

INSIDE:

- Ecotourism to the Chernobyl zone — page 2.
- Ukrainian diplomats visit UNA headquarters — page 4.
- The sacred music of Roman Hurko — page 13.

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

U.S. sends mixed signals on Ukraine's dealings with Iraq

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government, in an official statement issued by the State Department, discounted allegations that Ukraine was illegally selling air defense systems to Iraq.

The president's national security advisor, Condoleezza Rice, however, was more circumspect in her comments on the allegations.

In a statement posted on April 29, the State Department said the United States has seen "no credible evidence" that the Kolchuga system was transferred to Iraq.

The allegations, which first surfaced in Ukraine in March, were based on one of the secret recordings made by President Leonid Kuchma's former body guard, Mykola Melnychenko. On the recording, the president allegedly discusses the proposed sale with the head of Ukraine's arms export agency, Valerii Malev.

"The Ukrainian government has stated that such a transfer has not and will not happen," the State Department said. "We expect Ukraine to continue to ensure no such transfer occurs."

That same day, when Dr. Rice was asked about the allegations, she acknowledged

that Washington had held discussions with the Ukrainian "regime" about proliferation issues but declined to get into the specifics of the Iraqi case.

"As to Ukraine," she said in response to a question following her speech at the Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced and International Studies, "I don't want to comment on the specific example because there's a lot that's gone on there and I don't want to comment on what is really still an allegation. But I will say that we have talked very seriously to the Ukrainian regime about some of the issues of proliferation that we are concerned about with the Ukrainian regime."

While seeking good relations with Ukraine, Dr. Rice said, "we have let the Ukrainian government know that the proliferation issues are extremely important not just in the war on terrorism, but, for instance, in the Balkans, as well."

"We've been very clear about that, and U.S.-Ukrainian relations will progress more strongly when there's some action on some of those items," she said.

The national security advisor said the Bush administration considers its relations with Ukraine — a "huge" country "that borders on extremely important countries like Russia" — to be "potentially extremely important," especially to stability in southern Europe."

Kinakh chooses to head government rather than serve in Verkhovna Rada

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh announced on May 7 that he had decided to remain at the helm of the government and decline his parliamentary mandate.

Mr. Kinakh's decision was one of several made in the last days by government officials who have been elected to the new Verkhovna Rada. Election law gave them until May 7 to make a choice and to inform the Central Election Committee. While admitting that he could not be certain that he would remain in his current post, Mr. Kinakh said he felt a responsibility to carry on reforms.

"Aware of the burden of personal responsibility for the country's social and economic development and the need to ensure the effective work of state authorities, I have decided to give up the mandate of a national deputy in favor of government service," explained Mr. Kinakh in a written statement released to the press.

During a press conference later that day Mr. Kinakh acknowledged he was taking a risk inasmuch as the post of prime minister was one of the objects of the negotiations currently under way between parliamentary

factions over the formation of a political majority in the Verkhovna Rada. The Our Ukraine faction, the second largest in the new Parliament, has suggested that a key condition for a coalition with the dominant United Ukraine faction (formerly the For a United Ukraine election bloc) would be the seat of prime minister for its leader, Viktor Yushchenko.

"I think you understand that with my political experience I am well aware of the risk," explained Mr. Kinakh, "but I firmly believe that the priority [focus] must remain on the general national and social well-being and the goals set by this government."

Prime Minister Kinakh said he wanted to continue to foster closer relations with the Verkhovna Rada to develop his program against poverty and to secure a new tax code for the country, which he called critical to the continued growth of the economy, as well as to supervise pension and agricultural reforms.

Joining Mr. Kinakh in resolving to stay in government were Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko and Minister of Education Vasyl Kremen. While Mr. Semynozhenko belongs to the For a United

(Continued on page 15)

Tymoshenko claims she's been cleared

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Yulia Tymoshenko announced on May 8 that a Kyiv district court had exonerated her and her husband, and dismissed all charges against them. Ukraine's Procurator General's Office rejected the assertion the same day and stated that its investigation into the couple's business dealings was continuing.

The court made its decision after an appeal from the Tymoshenkos to review and resolve the criminal matter, a tactic that Ms. Tymoshenko explained is allowed by Ukrainian law, but an assertion the Procurator General's Office contests.

"The court ordered all charges, without exception to be dropped," explained Ms. Tymoshenko during a news conference.

Generally acknowledged as the richest woman in Ukraine, Ms. Tymoshenko recently won election to the Parliament at the top of the slate of the Tymoshenko Bloc, a center-right oriented political organization that consists of politicians and parties that are in opposition to the administration of President Leonid Kuchma. The parliamentary mandate gives her immunity from criminal prosecution.

Ms. Tymoshenko, today the president's most outspoken critic, has accused state and law enforcement officials of persecuting her and her family over her political stance.

In February 2000, merely weeks after

(Continued on page 14)

Shevchenko arrives in Miensk; Belarusian-Ukrainian relations begin new chapter

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

MIENSK — The unveiling in Miensk of a statue of Taras Shevchenko and the opening of an exhibition of his paintings and sketches has crowned a memorable week in the life of Ukrainians in Belarus and attested to an upturn in relations between two neighboring Slavic nations, at least in the cultural sphere.

The statue of the great bard by the sculptor Viktor Lypovka was unveiled in the Belarusian capital on April 22 by the mayors of Kyiv and Miensk in a small park located near the Embassy of Ukraine in central Miensk, only a hundred yards from the U.S. and Russian embassies. The unveiling marked the formal opening of a series of cultural events organized as part of a Days of Kyiv festival in Miensk and what has been declared the Year of Taras Shevchenko in Belarus.

The statue is a fairly traditional one of the poet standing with his arms folded and seemingly lost in thought. Consequently, when on the bright Monday afternoon after the official ceremony was over, a Ukrainian folklore ensemble from Kyiv named Berehynia appropriately performed "Dumy Moyi" many among the 300 or so people present who understood the words and sentiments and grasped the significance of the occasion were visibly moved.

At a reception in the Ukrainian Embassy, an impressive modern building in central Miensk opened in 2000, the celebrated Belarusian writer Nil Gilevich and his colleagues paid tribute to the influence that Taras Shevchenko has had on Belarusian literary life and them personally.

"Shevchenko, as a champion of freedom remains an inextinguishable source of inspiration for our brotherly peoples," stressed Mr. Gilevich.

(Continued on page 3)



The newly unveiled monument to Taras Shevchenko in the capital of Belarus.

ANALYSIS

Travel agent in Ukraine offers ecotourism to Chernobyl zone

by **Jeremy Bransten**
RFE/RL Newsline

Sixteen years ago today, the world's worst civilian nuclear accident turned Chernobyl into a byword for disaster. The images broadcast on television appeared like scenes from a terrible war against an invisible enemy.

With a mixture of fascination and horror the world watched the hissing Geiger counters, the firefighters trying to plug the gaping hole in the reactor, and the evacuations of thousands from what became known as "the zone." For years, the zone remained closed to all outsiders. But now, in a surprising move, the Ukrainian government has begun to promote limited tourism to the area. It's not for everyone, but those who prefer to experience things first-hand can now sign up for a day trip to Chernobyl. And it even comes with lunch included.

This is ecotourism with a difference – no tents, mosquito repellent or scuba gear needed. Instead, standard equipment includes a Geiger counter, protective clothing, and a disposable respirator. Contact with the surrounding environment is limited to a few hours and most of the sights are, sadly, all too man-made. Welcome to the "Chernobyl Tour" currently being offered by the Kyiv-based SAM travel agency.

Thanks to an exclusive contract with the Ukrainian government, SAM has actually been organizing visits to Chernobyl for journalists, scientists, and environmental activists since the end of 1998. But, starting last year, trips were expanded to include ordinary tourists.

Tour operator Taras Horkun told RFE/RL that everyone who takes part in the one-day tour returns to Kyiv deeply moved. "They are struck most not by individual sites but by the whole experience. You know the saying, 'Better to see something with your own eyes once than to hear about it a hundred times.' To see with their own eyes what they have read about in the press or seen on television is much more impressive to them. It's clear they won't come back for a second visit, but the reactions are very enthusiastic," Mr. Horkun said.

So what do tourists see on the Chernobyl Tour and how is the day spent? The tour begins for participants at 8 a.m. in Kyiv, when a minibus arrives at their hotel to pick them up. Two hours later, the bus reaches the so-called "exclusion zone." After the 1986 explosion, some 135,000 people living within a 30-kilometer radius of the crippled reactor – including all 47,000 inhabitants of the city of Prypiat – were permanently evacuated due to high radiation levels. The zone was colored red on maps, and military checkpoints were established around its perimeter that guard the area to this day.

At the perimeter checkpoint, tour participants are met by scientists working within the zone. They switch buses and don protective overalls. They also receive a Geiger counter and a disposable respirator. Mr. Horkun described the rest of the journey.

"They follow a specific route in the zone. They see such sites as the so-called Red Forest, which suffered radiation contamination from the explosion. They see lakes. From an observation platform they can see the reactor located about 100

meters away. On the platform there is a model of the sarcophagus [which encloses the destroyed reactor]. They are shown a video. They can also meet with specialists working in the zone. They visit the dead city of Prypiat. They enter the apartment buildings, climb up on the roofs. Everything depends on the visitors' wishes," Mr. Horkun said.

Lunch is included – and as Mr. Horkun was quick to stress, the produce is tested for safety. "All the food is brought up from Kyiv. We do not buy produce that is grown there [in the zone] and sold in the surrounding villages and markets. You can say we provide ecologically clean food."

After a visit to a junkyard where thousands of vehicles too radioactive to be taken out of the zone lie in a scrap heap, tour participants can also meet some of the handful of locals who have chosen to remain in the zone – despite warnings about health hazards and government efforts to move them out.

At 4 p.m., Geiger counters and protective suits are returned, the checkpoint is crossed and the tour leaves the eerie quiet of the zone for the bustle of Kyiv.

So what kind of people sign up for the tour? Mr. Horkun said most are just curious foreigners. "They are just regular tourists. They are all foreigners – either people working in Ukraine on short-term contracts or visitors on tour. Last year, we had about 40 tourists. Since the start of this year, we've taken 10 people up there."

Clearly, Chernobyl tourism is a niche market. Mr. Horkun described it as "eco-extreme tourism."

But should the tours be taking place at all?

Tobias Münchmeyer, an activist with the environmental group Greenpeace, said "no." Mr. Münchmeyer, who has himself spent time in the zone and studied the effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe on local people and the environment, told RFE/RL that taking tourists near the reactor is irresponsible.

Mr. Münchmeyer confirmed that visiting the zone, with its entombed reactor and the nearby deserted city of Prypiat, is an unforgettable experience. But even a day spent in the area, with its patches of high ambient radiation, could pose a health risk, especially to young women of child-bearing age. The problem, said Mr. Münchmeyer, is that highly contaminated radiation hot spots occur in patches throughout the zone and can shift unpredictably when brush fires or rain occur. "This is not like a day trip to the Grand Canyon," he explained. There are dangers, he stressed, underlining that he personally deplores the idea of commercializing this modern human tragedy.

