keeping files, writing letters in various styles, archiving documents, and so on.

My greatest and most memorable experience, however, was the preparation for

the papal visit to Ukraine. I spent most of this time interpreting for the representatives of the pope and the Ukrainian government. In addition, I worked fruitfully with separate delegations, church representatives, journalists and others. Now that I will be serving as bishop, I can hardly overestimate this experience, because I will have to meet people of different backgrounds and classes of society and try my best to resolve new problems.

### DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES OF MONTREAL

announces that its

#### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

Saturday, April 6, 2002, at 2:00 p.m.

at the Ukrainian Canadian Congress  
3244 Beaubien E. Rsmnt., Montreal, Quebec

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

434, 465, 473

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Tekla Moroz, UNA Advisor

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Tekla Moroz, District Chairman

Yaroslava Bachynsky, Secretary

Alexandra Dolnycky, Treasurer

## To the UNA membership:

- In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, Article 17, all branches, district committees and individual members are invited to submit their proposals for the good and welfare of the association to the UNA Executive Committee. These proposals will be reviewed, and approved or revised, by the Executive Committee, which will then recommend them to the UNA convention's Committee on Revision of By-Laws for its consideration. That committee will then recommend to the convention what action should be taken. Please address such proposals to: Ukrainian National Association, Att'n: Executive Committee, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

- Any proposals for amendments to the UNA By-Laws are to be submitted to the Committee on Revision of By-Laws, which will consider the advisability of the change or revision suggested, and will then present its recommendation for consideration by the convention. Such proposals are to be submitted to the chairperson of the Pre-Convention By-Laws Committee, Taras Szmagala Jr. Please address proposals regarding by-laws changes to: Ukrainian National Association, Att'n: Taras Szmagala Jr., 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

– UNA Executive Committee



# NOTES ON PEOPLE

## Physicist elected to national academy

HOLMDEL, N.J. – Dr. Andrew Chraplyvy is one of 74 new members elected to the National Academy of Engineering, one of the highest professional distinctions that can be accorded an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made “important contributions to engineering theory and practice” and those who have demonstrated “unusual accomplishment in the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology.”

Dr. Chraplyvy's election was announced in Washington on February 15 by NAE President William A. Wulf. The Ukrainian American resident of Matawan, N.J., was cited “for contributions to the development of high-capacity optical fiber communication systems.”

The National Academy of Engineering is a private, non-profit institution. It provides leadership and guidance to the nation on the application of engineering resources to vital issues. Established in 1964, NAE operates under the congressional charter granted to the National Academy of Sciences in 1863.

Dr. Chraplyvy is responsible for a series of inventions in the early to mid-1990s that have fundamentally changed fiber optic communications. One of the inventions is a new type of optical communication fiber (called non-zero dispersion fiber). There are now over 30 million miles of this fiber installed worldwide.

Other inventions by Dr. Chraplyvy involved new ways of transmitting information over fiber networks. These tech-



Dr. Andrew Chraplyvy

niques are now implemented in all advanced fiber optic communication systems around the world.

Dr. Chraplyvy, who earned his Ph.D. in physics from Cornell University in 1977, is director of Lightwave Systems Research at Bell Labs, Lucent Technologies, a Bell Labs Fellow and Fellow of the Optical Society of America. He holds over 20 patents and has published over 170 scientific papers and articles.

He is a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its Chornomortsi fraternity, as well as of the Ukrainian National Association, Branch 27.

## Physician recertified in long-term care

CLIFTON, N.J. – The board of directors of the American Medical Directors Certification Program (AMDCP) recently announced that Michael Lewko, M.D., C.M.D., of Clifton, N.J., has been recertified as a Certified Medical Director in Long-Term Care (CMD).

Dr. Lewko is one of 52 physicians who have completed the recertification requirements and were recertified at the fall 2001 meeting of the AMDCP board of directors. The fall 2001 group of physicians, along with those who were recertified at the spring 2001 AMDCP board meeting, were recognized at the 2002 annual symposium of the American Medical Directors Association, held on March 21-24 at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina in San Diego.