Samuel Lepicard, a scientist at the French-based Study Center on the Evaluation of Nuclear Protection (Centre d'Étude sur L'Évaluation de la Protection dans le Domaine Nucleaire), does not necessarily share this view. Mr. Lepicard told RFE/RL that fellow scientists from his institute have mapped areas of the exclusion zone where ambient radiation levels are no higher than in any European city. But he does agree that in some spots, radiation levels can spike to levels 500 times higher than normal.

In any event, caution is advised. Now that the option of a trip to the zone is open, it will be up to prospective travelers to make up their own minds about whether a day touring Chernobyl is vacation time well spent.

Jeremy Bransten is a journalist affiliated with RFE/RL.

NEWSBRIEFS

Kinakh chooses Cabinet over Rada

KYIV – Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh, who was elected to the Verkhovna Rada from the For a United Ukraine election list, has announced that he will give up his parliamentary mandate and continue to work in the government, UNIAN reported on May 7. Mr. Kinakh told 1+1 Television the previous day that he sees his role in the government in consolidating the country's rate of economic development, which he called one of the highest in Europe. Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Semynozhenko also decided to resign his parliamentary seat and remain in the government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine celebrates May Day

KYIV – This year, the largest May Day rally in Ukraine took place in Kharkiv, where pro-presidential parties from the For a United Ukraine bloc drew some 100,000 people, according to police reports. Some 1,000 leftists at a separate rally in Kharkiv called for "toppling the existing regime," Interfax reported. The Communist Party and the Progressive Socialist Party attracted several thousand people to two separate May Day rallies in Kyiv under anti-government slogans. In Dnipropetrovsk, a pro-government rally gathered some 20,000 people, while the Communists were able to mobilize only 2,000 supporters for a separate meeting. Some 4,000 people celebrated May Day in Symferopol and some 1,000 in Luhansk. There were no May Day rallies in Lviv or Ivano-Frankivsk. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Symonenko calls for leftist unity ...

KYIV – Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko on May 1 called on all leftist forces in Ukraine to unite in order to fight the "Kuchma regime." UNIAN reported. According to Mr. Symonenko, President Leonid Kuchma's "anti-popular" and "pro-Western" policies will be implemented in the Parliament by both For a United Ukraine and Our Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... others organize "popular opposition"

KYIV – The Progressive Socialist Party of Natalia Vitrenko, the Russian Bloc, and a number of minor leftist and pro-Russian parties signed an accord on May 1 regarding the creation of a bloc to be known as Popular Opposition, UNIAN reported. The accord slams President Leonid Kuchma and his predecessor, Leonid Kravchuk, for implementing the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the United States in Ukraine, and accuses both officials, as well as the country's former

legislatures of "destroying the unity of Slavic states." Ms. Vitrenko, who was presented as the Popular Opposition leader during the Progressive Socialist Party's May Day rally, said President Kuchma and U.S. President George W. Bush combined efforts in order to have "America's favorites – Viktor Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko and Oleksander Moroz" elected to the new Verkhovna Rada. Ms. Vitrenko's party failed to overcome the 4 percent voting hurdle to qualify for representation in the new Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Presidential staff chief goes to Rada

KYIV – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on April 29 signed a decree relieving Volodymyr Lytvyn of his duties as the head of the presidential administration in connection with Mr. Lytvyn's transfer to the Verkhovna Rada, UNIAN reported on April 30, quoting Central Election Commission Secretary Yaroslav Davydovych. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Former Crimean chairman chooses Kyiv

KYIV – Following his defeat in the election for the post of chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, Leonid Hrach announced on April 30 that he will give up his deputy's mandate in Crimea and take a parliamentary seat in the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv, UNIAN and Interfax reported. Speaking at a May Day rally in Symferopol the following day, Mr. Hrach accused "the entire state in its political sense," and President Leonid Kuchma in particular, of obstructing his election bid in Crimea. "Now I will fight against them," Mr. Hrach added, referring to his future work in the Verkhovna Rada. He also hinted that he is going to run in the 2004 presidential election, saying, "Today the presidential march is actually beginning." (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. diplomat expelled from Ukraine?

KYIV – Quoting unidentified sources, the Kyiv-based weekly Zerkalo Nedeli/Dzerkalo Tyzhnia reported on April 27 that a U.S. diplomat had been expelled from Ukraine on March 20 for spying, after which a security officer at Ukraine's Consulate General in New York was asked to leave the United States in a tit-for-tat expulsion. The weekly reported that the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv refused comment on this development. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Leaders pessimistic about Rada majority

KYIV – Former Parliament Chairmen Oleksander Moroz and Oleksander Tkachenko told RFE/RL's Ukrainian

(Continued on page 16)

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Shevchenko arrives...

(Continued from page 1)

That evening there was a professionally performed gala concert given by some of the finest artists from the Ukrainian capital for an audience made up of Belarusian and Ukrainian officials, diplomats, and those from among the 250,000 or so Ukrainians living in Belarus lucky enough to have obtained invitations.

A second concert on the following evening by the Berehynia ensemble was less official and seemed to give the public, judging from the enthusiastic, sometimes almost ecstatic, responses, more of what it wanted – good old Ukrainian folk songs, whether sentimental, rousing or humorous, and of course, spectacular and graceful dances from the diverse regions of Ukraine.

While the official atmosphere was cordial throughout, various nuances in the opening remarks of the two mayors at the gala concert nevertheless attested to the different paths that Ukraine and Belarus have embarked upon since achieving independence. Coverage of Ukraine in the official media tends to be slanted, depicting Ukrainians as nationalists who are stubbornly looking Westward and undermining efforts by Presidents Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus and Vladimir Putin of Russia to promote Slavic unity within the Commonwealth of Independent States and as exemplified in the Russian-Belarusian union.

The Miensk Mayor Valentin Popov said that the Days of Kyiv were proof that the damage and “rupturing of ties” caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union 10 years ago was finally being repaired and that the process of re-integration among the Eastern Slavic peoples was beginning to gather force.

By contrast, Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko spoke of the close relations that had existed between Ukrainians and Belarusians during their thousand-year often shared and difficult history, and the new opportunities that independence had brought them, as well as Russia, to enjoy relations as free and equal partners based on mutual respect.

On April 23 an exhibition of “Taras Shevchenko as an Artist” was opened by the Belarusian Minister of Culture in the Belarusian National Art Museum, where it will run for a month. As the director of the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv, Serhii Halchenko, pointed out, this is the first time that such an exhibition, comprising 52 works, has been assembled and shown outside of Ukraine.

“The risk that Ukraine is taking in letting some of its most priceless cultural treasures leave the country is a measure of our genuinely brotherly ties with your people,” he told the guests.

Seeing so many of Shevchenko’s original artworks assembled in one place brings out the superb talent, sensitivity and humanity of the man and a greater appreciation of the way that the artist and poet were fused in his genius.

The long-suppressed nude self-portrait of Shevchenko that Prof. George Grabowicz recently unveiled in the journal *Krytyka* (September 2000) is not included among the works displayed, but it is clear from what there is that the bard was a more complex and fascinating individual than traditionally depicted.

Certainly, the city authorities of Miensk and Kyiv deserve praise for the fine way in which the Days of Kyiv were organized. As was frequently pointed out during the official celebrations, the real driving force behind this event and bringing Shevchenko to Miensk was Ukraine’s ambassador to Belarus, Anatolii Dron. His perseverance during the numerous difficulties and frustrations in recent years connected with getting the statue of the Kobzar erected in the Belarusian capital were acknowledged by

several of the main speakers.

The conclusion of the Days of Kyiv in Miensk is to be followed on April 27 by another noteworthy event in the city – the sixth Festival of Ukrainians in Belarus. Despite immense problems with finances the Ukrainian Cultural Center Sich is bringing together choirs, dancers and artists from all parts of Belarus, and even some guest performers from Ukraine.

Undoubtedly, Ukrainian cultural life survives in Belarus and is showing some signs of a revival. In Miensk there are two active cultural societies, *Vatra* and *Sich* that serve as a focal point for counterparts in other parts of the country.

In Belarus, Ukrainians can be found in all walks of life. The former chairman of the State Committee for Religion and Nationalities, Oleksander Bilyk, was born and raised in Ukraine. Two of the stars of the Belarusian National Opera are Ukrainians-Halyna Hubska, who on April 20 celebrated her 25th jubilee year as an artist in a glowing performance of “Tosca,” in which several guest international stars also took part, and Mykhailo Zhyliuk.

But the difficult economic conditions in the country make the promotion of organized Ukrainian life very problematic. Finding the money to pay for the fuel to transport dancers and singers to Miensk even the relatively short distances from Brest, Homiel, Viciebsk or Mahilae and to provide them with elementary snacks was a daunting undertaking for the organizers of Saturday’s festival. One group of Ukrainian enthusiasts in the Belarusian capital is currently trying to publish a Ukrainian newspaper, but is strapped for cash and is desperately seeking a used computer.

The arrival of Taras Shevchenko in Miensk in April followed by the announcement that next year there will be Days of Miensk in Kyiv, therefore, has given a massive boost to Ukrainian cultural activists in Belarus who are not short of energy and ideas, but are constrained by the lack of means. It has at last also placed cultural relations between Ukraine and Belarus on a more prominent level.



Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko speaks at the unveiling ceremony. Seen in the middle of the row of dignitaries behind the mayor is Ukraine’s Ambassador to Belarus Anatolii Dron.



Girls in Ukrainian costumes welcome guests at the unveiling ceremony.



The Berehynia Ensemble, a folkloric group from Kyiv, performs in Miensk.

Ukrainian diplomats visit UNA headquarters to initiate "working dialogue"

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Top representatives of Ukraine's diplomatic corps in the United States – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Valeriy P. Kuchinsky and Consul General of Ukraine in New York Serhiy Pohoreltzev – paid an unprecedented visit to the Ukrainian National Association Corporate Headquarters here on April 5, visiting the UNA Home Office as well as the editorial offices of the UNA's two newspapers, The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

Also part of the delegation of special visitors were Col. Victor Hvozdz, military adviser at the Mission to the United Nations, and Danylo Lubkivsky, second secretary of the mission.

The purpose of the visit was to establish contacts with one of the leading Ukrainian organizations in the United States and two major newspapers, and through them with the Ukrainian community at large.

While at the UNA headquarters, Ukraine's diplomats also spoke at a gathering of employees of the UNA and its publications, answering questions posed on such topics as Ukraine's military and its use of the Ukrainian language, and the

continuing aftereffects of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster.

Ambassador Kuchinsky also spoke about the results of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, which had just been released earlier that week, noting that these were the most democratic elections in Ukraine since the country's independence in 1991. He underscored that "democratic forces" had secured a victory in the balloting and that it was now up to them to "take advantage of the opportunity to create a democratic majority in the Parliament." The main goal right now, Mr. Kuchinsky said "is to unite after the elections."

The ambassador also spoke briefly about Ukraine at the United Nations, pointing to the significance of the fact that 1,600 Ukrainians are currently serving in 10 U.N. peacekeeping operations. He added that Ukraine is in first place among all European states contributing peacekeeping troops and in eighth place worldwide.

Consul General Pohoreltzev in his remarks emphasized the development of strong mutual contacts between the Consulate General and all of Ukraine's diplomatic missions in the United States with the Ukrainian American community, both in terms of its organizations and individuals.

As well, he spoke of the voting that took



Andrew Nynka

At a gathering at the UNA (from left) are: Second Secretary Danylo Lubkivsky, Col. Victor Hvozdz and Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky of Ukraine's Mission to the U.N.

place at the Consulate General on Ukraine's parliamentary election day, March 31, reporting that Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc had the overwhelming majority of votes (68 percent) among the 447 persons casting ballots at the Consulate. In second place was the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (15.2 percent) and in third was the pro-presidential bloc, For a United Ukraine (10.5 percent). The Communist Party, he added, was least popular, receiving only three votes.

Ambassador Kuchinsky spoke also about "the need to popularize information about Ukraine among our American partners and to deepen cooperation with our [Ukrainian American] community."

To that end, he said, a Ukrainian information and cultural center should be created in New York. Though Mr. Kuchinsky said he sees such a body as a government structure, he said it would serve as a community-

wide center aimed at disseminating true and objective information about Ukraine.

In the realm of cooperation with the community, the ambassador listed such goals as assisting the Ukrainian press in the United States and supporting the construction of the new building of The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

In order to achieve these and other goals, Ambassador Kuchinsky said that Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations would like to initiate "a working dialogue and an informal exchange of ideas" with the most significant Ukrainian organizations.

After a tour of the UNA offices, Ambassador Kuchinsky, Consul General Pohoreltzev, Col. Hvozdz and Mr. Lubkivsky briefly visited the ParsIPPANY office of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, which is located on the first floor of the UNA Corporate Headquarters building.

Ukrainian World Congress president meets with bloc leaders in Ukraine

TORONTO – Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) President Askold S. Lozynskyj met with four of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada bloc leaders on April 17 and April 25 in Kyiv. The leaders, in chronological order of the meetings, were Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party bloc, Yulia Tymoshenko of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Volodymyr Lytvyn of the For a United Ukraine bloc and Victor Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine bloc.

Petro Symonenko of the Communist Party and Victor Medvedchuk of the Socialist Democratic Party (United) did not respond to the UWC's request for a meeting.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss issues important to the Ukrainian diaspora to be considered by the next parliamentary session.

These issues included:

- Ukrainian national Churches and their support by the government of Ukraine;
- practical approaches to popularizing the Ukrainian language in Ukraine;
- recognition of the Organization of

Ukrainian Nationalists/Ukrainian Insurgent Army, Carpathian Sich, 1st Ukrainian Division (Halychyna Division), Bukovynskyi Kurin, Druzhyny Ukrainykykh Natsionalistiv and other formations as Ukraine's freedom fighters and affording their living members certain economic privileges;

- condemnation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union;

- the return of repressed Ukrainians and their descendants from other regions of the former Soviet Union to Ukraine;

- safeguarding the religious and national rights of Ukrainians residing in the Russian Federation; and

- adopting a law on rights and privileges of Ukrainians living outside Ukraine.

A memorandum on these issues was forwarded by the UWC to each bloc leader on April 10. Mr. Yushchenko, Mr. Lytvyn and Ms. Tymoshenko agreed to act on all matters, while Mr. Moroz voiced reservations, but expressed a desire to work with the UWC on certain issues.



Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltzev with UNA President Ulana Diachuk.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY PRESS FUND: A SPECIAL REPORT

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FEBRUARY

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Total: \$25.00

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... AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Report of the Auditing Committee of the Ukrainian National Association

The Auditing Committee, in accordance with the UNA By-Laws, on April 23-25 conducted a review of the business operations of the Ukrainian National Association for the year 2001. The previous audit was conducted on November 27-29, 2001.

The Auditing Committee's plan of action consisted of reviewing the operations of the financial and organizing departments, UNA publications, the Soyuzivka resort and other matters.

As a result of its review, the Auditing Committee reports the following.

1. Financial Department of the UNA

For 2001, the UNA's operating profit was \$364,953, as compared with a loss of \$71,394 for the year 2000. The UNA surplus increased by \$255,686 to the sum of \$7,047,752. The principal reason for the increase was the operating profit and various changes in surplus, including calculations of reserves in Canada.

The UNA Home Office building became profitable only by \$84,000 due to the payment of commissions on the rental of space in 2001, which decreased the profit by \$133,000.

2. Organizing Department of the UNA

The Organizing Department is among the most important segments of the UNA because the having enrollment of new members guarantees the existence of our institution. The more new members we have, the higher the amount of membership dues we receive and this is the financial yardstick by which UNA finances and its future are measured.

In accordance with statistical data, during 2001, the UNA gained 462 new members insured for a total of \$8,233,000. Unfortunately, however, during the same period the UNA lost 2,374 members.

We know that the report period was a pre-convention year and that is why there were expectations of better organizing achievements from the UNA's 27 districts and 238 secretaries. Speaking of secretaries, they deserve thanks for enrolled over 400 new members.

Evaluating the work of districts and branch secretaries, it should be noted that the Northern New Jersey District had the highest number of new members: 86 members insured for a total of \$2,452,000. The chairman of this district is Advisor Eugene Oscislawski. The Philadelphia District took second place, enrolling 68 new members insured for \$1,629,000. The chairman of this district is Stefan Hawrysz. Third place in enrolling members was taken by the Pittsburgh District, which had 26 new members insured for \$278,000. The chairman of this district is Advisor Nick Diakiwsky.

As far as secretaries are concerned, commendations and thanks are due to Myron Pylypiak, who enrolled 42 new members insured for \$379,000 into Branch 496 and thus took first place. Second place was taken by Branch 10 Secretary Lubov Streletsky who enrolled 25 new members insured for \$374,000, while third place was taken by Advisor Stephanie Hawryluk, secretary of Branch 88, who enrolled 22 new members insured by \$123,000.

3. UNA Publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly

As of the end of 2001, the number of Svoboda subscribers was 7,153, while The Ukrainian Weekly subscribers totaled 6,604. In comparison with the end of 2000, the number of Svoboda subscribers decreased by 275, while the number of Weekly subscribers declined by 208.

The deficit of both publications for 2001 was \$144,084. For purposes of comparison, let us recall that in 2000 it totaled \$175,468. Thanks for the increased efforts in the realm of advertising sales, the deficit of the publications decreased by \$70,000. In accordance with the 2001 budget, the deficit of both publications should not have been over \$100,000 annually.

4. Soyuzivka

In 2001, Soyuzivka lost \$653,957. For 2002 Soyuzivka losses were \$579,115. The main factors responsible for the higher deficit for 2001 were the increased cost of insurance, and



Roma Hadzewycz

UNA auditors and executive officers after the conclusion of the last audit prior to the organization's 35th Convention (from left): Yaroslav Zaviysky, Martha Lysko, Alexander Serafyn, Stefan Hawrysz, Ulana Diachuk, William Pastuszek and Stefan Kaczaraj.

additional costs for the purchase of furnishings.

As directed by the General Assembly, the Standing Committee on Soyuzivka on April 30 presented the Executive Committee with a detailed plan regarding the future of the resort. The plan was updated during the summer. The principal idea of the plan is to transfer Soyuzivka into a separate corporation (an L.L.C.) in order to facilitate the inclusion of a partner and new capital. This plan will be further detailed and discussed at the upcoming 35th UNA Convention in Chicago.

5. Miscellaneous

The Auditing Committee appeals to delegates to the 35th Convention and members of the General Assembly to make the decisions needed to solve the problem of Soyuzivka's losses and to adopt a plan of activity for Canada, as well as for the future of the UNA as a whole.

Completing its term of office, the Auditing Committee expresses its sincere thanks to the Executive Committee and all employees for their purposeful conduct of UNA affairs and their cooperation.

For the Auditing Committee:

William Pastuszek, chairman; Stefan Hawrysz, vice-chairman; Dr. Alexander Serafyn, secretary; Myron Groch, committee member; and Yaroslav Zaviysky, committee member.

(Translated by The Ukrainian Weekly.)

CONVENTION PREPARATIONS: Branches and districts offer proposals

With the advent of the 35th UNA Convention and in accordance with UNA By-Laws Article 17, UNA Branch 240 of Cleveland at its branch meeting decided to propose to the Executive Committee the following suggestions for consideration:

- reduce the number of vice-presidents from two to one;
- reduce the number of auditors from five to three;
- reduce the number of advisors from fourteen to seven;
- reduce the number of honorary members from 12 to six;

In addition, Branch 240 suggests a review of the Kyiv Press Bureau to establish if it is irreplaceable, and raising Soyuzivka rates for all, from regular member to president, in order that Soyuzivka become self-sufficient.

As well, the branch suggests that each month information on UNA activities and insurance products be published in UNA official publications. This may have bet-

ter results than district meetings with fewer costs involved.

Even Bachynsky, branch president
Bohdan Semkiw, branch secretary

Delegates from the Rochester District to the 35th Convention of UNA propose the following changes to the UNA By-Laws:

- reduce the number of UNA advisors to nine;
- reduce the number of auditors to three;
- shorten the number of days of the convention;
- limit the number of times delegates can talk and set a time limit on speaking.

In addition, the district suggested that the necessary steps be taken to reduce deficits at Soyuzivka.

Delegates to the Convention from Branches 66, 217, 285, 343 and 367: Christine Dziuba, Peter Leschysyn, Alexander Skibicky, Oksana Markus and Lubomyr Galuga.



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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Akcja Wisla and reconciliation

This year marks the 55th anniversary of Akcja Wisla, or Operation Vistula, the military operation against Ukrainians residing on Polish territory that was conducted by Communist Polish authorities. According to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Akcja Wisla, which began on April 28, 1947, and lasted through July 31, resulted in the deportation of 150,000 Ukrainians from their ancestral territories in southeastern Poland to the so-called Ziemie Odzyskane, or "Recovered Lands," in the north and northwest, which were acquired from Germany after World War II.

Last month, according to RFE/RL, President Alexander Kwasniewski of Poland expressed regret over the operation, penning a letter to the National Remembrance Institute and a conference on Akcja Wisla. "On behalf of the Polish Republic, I would like to express regret to all those who were wronged by [this operation]. ... The infamous Operation Vistula is a symbol of the abominable deeds perpetrated by the Communist authorities against Polish citizens of Ukrainian origin."