Since the program's inception in 1991, 1,633 physicians nationwide have received the CMD designation. The Certified Medical Director in Long-Term Care program was created to enhance the profession of medical direction throughout the long-term care continuum (e.g., nursing facilities, hospice, subacute care), and to rein-

force the leadership role of the medical director in providing quality care. The CMD program recognizes the dual clinical and administrative roles of the medical director and requires indicators of competence in both areas.

Currently administered by the AMDCP, the CMD was established by the American Medical Directors Association (AMDA) in 1991 after three years of research and development to define the core skills and knowledge necessary for effective medical direction.

Dr. Lewko is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 170.

*Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number. Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.*

## Special Time at Soyuzivka Help Us Celebrate Our 50th Anniversary



We are looking to YOU - our dear guests, friends and former employees for your input in helping us celebrate our 50th anniversary.

If you were in our city Soyuzivka, maybe one of our camps, maybe our house, maybe our neighborhood, please contact us at the above address and let us know what you would like to do to help us celebrate.

Even for many "former residents" - past and present, we would like to know if you would be willing to lend us a few items or willing to copy items - we would like to use as much of these items as possible for our celebration.

We are looking for our special families - children of the past 50 years of Soyuzivka. We would like to hear from you about the memories you have of our time there - we would like to have the stories to share with our children.

Sign up on the Soyuzivka website: [Soyuzivka.com](http://Soyuzivka.com) and special to help us for additional information and updates.

Thank You for your contribution to this matter.

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration of Plast Kurin



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8th Kurin USP and 24th Kurin UPS, Chortopolokhy will hold their 50th Anniversary Celebration at Soyuzivka on April 19-21, 2002. A banquet-dinner will be held on April 20th.

We invite all current and former members of Chortopolokhy with their family and friends to join us. If you would like to attend, or need more information, please contact Christina Ratycz at (732) 287-0635 (evenings), or via e-mail: [cratycz@aol.com](mailto:cratycz@aol.com)



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For ticket reservations or inquiries,  
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**201-339-4224**

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## LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?

### Look no further than SOYUZIVKA!

SOYUZIVKA (a.k.a. Suzie-Q) is the Ukrainian National Association's Resort nestled in the breathtaking Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. With weekly *zabavas*, miles of hiking trails, an olympic-size pool, 7 tennis courts, a beach volleyball court, the Q-Café and Ukrainian cuisine in the dining room, you can't ask for much more. As a SOYUZIVKA worker, you can enjoy all the great amenities of this summer resort while getting \$\$paid\$\$ and making lifelong friends!

SOYUZIVKA is looking for a few good kozaks (men and women) to become part of a unique team this 2002 summer season:

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- Housekeeping personnel
- General workers (grounds maintenance, setups, etc.)



We are located only 90 miles from New York City and minutes from the Ukrainian Youth Camp SUM, Woodstock, Poughkeepsie, Albany, Woodbury Commons, Minewaska State Park, Lake Mohonk and the hip town of New Paltz. So there's always something to do!

#### Details:

- Please submit your application by May 1, 2002.
- Non-U.S. citizens must have a Green Card or Employment Authorization.
- Preference will be given to those who are able to come early in June and stay through Labor Day.
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## Both houses...

(Continued from page 1)

want to encourage Ukraine in recognizing its own often-stated goal of integration into Europe."

"Despite the positive changes that have occurred in Ukraine since independence in 1991, including the economic growth over the last two years, Ukraine is still undergoing a difficult path towards transition. The pace of that transition has been distressing, slowed by insufficient progress in respect for the rule of law, especially by the presence of widespread corruption, which continues to exact a considerable toll on the Ukrainian people. They deserve better, Mr. Speaker, than what they have gotten," he stated.

Rep. Hoeffel said, "If (Ukraine) fails to continue to move forward with democratic reforms, if this is not a fair and free election, it will be a major setback to the cause of democracy in Ukraine."

"It is very appropriate for this government, as friendly as we are with the people and the government of Ukraine, to urge that the government in Ukraine do everything in its power to ensure the fairness and openness of this election process," he said.

Last week Rep. Hoeffel, a member of the House International Relations Committee and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, participated in a panel discussion on the upcoming parliamentary elections at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa. A fellow panelist was Myroslava Gongadze, wife of murdered journalist Heorhii Gongadze, who appeared at Rep. Hoeffel's request.

"Free and fair elections represent the bedrock of democracy," said Rep. Slaughter, a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. "The leaders of Ukraine need to demon-

strate to their people and the world that the government is serious about reform."

"I hope this resolution sends a clear message to the government of Ukraine that the U.S. Congress will not simply rubber stamp funding requests for Ukraine without also considering the serious issues involved in Ukraine's democratic development," said Rep. Slaughter. "In particular, the conduct of the 2002 parliamentary elections will have a major impact on funding considerations when Members of Congress are again confronted with the task of balancing their support for the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship with Ukraine's progress in making democratic reforms."

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) also spoke in support of the resolution, focusing attention on the young people of Ukraine and the United States.

"I know that I detected, especially among the young [in Ukraine], such a great hope, such a feeling that they had the future of the country in their hands. They are looking for us to pass this resolution to give a signal that our country stands and walks alongside those who are trying to build more open and free societies," she said.

"And so to the young people in our country, I encourage them to pay attention to Ukraine, the most important nation in Central Europe. As it goes, so will the nations around it," Rep. Kaptur stated.

She concluded her remarks by stating "I rise in very strong support of House Resolution 339 and want to thank so very much the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Smith) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Hoeffel) for bringing this to the attention of the entire world, indeed. We respectfully say to the people of Ukraine, vote, vote wisely, monitor the elections, help to move your country forward, as I know the hearts of your people tell you they want."

## U.S. steps up...

(Continued from page 2)

of the aid a report on murdered journalists, including the unresolved case of murdered opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze. The Ukrainian parliamentary commission headed by Oleksander Zhyr, a member of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine election bloc, have begun submitting the "Kuchmagate" tapes to FBI experts. The experts have concluded that the tapes studied so far have not been doctored, thereby undermining one of the main arguments used by Ukraine's authorities to deflect guilt away from President Kuchma.

The FBI experts offered to act as expert witnesses in any subsequent trial and their reports on the tapes would be accepted as credible evidence in U.S. and Western European courts. The Ukrainian parliamentary commission is now proposing to internationalize evidence found on the tapes, as it is unlikely that any trial resulting from them would take place in Ukraine. International law takes precedence over Ukrainian, including the United Nations Convention Against Torture signed by 118 states. Ukrainian officials implicated in the evidence on the tapes in misdeeds could theoretically be arrested in any of these countries.

Thirdly, Ukraine is being left out of the geopolitical changes that are affecting Central and Eastern Europe. Ukraine is not among the 10 countries seeking NATO membership at the alliance's November summit in Prague. Of the 10 countries, five (the three Baltic states, Slovakia and Slovenia) will likely be asked to join NATO this year, with Romania and Bulgaria also possible candidates. (Macedonia, Croatia and Albania are generally believed to be out of the running.) On February 6, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell refused to disclose how many of the applicants would

be invited to join; nevertheless, he said, "I think its going to be a pretty good-sized addition to the membership." If Slovakia and Romania were to join NATO this year, Ukraine would then share borders with four NATO members.

Ukraine has narrowed its foreign policy goals to only joining the European Union as an associate member in 2004 and as a full member by 2011, but even these goals are unrealistic as Ukraine is a member of neither the "fast" nor the "slow track" groups of future members. Poland recently submitted a 92-page report to the EU detailing how it will tighten its Eastern border with Ukraine beginning next year through visas, additional border troops and modern equipment. In 2001, 15 million Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians entered Poland. As of 2004 Poland's Eastern border will be the external frontier of the EU, leaving Ukraine de facto outside "Europe."

Fourthly, during a visit on February 11-13 to Russia's Tyumen Oblast, the main producer of Russian oil and gas, President Kuchma repeatedly complained about Russian plans to lay a gas pipeline bypassing Ukraine, as a result of which Ukraine would lose its control over Russian energy exports. Last month, Western European consumers of Russian gas pressured Poland to drop its objections to the new pipeline that will run through Belarus, Poland and Slovakia.

Because of these four factors, President Kuchma faces a fundamental dilemma. He can save himself from prosecution and obtain immunity by ensuring a pliant Parliament is elected through less-than-free elections, something that would end Ukraine's chances of "returning to Europe." Or, he could allow free elections that would rebuild Western confidence in Ukraine but would threaten his own plans for a peaceful retirement after his term ends in 2004, and make it difficult for him to again travel securely to the West, now or in the future.