The president went on to say: "It was believed for years that Operation Vistula was the revenge for the slaughter of Poles by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in the east in 1943-1944. Such reasoning is fallacious and ethically inadmissible. It [invokes] a principle of group accountability, with which we cannot agree. The slaughter of Poles cannot serve as an excuse for the brutal pacification of Ukrainian villages and the expulsion of populace. Operation Vistula should be condemned."

The groundwork for this pronouncement was laid in 1997 when President Kwasniewski spent time in Ukraine on an official state visit and with President Leonid Kuchma signed the Declaration on Concord and Unity, which addressed the two major points of contention between the countries in the 20th century: Akcja Wisla and the killing of Poles in the Volyn region in the Ukrainian struggle for independence during World War II. A statement released by the presidents read: "We pay tribute to the innocent Ukrainians and Poles – the tormented, the dead and the forcibly uprooted."

For decades, Polish sources had said the go-ahead for Akcja Wisla was given a day after the assassination of Gen. Karol Swierczewski, Poland's deputy defense minister, by the UPA in an ambush in the Bieszczady Mountains on March 28, 1947. Prof. Eugeniusz Mironowicz from Bialystok University said at a conference last month that the killing of Swierczewski served as a convenient pretext for the Communist authorities to launch a drastic resettlement operation, but in fact it had nothing to do with the chain of political decisions that had been made earlier regarding the action.

That same conclusion had been reached by a Ukrainian American scholar, Diana Howansky, who holds a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and who, thanks to a Fulbright grant, spent September 1998 to September 2000 in Poland researching Akcja Wisla. In a presentation last June at the Lemko Vatra gathering in Ellenville, N.Y., Ms. Howansky reported how the operation was undertaken by the Polish government in order to force assimilation upon the Ukrainian minority and how the assassination of Swierczewski, attributed to the UPA, was used as a pretext. The Polish leadership officially claimed that the Ukrainian population had to be removed so as not to help the UPA, when in reality, plans to "Polonize" the Ukrainians were discussed months before the general's death.

Now, 55 years after this shameful and brutal operation, Polish authorities have condemned Akcja Wisla. We welcome President Kwasniewski's statement as a major move toward much-needed reconciliation of the Polish and Ukrainian nations – two neighbors and two strong allies in today's world.

May
15
1994

Turning the pages back...

Eight years ago the May 15 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly reported on the first moves of Ukraine's first democratically elected Parliament. Trying to fulfill what so many newly elected parliamentarians had promised, the Verkhovna Rada attempted to get down to business immediately. But on opening day, May 11,

1994, they got bogged down by organizational procedures.

Our Kyiv Press Bureau's Roman Woronowycz reported on the scene:

"Almost all of the 338 deputies elected convened on May 11 to develop plans for Ukraine's future. The proceedings opened with the president of the Central Election Commission, Ivan Yemets, announcing the formal convocation of the Parliament. President Leonid Kravchuk sat at his left. The national anthem was played.

"At 10:10 a.m., Mr. Yemets announced that all those present had been fully accredited. Although no gavel was pounded, when he said, 'The first session of the 14th convocation of Ukraine's Supreme Council has officially begun,' the parliamentarians as well as a jam-packed press box and the diplomatic corps present fell quiet. After that it was a downslide into bickering over organizational structure and how political factions should be registered."

Mr. Woronowycz reported that about all the newly elected national deputies decided was that five members, not seven as had been proposed, should comprise the temporary presidium. Former Vice-Chairman of Parliament Vasyl Durdynets, Socialist Oleksander Moroz, Communist Petro Symonenko, the rehabilitated Agrarian Party representative Vitalii Masol and Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil all sat atop the dais.

As decided by the so-called Initiative Group, a parliamentary faction would consist of at least 25 individuals "who are like-minded" (of a political party), and who would caucus to agree on issues and then present them via the faction leader. Many at that time believed one of the reasons for the previous Rada's paralysis was that each deputy spoke as an individual.

But by 2 p.m. of the opening day, 22 individuals had taken the floor to explain why 40 parliamentarians in a faction is more effective than 25. Others said that perhaps only 20 were needed as the minimum to register a faction. Developing the figures must have become tiresome, because at 2 p.m. the normal end of their second daily session, they decided not to have a third. They also agreed that no there was no need for a full session on May 12: the factions should get together and decide just what a faction is.

Source: "Ukraine's Parliament convenes, names temporary Presidium" by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, May 15, 1994, Vol. LXII, No. 20.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Shadows for my ancestors no more

by Mike Buryk

In the beginning, my family's history was mostly filled with shadows. My grandmothers spoke hardly a word of English, and Ukrainian was not the every day language in my parents' home. My grandmothers and I could communicate about the basics when I came to visit – eating, sleeping and going to the store – but much beyond that was a major struggle. They were both Ukrainians who had come to America before World War I and always lived in those long gone places in our immigrant communities where English wasn't a critical tool of expression.

Both of my grandfathers died tragically many years before I came along, when my parents were still young children. For me, there were no tales of ancient glory at grandpa's knee. There was "gigi," who was my dad's stepfather. But he was Polish, spoke no English at all and wasn't around much those few times that we made the eight-hour trek to visit my paternal grandmother in the Pennsylvania coal country of Schuylkill County.

And yet, the past was always with me. My maternal grandmother who lived nearby in Jersey City, N.J., insisted that I make my First Holy Communion at St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church downtown. After that there was also some talk of sending me to their grammar school instead of the neighborhood school, the predominately Irish Catholic St. Anne's, but the idea of a second grader traveling halfway across the city by bus every day didn't really make much sense – even in the 1950s.

When my family moved away from Jersey City to the far away suburbs in Wayne, N.J., in the early 1960s, my parents cut me some slack to get over the 13-year-old trauma of moving to a whole new world. They let me take the bus from time to time back the 30 miles to visit my old neighborhood. As luck would have it, the bus connection to Jersey City tunneled its way through New York City and I became like a tourist in a new country.

It was then that I first came across Seventh Street on the Lower East Side with its thriving Ukrainian cultural life. Surma. Arka. The Howerla bookstore. St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church. The luncheonettes Odessa and Leshko's. The smell of cabbage and dill was everywhere in the air! The more I went to these places, the greater my curiosity grew about my Ukrainian roots.

Sometime early in high school, I began to really question my Uncle Johnny, my mother's brother, about where his parents came from. My maternal grandfather, George Sych, was a bit of an unknown, since he died in 1930 and never spoke much to his children about the past. Or if he did, no one was telling me about it! Austria. Galicia. That was the extent of it.

On the other hand, my mother's mother, Anna Sawchyn, was an entirely different story. She was alive and here and, even though I couldn't ask her the questions and understand the answers myself, my mother, her brother and sister certainly could. I took my family history lessons in small doses at the white porcelain kitchen table in Babtsia's railroad flat on Jersey Avenue. Each time I added more and more detail to my view of where she came from. This would go on for several years until she passed away at 82 in 1973, the year after I graduated from college. I still miss her today after 29 years and even have dreams sometimes that she has returned.

Over the last 35 years, the blank spots of my family's past were slowly filled in. It took innumerable trips to the National Archives, the New York Public Library and the Family History reading rooms of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) plus chance meetings with relatives, near relatives and total strangers to sketch the details of our life in Halychyna before World War I. Then came the Internet.

Tales of Lemkos in Siemuszowa near Sianik (Sanok) and Boikos in Rosilna (Rosulna) near Ivano-Frankivsk unfold before me webpage-by-webpage. E-mail has helped me connect with people halfway around the world to yield precious shards from the Buryk (Gburyk), Czerepaniak, Sawchyn and Sych family mysteries. Piece by piece, I am recreating the story of our ancient Ukrainian roots with the help of many others bitten by the genealogy bug and the strong desire to know where they came from. Now, relatives long lost through the ravages of World War II and Operation Vistula (Akcja Wisla) are re-united electronically in the zap of an e-mail! Lviv is as close as New York City online.

Where it all leads I still can't say. I do know that somewhere my grandparents are all having fun watching me pull together the few clues they left to unlock the secrets of my Ukrainian ancestry. And my Dad is smiling with them, pleased to see how much I've filled in the shadows of our family's hidden past.

The results of some of Mike Buryk's genealogical diggings for his Ukrainian roots may be found on his website, "Our Patch, The Buryk Family Ancestry," at http://www.buryk.com/our_patch/index.htm. If you have questions about researching your Ukrainian ancestors, particularly in the Lemko region of southeastern Poland, you may contact him by email at: michael.buryk@verizon.net.

He would especially like to hear from former residents of Siemuszowa, Poland (near Sianik), about their reminiscences of the village and the families who lived there. Former residents of Rosilna near Bohorodchany in Ivano-Frankivske Oblast also are asked to contact him with their stories.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To UNA candidates: present your credentials

Dear Editor:

In a few weeks, the delegates to the Ukrainian National Association's convention will be faced with a serious problem affecting the future of our "soyuz" organization. The primary concern will be the election of officers to lead this multi-million-dollar organization.

What are we doing to ensure that we will be able to examine the qualifications of the people who are aspiring to the important leadership positions in the UNA? Are you going to depend upon "throwaways" left at night at the door of each delegate's room? Will these "throwaway" leaflets brag about the candidate's Ukrainian affiliations or will we get a better understanding of the candidate's qualifications? Isn't it important that we see their job experiences, titles, job descriptions and vision for the future of the UNA?

Today a position such as the president of the UNA should require a headhunter, or a national search. That's how you find a qualified person to head an organization of this stature.

Or, on the other hand, will delegates be forced to make a decision based upon a "throwaway"?

Candidates, here is your opportunity to present yourself to the delegates prior to the conventions, so that they can take time to evaluate your qualifications and be able to make an intelligent choice for this important position. I challenge the candidates to present themselves, in some manner, in a publication like the *The Ukrainian Weekly* or *Svoboda*.

At this late date, maybe all we can hope for is that the candidates will take some time to make those "throwaways" a bit more worthwhile, by providing some in-depth explanations about their qualifications to lead our organization. Do you think enough of your qualifications to do this?

Eugene Woloshyn
Poland, Ohio

The Halychyna Division and Ukrainophobia

Dear Editor:

Recently I have noticed a strange form of mental disease: a pathological hatred of everything Ukrainian (genus: Xenophobia, subspecies: Ukrainophobia).

Example 1: Russian and Jewish community leaders in Kyiv and the United States vehemently protesting a resolution by the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council which would extend combat veteran status to members of the Halychyna Division of the Ukrainian National Army, a World War II Ukrainian fighting force that battled against both the Soviet Army and Nazi forces. The All-Ukraine Jewish Congress has vehemently protested the decision, and Vadim Rabinovich, president of the congress, called the decision a crime against the Ukrainian and Jewish people.

Only the Ukrainian people and their duly elected government should, can and will decide what constitutes a crime against its citizens.

Example 2: Speaking of the Halychyna Division, leaders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, located in Los Angeles, stated: "Those who volunteered to fight on the side of Germany and Hitler are the moral equivalent of Bin Laden and the terrorist cells of Al Qaeda."

Example 3: Two Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry officials condemned the move by Ivano-Frankivsk city officials on March 20, calling it "a shameful act of betrayal" of millions of Nazi victims, and stated that Russia could not accept recognition of a fighting force that had murdered thousands of "our fathers and grandfathers." The Russians should be reminded very strongly of the ROA *Russkaya Osvoboditelnaya Armiya*, which translates into English as Russian Liberation Army. This 500,000-strong army was composed exclusively of Russians, former Red Army soldiers organized, equipped and trained by Germans who for four years fought exclusively under German command.

Is the ROA also guilty of "betrayal" and the murder of the Russian nation's "fathers and grandfathers"?

Example 4: A recent statement by a Russian journalist, politician or TV "talking head": "10 years of Ukrainian independence was much worse for Ukrainian people than 300 years of Russian domination of Ukraine."

This beats everything! I rest my case.

Eugene L. Kuz, M.D.
Savage, Minn.

P.S.: The two best books to learn the truth about the Halychyna Division are: "The Ukrainian Division Galicia, 1943-45" by Wolf-Dietrich Heike, ISBN: 0-9690239-4-4; and "Galicia Division: The Waffen-SS 14th Grenadier Division 1943-1945" by Michael O. Logusz, ISBN: 0-7643-00810-4 Library of Congress Catalogue Number: 96-67287.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Chicago's prairie prelate

Evangelization has never come easily for Ukrainian Catholics. For centuries we've thought only of preserving what we have, rarely about convincing others that Jesus redeemed all humankind.

For many Ukrainian Catholics, the Church has served as a vehicle of nationalization, not spiritual renewal. We tend to discourage non-Ukrainians from joining our ranks lest they somehow "pollute" our church. Small wonder that today there are more Ruthenian Catholic churches than Ukrainian Catholic. When the Vatican divided Rusyns and Ukrainians between two eparchies in 1924, the numbers were approximately equal. Rusyns became apolitical and inclusive; we remained political and exclusive.

Chicago has had three outstanding bishops over the years. Jaroslav Gabro, our first bishop, served from 1961 until his untimely death in 1980. He was a wonderful, American-born spiritual leader who, responding to dreadful advice, underestimated the strength of national feeling among his parishioners. For this, we all paid a dear price. Upon his death, the Ukrainian Catholic church in Chicago was bitterly divided between those who followed the Julian religious calendar ("old calendarites") and those who supported the Gregorian calendar ("new calendarites"). The break was actually far more complicated, but space does not permit addressing all of the nuances.

Suffice it to say the division was devastating. Families and organizations were affected as were long-standing friendships. A second Ukrainian Catholic church – Ss. Volodymyr and Olha – was erected just two blocks from St. Nicholas. Animosity ran deep, and for a time it seemed the community would never heal.

Our second bishop was Ukrainian-born Innocent Lotocky, a Basilian appointed in 1981. Until his retirement in 1993, he devoted his episcopate to restoring the Church. Slowly, patiently, delicately, he pulled the two warring factions closer together. Although there are still a few diehards on both sides, the bitterness which once existed is all but gone. Fortunately for us, Bishop Lotocky is still ministering to the faithful in our city and Ukraine.

Soon after Bishop Lotocky retired, he was succeeded by Michael Wiwchar, a Redemptorist from the prairies of western Canada. Born in Komarno, Manitoba, to a devout Catholic family, he was ordained by Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk in Winnipeg on June 28, 1959. Much of his early priesthood was spent at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic College in Roblin, Manitoba, where he served as vocations director, teacher, director, prefect, chaplain and promoter of Marriage Encounter, a marriage renewal program. In addition, he spent time as an assistant pastor and pastor in a number of Canadian and American parishes.

Bishop Wiwchar was appointed bishop of the eparchy of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan eparchy in 2001 but remains in Chicago as the apostolic administrator until his replacement has been announced.

Recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Bishop Wiwchar regarding his years in Chicago. His first priority upon arriving in the city, he told me, was to address the growing shortage of priests. "Today," he informed me, "every parish and mission in our eparchy has at least one priest, some have two or three. This accomplishment is the highlight of my

episcopate."

"Many priests in our eparchy are in second careers in the United States," he explained. "A few are not even Ukrainian. Others are from Ukraine." Given current Catholic prohibitions against married priests in the United States, all were ordained in Ukraine. "I was looking for shepherds, not hirelings," he said, "and I believe I found them."

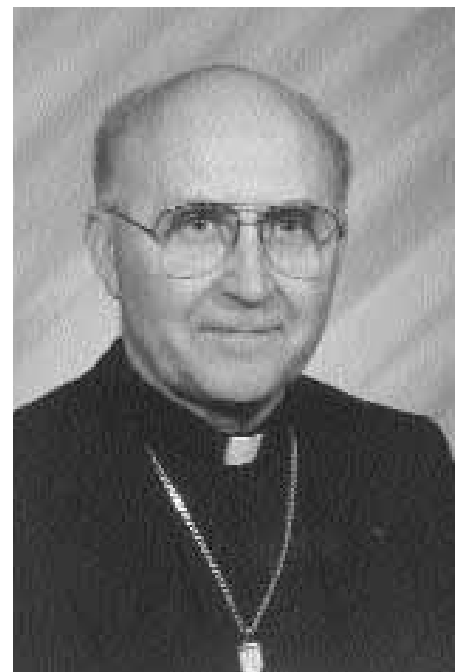
With more priests he was able to open or renew parishes in Michigan, California, Missouri and Washington state.

The laity was not neglected, however. Beginning in 1995, Bishop Wiwchar organized a series of annual eparchial conferences, each in a different city – Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Phoenix. Each conference had a different theme and each was aimed at empowering the laity to become missionaries for Christ. "Try as I might," he told me, "my success in this area was minimal. I just couldn't get the priests and laity to become mission-minded. They came to the conferences, they listened, but there was little follow-up. This is my major disappointment."

"Does the Ukrainian Catholic Church have any future in the United States?" I asked. "A lot will depend on the ability of my successor to reach the Fourth Wave," he replied. "There are thousands of new immigrants living in Chicago, as well as in other cities such as Sacramento. They are in need of evangelization. If they can be brought into the fold, we just might experience a rebirth. Our priests and laity must become apostles, however. The role of the church is to sanctify."

Comparing his present assignment to Chicago he explained how much easier it was to get people together in Saskatchewan. You can easily drive from one end of the eparchy to the other, he told me. The Chicago Eparchy stretches from Detroit to all the states west of the Mississippi River, including Alaska and Hawaii. Meeting with all of the clergy at the same time is prohibitive.

As he prepares to leave the eparchy to his yet-to-be-named successor, I asked our prairie prelate what he hopes to accomplish with the rest of his life. "I will serve God and serve the Church." He is one shepherd who will be sorely missed.



Bishop Michael Wiwchar

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

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, **no photocopies or computer printouts**) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of *The Weekly* edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must **provide a daytime phone number** where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- ✦ Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

Selfreliance dedicates new home office in Chicago, holds annual meeting

by Theodora Turula

CHICAGO – The Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union has moved its main office into a modern new building. The credit union chose to remain in the Ukrainian Village, the neighborhood that is home to Ukrainian churches, schools, a number of Ukrainian-owned businesses, and where many of its members still reside.

Selfreliance Ukrainian American FCU continues to work closely with all the communities where its branches are located, in Illinois, New Jersey and Indiana. The new Selfreliance building, just across the street from the credit union's former office location, is large enough to meet its current needs and anticipated growth, and will serve as a community center for many years to come.

As the hour approached for the grand opening and blessing of Selfreliance's new offices on April 14, it seemed as if every Ukrainian in Chicago had gathered for this momentous occasion, along with a significant number of politicians, credit union leaders and guests. It was an unseasonably warm and sunny Sunday afternoon, and services had just ended at the three neighborhood churches: St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, and Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church.

President Bohdan Watral and Board Chairman Michael R. Kos ceremoniously cut the ribbon, and the blessing of the premises was conducted by Archbishop Vsevolod, with Bishops Michael Wivchar and Innocent Lotocky. The clergymen walked throughout the first floor, around the second-floor offices and up the stairs to the large third-floor meeting space.

Credit union members followed, filling

the hall to capacity, partaking of the buffet, admiring the premises, listening to the congratulatory speeches and celebrating the opening of their credit union's new home.

Mr. Watral welcomed members and guests, saying: "It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you to today's historic celebration. I ask that we observe a moment of silence to recognize the innocent victims of September 11 and all our members who have passed away in the past 50 years, and most assuredly to reaffirm our commitment to the freedom and democracy afforded all of us here in our homeland, the United States of America."

Omelan Pleszkewycz, one of the founding members of Selfreliance, who serves as honorary president, spoke of the Chicago-based credit union's evolution and its continuing mutually supportive relationship with the Ukrainian community.

Guests on hand to extend well wishes to Selfreliance on the opening of its new building included the Borys Bazylevsky, consul general of Ukraine in Chicago; Pat Michalski of Illinois Gov. George Ryan's office, who read a proclamation from the governor; longtime credit union ally, State Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka; Illinois State Sen. Walter Dudycz, a supporter and a member of Selfreliance; State Rep. Carl Hawkinson, a credit union advocate; State Sen. Joseph Lyons; Aurelia Pucinski, former clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Maine Township Supervisor Bohdan Dudycz; Petro Kozinets, president of the Ukrainian National Association of Savings and Credit Unions; as well as representatives of the Illinois Credit Union League and CUNA Mutual Insurance Society.

One week later, on April 21, the mem-

(Continued on page 17)



Selfreliance UAFCU President Bohdan Watral (left) with (from left) Illinois State Treasurer Judy Barr Topinka, Chair Michael R. Kos, State Sen. Carl Hawkinson, State Rep. Joe Lyons and State Sen. Walter Dudycz.




Archbishop Vsevolod addresses guests at the dedication of SUAFCU's new building. Also seen are Bishops Innocent Lotocky and Michael Wivchar.

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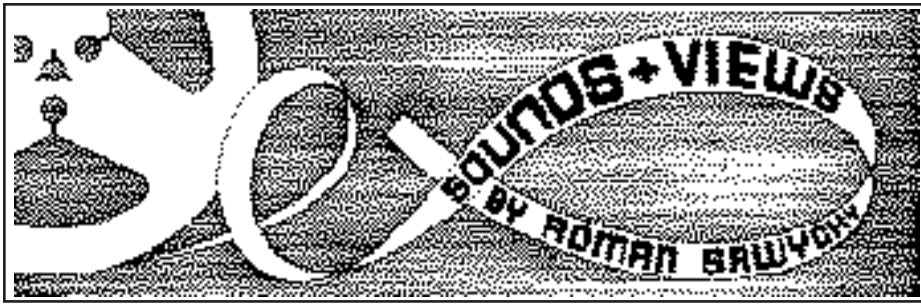
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Vive la France et l'Ukraine

On the 951st anniversary of the marriage of France's Henry I and Ukraine's Anna Yaroslavna at Rheims.