## Ukraine begins...

(Continued from page 2)

All centrist oligarchs' parties are top-down ideologically amorphous structures that are interwoven with the state apparatus in different regions of Ukraine. They maintain a low profile, except during elections and as parliamentary factions. The only exception to this rule is the SDPU, whose leaders have – so far unsuccessfully – attempted to legitimize themselves as a bona fide social democratic party both domestically and with the Socialist International.

The SDPU was the only oligarchs' party to support changing the election law to increase the proportion of seats elected by party lists (oligarchs tend to favor one-seat constituencies). The SDPU's growing strength as a party with nationwide membership and local branches, its likely involvement in Kuchmagate and the widely held perception that its members control too many sectors (such as energy and the media) may have led President Kuchma to regard it as a threat.

The SDPU is fearful of the authorities now turning against it. (Mr. Kuchma apparently made anti-Semitic comments about SDPU leader Hryhorii Surkis on the Kuchmagate tapes.) Moreover, the SDPU's access to "administrative resources" (which helped them reach a 4.01 percent vote in the 1998 elections) may now be in jeopardy as SDPU oblast chairmen are being removed and campaigns have started against Mr. Medvedchuk's brother, Serhii, who heads the Lviv Oblast Tax Administration, and former Ukrainian President and SDPU member Leonid Kravchuk's son, Oleksander (on corruption charges). The state prosecutor has opened a case against SDPU supporter and National Security and Defense Council Secretary Yevhen Marchuk over allegations that he was involved in the illegal export of arms in the early 1990s.

The party, therefore, seeks a role for domestic election monitors who would publicize attempts to falsify the outcome of the upcoming ballot by understating the number of votes cast for it.

High-ranking representatives from Labor Ukraine, based in Mr. Kuchma's home city of Dnipropetrovsk, have begun sounding out reaction to Labor Ukraine's proposals to legitimize the gains made by oligarchs' groups, declare an amnesty for corrupt activities and shadow capital, and start business dealings on a more legal and equal footing. The fact that Labor Ukraine is putting out feelers on this sensitive question testifies to its wariness as to what will happen in Ukraine – first after the March 2002 elections when Parliament may increase its powers, and then two years later when their protector, Mr. Kuchma, ends his second term.

President Kuchma's tactics in the run-up to the March elections are to provide "administrative resources" for the pro-presidential For a United Ukraine, to ignore the SDPU and Our Ukraine, and to obstruct the Socialists and former Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, thereby ensuring that no group gains a majority, while possibly even blocking his vociferous opponents from entering Parliament.

But although for a United Ukraine members will gain from the lack of executive

support for the SDPU, they also know that the same could happen to them if they fall out of favor with President Kuchma. For that reason, For a United Ukraine now appears more inclined toward changing the current unpredictable system that relies on "kompromat" to ensure loyalty. That system has been described by Keith Darden, writing about Ukraine recently in "East European Constitutional Review," as the "blackmail state."

Disgruntlement within Ukraine's elites with the country's current political course was reflected in the initial failure of pro-Kuchma parties to cobble together a unified bloc, as the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), the Donbas party of power led by Tax Administration Chief Mykola Azarov, had argued that it could easily go it alone. The ultimate emergence of For a United Ukraine was made possible only by Mr. Kuchma naming the one person he fully trusts outside his family, Volodymyr Lytvyn, the head of the presidential administration, to lead it.

Mr. Yushchenko, too, had made overtures to the Donbas business elites, many of whom support his attempts at creating a transparent, stable and predictable business climate, but President Kuchma was able to cajole and entice them to instead join the For a United Ukraine bloc. But Mr. Kuchma was unable to impose his will on the youth wing of the PRU, which has decided to back Our Ukraine – not For a United Ukraine.