One of the most distinguished writers of 16th century France, François Voltaire, penned "The History of Charles XII" (of Sweden) wherein he noted that "Ukraine always yearned for freedom." It was King Charles XII, allied with Ukraine's Kozak leader Ivan Mazepa, that stood against Tsar Peter I under Poltava. That momentous battle determined the future map of eastern Europe. A century after the battle it was still avidly studied by Napoleon.

While Victor Hugo immortalized Hetman Mazepa in his poetry, several early 19th century French painters depicted legendary feats attributed to Mazepa on their canvases. Other Ukrainian themes were explored in the writings and translations of Prosper Mérimée and Honoré de Balzac. And even Jules Verne, the father of modern science-fiction, who became famous for such classics as "Around the World in 80 Days," met success with the mystery novel "Carpathian Chateau."

Ukrainian writers, painters and musicians flourished and shone while in Paris,

the proverbial "City of Light." Among these was the very young and incredibly talented painter Maria Bashkirtseva, author of a celebrated diary. More recently, distinguished painters Mykola Hlushchenko and Alexis Gritchenko (Hryshchenko) even assumed a joint Ukrainian-French identity; the same can be said of two composers who settled in France, Fedir Akimenko and the contemporary Marian Kouzan. Music careers that blossomed included those of singers Evuhenia Zarytska and Myroslav Starytsky, who was awarded the key to the city of Paris for his outstanding performances. The award-winning film director Eugene Deslaw brought much sparkle to the screen while working in France.

The celebrated 20th century French cubist painter Fernand Léger taught such Ukrainian artists as Mykhailo Moroz and Sviatoslav Hordynsky, both active until recently in the New York area. Ukrainian lecturers as well as graduates of the Sorbonne have yet to be counted.

Cases are on record when French was the preferred language in titling Ukrainian music works. Beethoven, for example, chose French titles for his

chamber music on Ukrainian folk themes. When Ukrainian became forbidden in print and performances – as a result of the unprecedented edict issued in 1863 by the Russian Minister of Internal Affairs Pyotr Valuyev – Ukraine's national composer Mykola Lysenko could not conduct his new choral setting about a merry drizzle, using the original folk text: "Doschyk, doschyk, kapaye dribnenko," so he had the folksong translated and performed in French.

Virtuoso conductor Alexander Koshetz toured Europe with his famous Ukrainian cappella after World War I. When French audiences heard his rendition of the Christmas classic known in America as "Carol of the Bells," a French choir volunteered to perform the piece, not in the original of course, but in a French remake.

The multi-talented and Paris-educated Sviatoslav Hordynsky, who in addition to being an artist was a poet and translator, translated from various languages into modern Ukrainian. In about 1960 he produced Ukrainian versions of French poetry by Hugo, Baudelaire, Mauriac and Apollinaire.

Last but not least on our list of French enthusiasm for things Ukrainian: celebrated French character actor Harri Baur is remembered as the lion of French cinema throughout the 1930s. He portrayed the genius of Beethoven and the heroics of the Ukrainian Kozak chieftain Taras Bulba with dramatic strength and conviction.

When the composer of the revolutionary "Symphonie Fantastique," Hector Berlioz, first heard the Imperial Court Cappella (a distinguished choir of St. Petersburg, composed mostly of voices

imported from Ukraine), he waxed enthusiastic about the Ukrainian basses. His praise of the sacred choral music of Ukrainian composer Dmytro Bortniansky of St. Petersburg resulted in his many performances of this music. In addition, Berlioz wrote an analytical article on Bortniansky's unique style; it was published in the French journal Debats.

The major French composer Maurice Ravel, master of orchestration and one of the most influential musicians of the century, toured Europe in late 1931 conducting his own works for orchestra. Through articles by Antin Rudnytsky and, more recently, O. Zakharchuk it became known that Ravel also visited the western Ukrainian city of Lviv in the spring of 1932. On March 16, 1932, he conducted his "La Valse," "Bolero," the Piano Concerto and other scores at the Lviv Opera Theater.

The press was enthusiastic, and Ravel himself praised the opera house orchestra. His words are a matter of record: "We had very few rehearsals ... and my works are not easy to perform. Nonetheless, the orchestra carried out its task successfully. This concert will certainly remain one of my finest recollections of the city of Lviv."

Interestingly enough, three decades later the Lviv Opera produced "Bolero" in a new guise, premiering the work as a ballet scene. Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition," as orchestrated by Ravel, ends in what became the cycle's grandest canvas – "The Great Gate of Kyiv." This return to medieval Ukraine recalled the times of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, ruler and benefactor, and his daughter, Princess Anna, who became a ruler in the West, as the queen of France.

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Saradjian and Vynnytsky perform at Rachmaninoff Festival



Vagram Saradjian

LOS ANGELES – Cellist Vagram Saradjian and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky were the featured performers at the Rachmaninoff Festival held at the Herbert Zipper Concert Hall, Colburn School for Performing Arts, on March 27.

The concert program included works by Rachmaninoff, Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 14, and Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor, Op. 19, "Aria" by Babadjanian, "Suite Populaire Espagnole" by de Falla and Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Minor, Op. 40, by Shostakovich.

The festival concert, which was held as part of the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, was attended by world-renowned musicians and competition adjudicators, among them Byron Janis, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Dmitri Bashkirov, John Perry, Mikhail Voskressensky and Earl Wild, as well as competition contestants and music school professors.

Sergei Sylvansky, former professor at the Kyiv Conservatory, and currently, a coordinator of the Rachmaninoff International Competition and Festival, noted:

"The performance was truly outstanding, a veritable gift to the audience.

Messrs. Saradjian and Vynnytsky captivated the audience from the outset. In the first half of the program, which was dedicated to the works of Rachmaninoff, the haunting melody of 'Vocalise' came through as a prayer, full of anguish for that which is irretrievably lost. Rachmaninoff's Sonata for Cello and Piano in G Minor, Op. 19 – a vast romantic canvas resonating with color, whose music is at once full of rapture and spiritually uplifting – was, as rendered by Saradjian and Vynnytsky, particularly powerful and convincing.

"Whereas Babadjanian's 'Aria,' which opened the second part of the program, was noteworthy for the simplicity and clarity of presentation, the execution of de Falla's 'Suite Espagnole' expanded the work's conceptual framework.

"The Shostakovich Sonata was formidable and simply overwhelming.

"Finally, Shchedrin's 'Cadrille,' which was performed as an encore, was conveyed with a light and humorous touch.

"The performance by Messrs. Saradjian and Vynnytsky was particularly remarkable for the confluence of playing, tonal richness, as well as power and passion, and an evident capacity to delight in the music and its rendering."

For his part, the renowned pianist Dmitri Bashkirov, grand prize laureate at the Marguerite Long International Piano Competition (Paris, 1955) and professor at the Moscow Conservatory and Escuela Superior Reina Sofia in Madrid, offered the following estimation:

"It was a pleasure for everyone involved in the competition to listen to the performance by Vagram Saradjian and Volodymyr Vynnytsky. All the more so, since I remember the latter still as a student at the Moscow Conservatory, whom, since then, I haven't heard for some 20 years.

"I must say that I, as well as the other members of the jury, found the remarkable confluence of playing particularly impressive. The playing of the pianist – was masterly, subtle and refined in all its manifestations, i.e., in terms of stylistic conception, tonal quality, and an acutely perceptive sense and vibrant musical responsiveness.

"It is a pleasure to note, and, I might



Volodymyr Vynnytsky

add, it is not oftentimes, that a student, after having completed his studies, grows into a true master. It was a veritable pleasure to hear him [Vynnytsky] and I wholeheartedly wish him every further success."

Referring to the concert as a significant event in the Los Angeles area, Prof. Bashkirov concluded by saying that "There was a palpable atmosphere of enjoyment on the part of the audience as well as appreciation and acknowledgment of these outstanding musicians and their great art."

The collaboration of Messrs. Saradjian and Vynnytsky dates from 1992. In 1994 the two musicians, performing as a duo, won the Distinguished Artists Award in New York. The duo then made a critically acclaimed debut in New York's Carnegie Hall.

They have since performed, among other concert engagements, at St. Smith's Square, London, and the Shostakovich Festival, Houston.

Mr. Saradjian is first prize laureate of the Tchaikovsky (1970) and Geneva (1975) International Cello Competitions. As a recitalist he has performed around the

world in leading concert halls, participated in major music festivals, and played with leading orchestras and conductors.

Mr. Saradjian was born in Yerevan, Armenia, into a family of distinguished musicians. Upon completing his early music studies in Yerevan, he was invited by Mstislav Rostropovich to study with him at the Moscow Conservatory, where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in performance.

His orchestral debut coincided with the conducting debut of his teacher, Maestro Rostropovich. In 1969, under the maestro's baton, he performed Dvorak's Cello Concerto with the Kyiv Philharmonic.

Mr. Saradjian has toured with leading orchestras and collaborated with such conductors as Valeriy Gergiev, Aram Khachaturian, Kyril Kondrashin, Yevgeni Svetlanov, Maestro Rostropovich, Maxim Shostakovich and Yuri Temirkanov.

He has premiered works by Alexander Tchaikovsky and Karen Khachaturian, and has appeared with violinist Maxim Vengerov and pianist Vag Papian in trio performances.

Mr. Saradjian's discography includes works by Schumann, Honegger and Dvorak, working with conductors like Gergiev, Fedosseyev, Mansurov and Bashmet.

Mr. Saradjian has taught at Oberlin Conservatory, Connecticut College, and the State University of New York, as well as at numerous festivals and in master classes. He is currently professor of violoncello at the University of Houston.

Mr. Saradjian plays a 1791 Montegazza cello from Milan.

Mr. Vynnytsky, laureate of the 1983 Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud International Piano Competition (Paris), has appeared in Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and St. John Smith's Square in London.

He has appeared with the Paris Radio and Television Orchestra, the Poznan Symphony Orchestra and the Ukrainian State Symphony Orchestra.

He has performed chamber music with the St. Petersburg, the Zapolsky Danish and the Leontovych string quartets, and with violinists Daniel Phillips, Yuri Mazurkevich and Rafal Zambrzycki Payne, jazz pianist Adam Makowicz and cellist Natalia Khoma.

Mr. Vynnytsky has appeared in performance at the Shostakovich Festival in Houston, the Music Mountain Festival, Windham Chamber Music Festival, Lake San Marco Chamber Music Society, and the Music and Art Center of Greene County, where he has served as artistic director and resident pianist since 1996.

Born in Lviv, Mr. Vynnytsky studied first under Lydia Golemba and later at the Moscow Conservatory with Yevgeni Malinin. After earning his doctorate in 1983 from the Moscow Conservatory, he taught at the Kyiv Conservatory and concertized extensively throughout the republics of the former Soviet Union. He actively promoted contemporary music as a member of Kyiv's Perpetuum Mobile chamber orchestra.

Mr. Vynnytsky has recorded for the Ukrainian Broadcasting Corporation, and his compact discs include works by Mozart, Bortniansky, Chopin and Liszt on the Kobza label, and the works of Myroslav Skoryk on the Yevshan label.

He has been featured on WQXR Radio in New York and on National Public Radio.

Among contestants at the Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition held in Los Angeles on March 27 were two

Ukrainian soprano to study in Salzburg, Austria

COLLEGE PARK, Md. – Stefania Dovhan, who graduates this month from the University of Maryland School of Music, has been accepted to the University of Miami Summer Program in Salzburg, Austria, for study this July and August.

A native of Kyiv who studied at the



Stefania Dovhan

Kyiv Conservatory and later in Munich and Baltimore, Ms. Dovhan was on a full performing arts scholarship at the University of Maryland, where she has been studying with Martha Randall in the voice/opera division.

A Gold Medallion winner of the Rosa Ponselle Competition (2000), she was sponsored in a number of recitals last spring, and the success of those resulted in additional appearances in New York, Chicago, Baltimore and Washington. "Absolutely enchanting," "captivating," "mysterious" and "compelling" were some of the adjectives used to describe her performances.

In her recitals Ms. Dovhan always incorporates selections from the Ukrainian repertoire and the works of Ukrainian composers. Since coming to the United States, she has already become known to Ukrainian audiences in performances at gala events and commemorative concerts. She has performed in The Washington Group Cultural Fund Music Series and at concerts at the Embassy of Ukraine.

Her appearance at the concluding concert of the Music and Art Center of Greene County's summer series held at the Grazhda in 2001 was met with both audience and critical acclaim.

Ms. Dovhan is a member of the Ukrainian National Association and in 1998 was crowned Miss Soyuzivka.

Ms. Dovhan was one of the very few students to receive a scholarship to the University of Miami Summer Program in Salzburg, but, as Dr. Randall has indicated, additional funds are needed to cover the cost of the program. Taking up the matter by announcing a drive for donations to support the studies of her student, Dr. Randall indicating that this is the first time she has ever taken such a step.

Should anyone wish to assist Ms. Dovhan, considered an extremely gifted and promising young singer, in her studies a tax-deductible check may be sent to: University of Miami School of Music (write "Stefania Dovhan" on the memo line, and include a brief letter indicating that this amount is to be applied to her scholarship). Letters may be sent to: Dr. Esther Jane Hardenbergh, The University of Miami, School of Music at Salzburg, P.O. Box 248165, Coral Gables, FL 33124.

Upon her return, Ms. Dovhan is planning one or more recitals to thank those who have assisted her.

(Continued on page 17)

The sacred music of Roman Hurko: recapturing and renewing a liturgical tradition

by Myrosia Stefaniuk

DETROIT – Sixteen years after the explosion, the long-lasting legacy of Chernobyl continues to plague young and old in Ukraine. But with a government caught in a political and economic quagmire, the suffering and needs of disaster victims get buried under the horrendous costs of restructuring nuclear power plants and finding alternate fuel sources. Outside of Ukraine, Chernobyl has been relegated to the back pages of history books.

To bring it back to the forefront, cultural activists in



Opera director and composer Roman Hurko

Ukraine, backed by the Ministry of Culture, appealed for commemorative works by Ukrainian artists that would refocus attention to Chernobyl's aftermath. Roman Hurko, Canadian opera director and composer, was one of the first to respond to the call.

On April 26, 2001, marking the 15th anniversary of the disaster, Maestro Hurko's composition, "Requiem: Panakhyda for the Victims of Chernobyl" was first performed and subsequently recorded, under the composer's baton, by the Frescoes of Kyiv Chamber Choir in the newly reconstructed St. Michael's Golden Domed Cathedral in Kyiv. To listen, is to become one with the music, chorus and cathedral in an uplifting harmonious affirmation of death and rebirth.

Intrigued by what compelled a young Canadian-born musician working with pomp and color in opera to write a panakhyda, I spoke with Mr. Hurko when he presented his sacred music at the invitation of the Ukrainian Arts Society of Detroit.

Music was always a magnet, Mr. Hurko recalled as he talked about his childhood. What he didn't enjoy was listening to the church choir. There's an anomaly in our churches, he explained. "The architecture, the visual images, candles, icons, incense are all intended to enhance a meditative state, a calming atmosphere to help us focus on spirit. Yet often, our church music is so full, rambunctious, even agitating, that the singing of our choirs is counterproductive to quiet reflection, if not an outright assault on the ears."

"Don't whine," his wise mother challenged "– do something about it." And so he did. His first composition, an "Ave Maria" written in high school for the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir, was premiered in 1983 at the Guelph Spring Festival and then performed at Toronto's 150th anniversary gala, with Mr. Hurko conducting.

This was followed by training in music, theater and stage directing at the University of Toronto, an apprenticeship at the opera school, and a career in stage directing opera at Canadian, American and European opera theaters. The list of operas and opera houses is long and impressive. Mr. Hurko's parallel interest in choral conducting gave rise to a new youth choir at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, a group made up primarily of like-minded friends that also formed the kernel of Toronto's Ukrainian Avant-Garde Theater.

In the late 1980s, Mr. Hurko turned to yet another theater venue, working with Virlana Tkacz at Harvard's Summer School workshops. This project involved staging poetry in the Kurbas style, using a Shevchenko poem

for creating a choral effect in which nouns projected over verbs, with sound effects and eastern modal music composed by Mr. Hurko. What followed was writing music for the Yara Arts Group at New York's La Mama Experimental Theater, that is, scores for two plays, "Svitlo zi Skhodu" (Light from the East) and "Explosions" (on the Chernobyl theme).

It is no surprise that opera, drama and sacred music are tightly interlaced in the fabric of Mr. Hurko's creative endeavors. "I re-entered theater from another aspect as poet, not through directing as I was doing in opera, but by actually writing music for the stage. This also turned out to be a great help for directing opera because it gave me ample insight into how music underlines the scene, how it provides the whole emotional subtext, and how actors and singers connect with the composer's intent," he said.

In many ways, church ritual is very much like opera, Mr. Hurko explained. After all, theater came out of religious ceremony. In church, as in theater, there is a setting that speaks to all of our senses, and an emotional and musical subtext for prayers. Together, they reflect our human position and the attitude with which we approach the divine. Some of our most beautiful psalms entreat us to glorify God with trumpets and drums and dancing and singing. But in today's stressful world, we look for something other in church. We seek that hour in a peaceful atmosphere where we can simply focus on something higher.

"So I try to write sacred music that allows people to slow down, breathe, be still and create a moment where, as stated in the 'Kheruvym' prayer, we can put aside our worldly cares. That is our liturgical tradition, rooted in ancient eastern modalities and Byzantine mystery and mystique. But we've lost touch with much of it here in the West. I'm not really trying to create something new but rather to recapture what we already are and renew what we have lost," he said.

"My own attitude to prayer is not about saying words, nor asking or pleading for something," Mr. Hurko reflects. "It is about calming the mind, about emptying it with the realization that when the mind is calm, when all the waves and turbulence have stopped and the water is clear – then you see the reflection of what is above, and right down to the bottom as well. This is where I begin, and then the music takes over, taking me wherever it is going."

Starting with individual prayers and responses over the years, by 1999 an entire liturgy was completed. "Liturgy 2000: the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom," was recorded by Chicago's Schola Cantorum, a professional non-Ukrainian chorus under the direction of J. Michael Thompson. The chorus worked with transliterated texts, recorded the entire CD in three sessions, and on the Feast of All Ukrainian Saints, July 16, 2000, sang the premiere at St. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago.

The liturgy is dedicated to Mr. Hurko's uncle, Father Theofil Hurko, who had a profound influence on young Roman's life after his own father passed away. "He was the happiest person I knew. For me, that's a true sign of someone who lives his religious beliefs and is an example not by what he says or preaches, but by whom he is and how he lives."

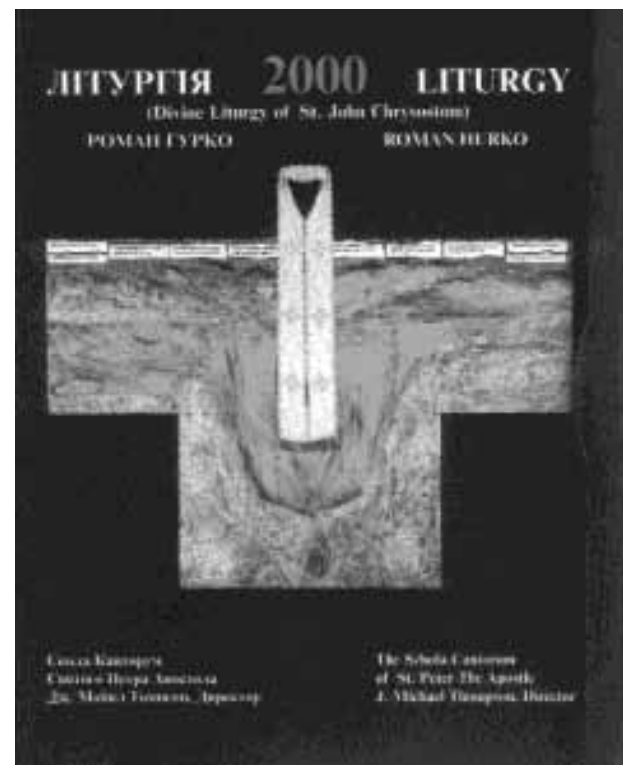
"There is a light that emanates from such individuals." It is that light which shines through Mr. Hurko's sacred music as well.

"I think that every generation should leave its stamp, or at least review how it feels about the liturgy that has been celebrated for hundreds of years," Mr. Hurko observed. In our liturgical music we have representatives of medieval, classical, Romantic, early 20th century periods and now this music of the early 21st century will be the next link of the chain. The next generation can build on that. This is the goal of my work."

So what waits in the wings? A second liturgy, finished and ready for publication and recording when funds are available. (Thus far, Mr. Hurko's recordings have been funded mostly out of pocket with small grant support). Then there is the Foundation for Liturgical Music that is being created in Toronto, with goals of promoting not only composition, publication and dissemination of Ukrainian liturgical music, but also assistance with training, recording and supporting existing choirs, as well as sending superb representatives to world festivals of sacred music.

And along with that, there is the dire need for impressing upon Church hierarchy the importance of musical training in seminaries so that knowledge and love of our sacred music once again becomes an inspiring integral component of church celebrations.