Vitalii Haiduk, a founder of the Industrial Union of the Donbas, Ukraine's largest regional and business elite, was appointed fuel and energy minister on November 20, 2001. Mr. Haiduk was a former Donetsk Oblast chairman and is now a leading member of the PRU. Increased spending on the Donbas coal mines and the creation of a fuel-energy company combining electricity and coal-metallurgical companies – a move opposed by the Yushchenko government – are two further concessions to the Donbas elites to induce them to back For a United Ukraine. The Donbas elites feel slighted at the domination of the Dnipropetrovsk clan in central politics since President Kuchma first came to power in 1994 and possess a strong regional "patriotism." Their loyalty is not necessarily to Mr. Kuchma, and they are not hostile to pro-business Mr. Yushchenko.

The National Democratic Party of Ukraine (NDPU) and Agrarians are similarly uncomfortable as members of For a United Ukraine as many of their members openly sympathize with Mr. Yushchenko. Ivan Pliusch, Parliament chairman and a member of the NDPU, was instrumental in helping to block the SDPU from using the language card to obtain votes from Russian-speakers in the elections. Interviewed by the parliamentary newspaper Holos Ukrayiny on December 27, 2001, Mr. Pliusch admitted that, although he is a member of For a United Ukraine, his sympathies lie with Our Ukraine.

Like many members of the NDPU, he sees it as having become "obsolete" under Kuchma ally and former Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko. Mr. Pliusch hopes that a "pro-statehood democratic faction" and majority can be created in the next Verkhovna Rada on the basis of Our Ukraine – not For a United Ukraine. Therefore, our Ukraine is likely to gain many defectors from the For a United Ukraine bloc in the next Parliament.

## Band leader...

(Continued from page 15)

same music for non-Ukrainians as we play for Ukrainian people. We played in the top rock and roll clubs in the city of Sudbury with great success. Bringing Ukrainian culture not only to Ukrainian people, but to the mainstream, is also very important because it gives them a little bit of a flavor of what our culture is

all about. It's dynamic! Younger people love what we do.

\*\*\*

*Zabava's live recording dance and party will take place at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, N.J., at 9 p.m. on April 13. For ticket reservations (\$25 reserved, \$30 at the door) or inquiries please call Teresa or Lily Zariczny at the Actions Foundation, (201) 339-4224, or e-mail kozak\_cause@hotmail.com.a*

## ROCHESTER

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### DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING  
will be held on

Friday, April 5, 2002, at 2:00 p.m.

at the UNA Home Office

2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054

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

25, 27, 37, 42, 70, 76, 133, 134, 142, 170, 171, 172, 182, 214, 234, 286, 287, 322, 340

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Ulana Diachuk, UNA President

Martha Lysko, UNA National Secretary

Stefan Kaczaraj, UNA Treasurer

UNA Advisors – Andre Worobec, Eugene Oscislawski, Roma Hadzewycz

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Eugene Oscislawski, District Chairman

Mark Datzkiwsky, Secretary

Andre Worobec, Treasurer

Oksana Trytjak, Chairperson of Auditing Committee

Honorary District Chairmen: Wolodymyr Bilyk, John Chomko

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## Ukraine's top 10...

(Continued from page 13)

until 1998.

Over time the man and his party ideology have softened. Today Mr. Moroz supports an independent and sovereign Ukraine in addition to private enterprise. However, he still opposes private ownership of land and continues to be leery of the International Monetary Fund and policy entanglements with the United States.

While a schism in the Socialist Party occurred last year over Mr. Moroz's seeming obsession with Gongadzegate, which resulted in the loss of the party's No. 2 man, Ivan Chyzh, that hole was

mended with the elevation of Yurii Lutsenko. Mr. Lutsenko was the main organizer and front man in the various anti-Kuchma demonstrations that occurred in the first months of last year.

This once powerful party today is merely a remnant of its former self and is in danger of failing to get the absolute minimum 4 percent support it needs to retain a parliamentary presence in the future.

The party's platform consists of seven points in the form of slogans, the first of which is "Power under the control of the people!" Second is "Jobs and wages, pensions and social security!" followed by "Government support for the village," "Fixed taxes for businesses," "State con-

cern for children and youth," and "The return of stolen savings."

Website: [www.socinfo.kiev.ua](http://www.socinfo.kiev.ua).

### The Natalia Vitrenko Bloc

The Natalia Vitrenko bloc, more than any other of the 10 political entities listed here is all about one person. Ms. Vitrenko is a controversial, vitriolic, unconventional and charismatic figure who at one point in 1999 was President Kuchma's major challenger for the top spot in the state. She once worked alongside Mr. Moroz, but broke with him in 1996 over the Socialist Party's move towards the center.

Many believe that she secretly collaborates with President Kuchma on certain

legislation at critical moments for the president in return for back-door financial support that keeps her party going.

Her Progressive Socialist Party staunchly opposes economic reforms, privatization and cooperation with the West and especially with the IMF and NATO. She advocates a return to some kind of arrangement with Moscow and has expressed support for the policies of Belarus strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka and the extrapolations of Russian Duma member Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Like the Socialists, the Vitrenko Bloc is in danger of not crossing the 4 percent threshold and being excluded from the next Verkhovna Rada.

Website: [www.vitrenko.org](http://www.vitrenko.org).

**Вам потрібний хтось,  
щоб відсвяткувати разом?**

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## First annual Summit...

(Continued from page 5)

growth will depend on how well Ukrainian diaspora organizations communicate to each other.

"In order to survive as a community, our communication must improve and must include the outside world," said Ms. Mykytyn, adding that her own organization's presence on the Internet via its "CYM-net" had been "a tremendous tool in accomplishing this dialogue among members."

"We have to begin to use new technologies," echoed Mr. Kryshtalsky, who pointed to his own organization, the UIA, as an "organization still in the 19th century as regards technology." He emphasized: "If we hope to recruit new members we will have to address issues of technology."

Summit participants agreed that the financial stresses on diaspora organizations are significant, and Mr. Kuzma stressed, "We need to begin to address ourselves seriously to the issue of fund-raising."

Following the afternoon panel a general discussion session provided a spirited and often passionate exchange of ideas between professionals and many of the students present, who seemed eager to have their opinions and voices heard.

Although lacking a highly defined or rigid structure, the general session that followed the two more formal panel presentations provided all participants the ability to weigh in on various important issues. With almost every individual taking part, the brainstorming session allowed participants to present looser, more creative ideas. Many of the professionals later commented on being pleasantly surprised at the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of the student crowd.

Saturday night provided summit participants with a much-needed respite.

Following dinner and a cocktail hour, Andrij Stasiw entertained guests with musical accompaniment leading into Sunday's wrap-up session aimed at "drawing conclusions from the earlier discussions."

The Sunday break-out sessions allowed participants to take up where Saturday's general discussion left off – highlighting the different types of communications that have evolved over the past 40 years and the need to break many of the stereotypical molds Ukrainian organizations had developed.

"The emphasis in our organizations should be put on breaking these molds," Mr. Kuzma said, "the same stereotypical molds which often disenfranchise the youth you're trying to attract." He stressed the concept of "thinking out of the box" and the idea of balancing "our modern-day virtual communities with personal contacts."

Following the Sunday wrap-up session, participants agreed that such a gathering must be held again – indeed, that it must be held regularly. And, community leaders and members meeting at an open session at the conclusion of the three-day event, spoke in favor of regular consultation among Ukrainian American organizations with the aim of increasing the community's effectiveness both internally and in terms of its external relations.

Summit 2002 was co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and the Ukrainian National Association. In addition to the panelists representing a variety of organizations, conference participants included representatives from the Ukrainian World Congress's Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations, The Washington Group and the Ukrainian Orthodox League, as well as members of Ukraine's most recent wave of immigration to the United States.



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# Bandurist Chorus announces auditions in Chicago

by Oleh Mahlay

DETROIT – The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC) has announced an audition session for male vocalists or bandura players interested in becoming members of the chorus for the 2002-2003 concert season.

This upcoming season will coincide with the chorus's preparation for a concert tour of Western Europe in 2003. The UBC last toured the greatest cities of Western Europe almost a half century ago.

Since the group's inception in 1918, members of this ensemble have performed in front of tens of thousands of adoring fans, presenting bandura and male choral music of the highest quality. The UBC has crossed paths with American and Ukrainian presidents, had adventures throughout the Canadian Rockies, Australia, Europe, Ukraine, left their imprint on unique recordings, and shared the stage with various talented artists such as Paul Plishka, Jack Palance and bandurist Roman Hryniv. The chorus is a recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Prize for Artistic Achievement awarded by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

The 2001-2002 concert season featured a series of sacred music concerts in the metropolitan areas of Detroit, Cleveland and Toronto. The repertoire featured sacred music by masters like Bortniansky, Berezovsky, Dyletskiy and Stetsenko. Furthermore, the UBC finished learning a new Ukrainian divine liturgy and has completed a recording that is due out in September of this year. The UBC also represented the United States in Kyiv during Ukraine's 10th anniversary of independence celebration in August of 2001. The chorus also participated in the Chicago-based Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit

Union's 50th anniversary concert in October of last year, and finished the season with a memorial concert in Philadelphia dedicated to Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

On the horizon is the planned tour of Western Europe. The UBC last toured Europe in 1958, traversing England, France, Portugal, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. What awaits the chorus beyond that may be up to the new members joining the group today.

In order to achieve even higher goals and greater artistic excellence, the chorus are looking for qualified and dedicated musicians to join the ensemble as it writes the new chapters in the rich history of the bandurist brethren. The UBC is also looking for singers and bandurists who have the potential and dedication to be part of this unique ensemble that is more than just a singing group. The chorus is committed to the development of young people who have an interest in improving their musical skills while working with the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus once they pass the audition process.

This audition session will be for both musicians who are ready to perform immediately and other singers who lack experience but have potential and desire. Those interested in auditioning should be prepared to sing or play a song of their choosing, inform us of their musical background, and have adequate music reading skills. Knowledge of the Ukrainian language is preferred, but not necessarily a requirement.

The audition will be held in Chicago on Saturday, April, 13, at 3-5 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural center at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church. To schedule an audition time, call Victor Wojtychiw at (773) 775.0263 or e-mail UBCauditions@bandura.org for more information on the UBC, log on to www.bandura.org.

*Oleh Mahlay is the artistic director of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.*

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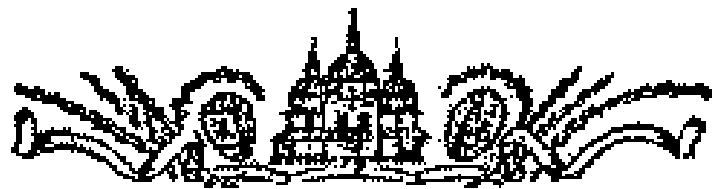
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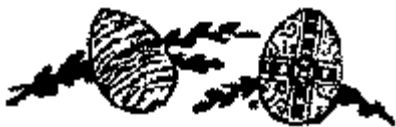
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would like to take this opportunity to wish all of their clients,  
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СВОЇХ ЧЛЕНІВ І ВСІХ ЧИТАЧІВ ГАЗЕТИ

*зі СВЯТОМ*

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Запрошуємо Вас і Вашу родину, що мешкають в околицях  
Нью-Інгланд, завітати до нашої Кредитівки.

*Дайте нам нагоду допомогти Вам  
у Ваших фінансових потребах.*



*Христос Воскрес!*

**HAPPY EASTER**

*TO OUR READERS, SUPPORTERS AND COLLEAGUES.*



**THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY  
EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION STAFFS**

*Roma Hadzewycz  
Roman Woronowycz  
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 For advanced level dancers age fifteen and up. Program includes ballet, characters, and Ukrainian folk dances. Contact: Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, 382 Decatur Ave, Shirley, NY 11967. Tel: 631-281-7243

**Olympus Fencing Camp** June 30-July 13  
 Learn from Yefim Litvin and Yevgeniy Nazarov, the coaches of World and Olympic Games athletes. Contact: Yevgeniy Nazarov, 2901 Ocean Pkwy Apt. C-7, Brooklyn, NY 11235, 718-648-3965

**Roma Pryma Ukrainian Dance Camp** July 21-August 3  
 For beginning and intermediate level dancers age seven to sixteen. Program includes ballet, characters and Ukrainian folk dances. Contact: Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, 382 Decatur Ave, Shirley, NY 11967. Tel: 631-281-7243

**Ukrainian Sitch Sports School** July 21-August 3  
 Three action-packed sessions of tennis, soccer, swimming and volleyball. Proven 30 year record and tradition. Contact: Ukrainian Sitch Sports School, 680 Sanford Avenue, Newark, NJ 07106 Tel: 973-829-8857 or 732-382-2223

**Ham Radio Camp and Convention** August 3-August 18  
 A two week course for ages twelve and up, leading to obtaining Amateur Radio license. Antenna and radio theory, rules, regulations, practical operating lessons ending with Radiofest convention 8/16-18. Contact: Yuri Blazarovich, K3BU@aol.com, Box 282, Pine Brook, NJ 07068, tel: 973-808-1970

**Richard School of Classical Dance** For ages ten and up. August 17-August 24  
 Contact: Richard Grabowski, 237 Division Ave., Garfield, NJ, 07026 Tel: 973-931-1133 or 237-1025

**Computer and Internet camps** dates to be announced

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Monday, April 1**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will present a lecture by Anna Procyk, associate professor of history at the Kingsborough College of the City University of New York. The lecture, titled "The Great Polish Emigration and the Risorgimento in Ukraine," will be held in the HURI seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For more information call the institute, (617) 495-4053, or e-mail [huri@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:huri@fas.harvard.edu).

**Wednesday, April 3**

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian Human Rights Committee of Philadelphia, under the aegis of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, invites the public to a presentation by former dissident and prisoner of conscience Prof. Myroslav Marynovych, who will deliver a lecture titled "Human Rights, Religious Freedom and the Role of Dissidents in Contemporary Ukraine." Prof. Marynovych is director of the Institute of Religion and Society in Lviv. The presentation will be held at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Admission is free. For further information contact Orsya Hewka, (215) 663-1166, or Iko Labunka, (773) 680-2637.

**Saturday, April 4**

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Artistic Center presents Julian Kytasty, who will play on the bandura, kobzar bandura and the sopilka, in a program featuring music from his new CD, "Black Sea Winds - The Kobzari of Ukraine." The program will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 West Chicago Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10; students, \$5. For information contact the institute, (773) 227-5522.

**Saturday, April 6**

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents an author's evening with Olga Kuzmowycz who will talk about her book "This and That." This event will take place at 7 p.m. at 2320 West Chicago Ave. Tickets: \$10; students, \$5. For information contact the institute, (773) 227-5522.

**Saturday, April 13**

WARREN, Mich.: The Ukrainian Arts Society will sponsor an evening with composer Roman Hurko at 6 p.m. in the Dovbush Room at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Road. The featured event will be a video presentation of his "Panakhoda for the Victims of Chernobyl," performed in Kyiv with the composer conducting. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10; students/seniors, \$5. For more information call (248) 879-8167.

**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.

## UKRAINE 2002

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<p><b>CHEREMSHYNA</b>                  Lviv Symferopol-Bukhchisaraj                  Yalta Kyiv/Kiev/Perejaslav Ka.                  June 4-15 \$2575.00</p> <p><b>ALALTY</b>                  Krakiv Lviv Trankavets                  Uzhhorod Jacevacu Chernivtsi                  July 2-15 \$2575.00</p> <p><b>BABYNOK</b>                  Lviv Kachkanets/Khotyn                  Iv Frankavsk Kobornya                  Ternopil Kyiv                  July 10-27 \$2800.00</p> <p><b>ZHANNORONOK</b>                  Odessa Kherson Bukhchisaraj                  Yalta Kyiv Poltava Chernivtsi                  July 23-Aug 7 \$2950.00</p>	 <p><b>INDEPENDENCE TOUR</b>                  Fastiv Kyiv/Kiev Lviv                  Symferopol-Bukhchisaraj Yalta                  Zaporizhia/Khortytsia Poltava                  Aug 9-25 \$2950.00</p> <p><b>CHORNOBYL'YTSI</b>                  Independence Celebrations                  Oniropetrovsk Zaporizhia/Khortytsia                  Dnepsk Luhansk Kharkiv Poltava                  Kyiv Chernivtsi Symferopol-Bukhchisaraj                  Yalta Odessa Vasna                  Aug 13-25 \$2670.00                  Aug 13-31 \$2950.00</p> <p><b>ZHUBAZH</b>                  Independence Celebrations                  Kyiv/Kiev Poltava Zaporizhia/Khortytsia                  Bukhchisaraj Yalta Kherson Odessa                  Aug 20-Sept 2 \$2975.00</p>
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