And then there is the clever idea for raising awareness about Chernobyl on a much wider scale by having a famous star perform a pop-style song about the disaster,

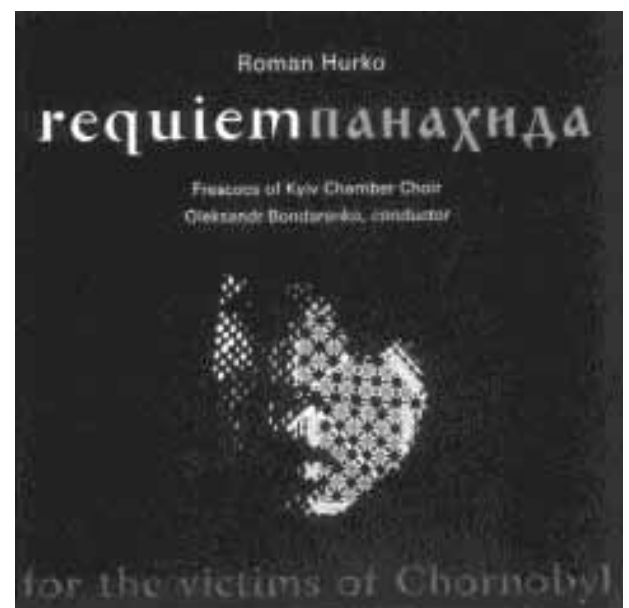


"Liturgy 2000, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom," Roman Hurko, composer. Performed by the Schola Cantorum of St. Peter the Apostle in Chicago; J. Michael Thompson, director. Premiered and recorded at St. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago.

arranged harmonically with an underlying choral performance of Maestro Hurko's "Panakhyda." Through the combined efforts of Maestro Hurko, and fellow-musicians Slavko Halatyn and Andriy Stasiw, a demo is ready and waiting for promotion.

And yes, there is opera, too. Negotiations have been under way for a new opera about Kalnyshchivsky, last otaman of the Sich, who was imprisoned and exiled to the Solovetskyi Monastery in the Arctic Circle where he died at age 112. The libretto has already been written by Sofia Maidanska; Valeriy Kikta is interested in writing the music, and Vasyl Vasylenko, new director of the Odesa Opera wants to produce it with Mr. Hurko stage directing. All that is needed is seed money to get it under way.

But, traditionally, funding trickles down to the arts in last place. Somehow we lose sight of the fact that it has not been politics, nor economics, nor business that has historically brought Ukraine out of its darkest hours. It has been spirituality and creativity. And so, Roman Hurko ventures out to Ukrainian communities, CDs and videos in hand, hoping ultimately to reach non-Ukrainian audiences, broadcasts and big promoters.



"Requiem: Panakhyda for The Victims of Chernobyl," by Roman Hurko. The work was performed by the Frescoes of Kyiv Chamber Choir, Oleksandr Bondarenko, conductor, and premiered and recorded at St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral in Kyiv, April 2001.

Meanwhile, there is the music, sonorous and encompassing. To paraphrase a line from Oksana Zabuzhko's poem about Chernobyl "... and how empty the silence beyond."

To hear samples, order CDs or for more information, go to: www.romanhurko.com or contact Roman Hurko at No. 1207, 580 Christie St., Toronto, Ontario, M6G 3E3 .

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Tymoshenko claims...

(Continued from page 1)

she was forced from her position as the first vice prime minister in the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, Mrs. Tymoshenko was charged with bribing a government official, illegally importing contraband and attempting to carry large sums of money out of the country.

The charges were based on her business dealings as founder and president of United Energy Systems, an energy trading company that once had close ties to Pavlo Lazarenko. She was specifically accused of illegal payments to Mr. Lazarenko when he was prime minister, of illegally importing natural gas from Russia and of attempting to carry \$26,000 out of Ukraine. Ms. Tymoshenko was in and out of detention for about six months before an appeals court ordered her set free because she was not considered a potential fugitive.

In September 2000, her husband, Oleksander, who took over as head of the firm after Mrs. Tymoshenko entered politics, was arrested and detained for nearly a year on charges of theft from government resources in large amounts and bribing a government official. He was specifically accused of failing to pay for salvage he had taken from a government-owned agricultural machinery supply house in the amount of \$200,000 and also for paying bribes to Mr. Lazarenko. Both charges were based on incidents that had occurred eight years earlier.

On April 30 the Sviatoshyn District Court in Kyiv dismissed four charges against Ms. Tymoshenko and the two against her husband. The press largely ignored the matter, which is one reason Ms. Tymoshenko decided to bring attention to it herself, she explained.

"When my husband and I were charged, the television channels carried the news from morning to night, but when we were exonerated, not one news service mentioned it," explained Ms. Tymoshenko.

The 40-year old politician, with her husband sitting aside her, read the reasons for the dismissal of each charge from what she said were the court documents on the decision. She said the documents explained that in the matter of the bribes the court found that beyond circumstantial evidence the prosecution had given no concrete evidence that tied the Tymoshenkos to any money illegally given to Mr. Lazarenko.

She said they also explained that there was no documented proof that she had not legally declared the U.S. dollars she was attempting to transport out of Ukraine from a Dnipropetrovsk airport in 1998, or that the paperwork that allowed United Energy Systems to import natural gas purchased from Russia's Gazprom in 1995-1996 was forged. In addition, the court had determined that Mr. Tymoshenko had paid for the purchase of products from the government agrofirma Ukragrotekservis and had received documented proof supporting the fact.

Hours after the Tymoshenkos' press conference ended, Deputy Procurator General Mykola Obikhod, while acknowledging that the Sviatoshyn District Court had ruled in favor of the Tymoshenkos, rejected the court's authority and the legal force the decisions carried. He told a hastily called press conference that the court's ruling was "illegal" and "not enforceable."

"Yulia Tymoshenko again is speeding ahead of the process in her interpretation of the judicial verdict," explained Mr. Obikhod. He said the Procurator General's Office had filed an appeal with the Kyiv Oblast Court in which it called the district court decision premature in so far as the investigation into the business affairs of the Tymoshenkos and United Energy Systems continues. The state prosecutor said that no court has the right to dismiss a case until an investigation is officially completed.

(Continued on page 15)

Kinakh chooses...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine election bloc along with the prime minister, Mr. Kremen is a member of the Social Democratic Party (United).

Three other key figures in the Kinakh government, Vice Prime Minister of Agriculture Ivan Kyrylenko, Minister of Industrial Policy Vasyl Hureyev and Minister of Transportation Valerii Pustovoitenko, all members of For a United Ukraine, opted to join the ranks of Verkhovna Rada national deputies a couple of weeks ago, as did President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff, Volodymyr Lytvyn, the leader of the bloc.

The six political organizations that achieved the minimum 4 percent of electoral votes required to attain seats in the new Ukrainian Parliament have spent the weeks since the March 31 elections unsuccessfully searching for political coalitions that would allow them to be part of a majority.

National Deputy Adam Martyniuk, a member of the Communist faction and chairman of the ad hoc committee charged with organizing the initial work of the Parliament, said that at the moment most national deputies believe that the only workable majority will be a shifting, situational one. Mr. Martyniuk gave assurances, however, that the Verkhovna Rada would work constructively.

"Despite the disparate configuration of today's Verkhovna Rada, it will be effective," he assured reporters at a press conference on the ad hoc committee's work.

Mr. Martyniuk, whose Communist faction will only be the third largest in this Verkhovna Rada after holding the most seats in the previous three, was chosen to head the organizing committee after Our Ukraine and United Ukraine couldn't agree on one of their own to head the group.

He said the representatives of the six factions had agreed that the legislative leadership, which consists of a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons, would be chosen as a slate. Mr. Martyniuk also explained that committee chairs and members would be assigned on the basis of the proportion of seats individual factions had won in the election.

He said, however, that the number of committees to be organized remained unresolved and in dispute, shifting between 23, as was the case in the last convocation, and up to 27. The national deputy said another open issue was whether minimum membership needed to declare a faction should remain at 14 deputies, as the smaller factions are requesting, or be raised to a requirement for 19 members.

Finally, he said that seating arrangements are still unsettled because all the factions are pushing for places in areas of the session floor that are clearly visible from the press galley.

On May 14 Slava Stetsko, at age 82 the oldest member of the Verkhovna Rada, will open the new convocation as she did in 1998.

authority as a deputy and a leader of a political force in the new Parliament to scrutinize more closely the activities of law enforcement agencies, including the situation surrounding the imprisoned former chairman of the Slavianskyi Bank, Borys Feldman, and the treatment of underage prisoners in Ukraine's penal system, which she called atrocious. She announced that she would form a citizens' committee in support of her work in that area.

Tymoshenko claims...

(Continued from page 14)

Nonetheless, Ms. Tymoshenko, who said during her press conference that she is not concerned about further appeals or legal proceedings against her or her family because the district court had "adequately analyzed the charges and concluded that these were criminal actions directed against us," also stated that she would use her

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In November 2001, a cargo container of computers arrived in Lviv, Ukraine. Both High School #11 in Smila, Cherkasy oblast and the Chernivtsi Building Institute received equipment for classes of 15 students. The Ostroh Academy was equipped for a classroom of 30 students and the Zalishchyky Regional Department of Education received equipment for a class of 20 students.

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PS. Our project has already been joined by the following: Lesya Khraplyva-Shchur (London, Ont.) - \$6,000 for the Chair of the Lviv State Agricultural University; Dr. Basilio Iwanytzkyj and Natalie Bundza-Iwanytzkyj (Toronto, Ont.) - \$10,000 for the Ostroh Academy, in Ostroh, Volyn oblast; N.N. - \$6,000 for the Ukrainian Gymnasium in Kolomiya; Mrs. Volodymyra and Mr. Stephan Slywotzky (New York, NY) - US \$5,000 for the Lviv Technical College. Who will be next?



It is with great sorrow that we inform you of the passing of

Maria Wenzowska (née Lewycka)

on Thursday, April 18, 2002

Loving wife and a beloved mother and grandmother, Maria was born in Vienna on February 12, 1913. She graduated from the Lviv Conservatory of Music, and also obtained a law degree in her native Ukraine. Maria is survived by her husband, Iwan Wenzowski, her daughter, son-in-law and grandson - Marta, Duane and Konrad; and, her son and daughter-in-law - Oleksander and Paige.

A funeral liturgy was held on Tuesday, April 23, at the Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in Denver, Colorado, with interment at the Ukrainian section of Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery.

Donations in memory of Maria may be made to
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Service on May 1 that they do not foresee the creation of a stable, permanent majority in the newly elected Verkhovna Rada. "I think there will be a situational majority with the participation of Communists during the election of the Verkhovna Rada leadership and the heads of parliamentary committees," Mr. Tkachenko said. According to Mr. Tkachenko, the Communist Party is likely to find common language in the Parliament with the United Ukraine faction rather than Our Ukraine. Mr. Moroz did not rule out that the current Verkhovna Rada may be led by a lawmaker who has previously been its speaker. Aside from Messrs. Tkachenko and Moroz, there are two other former chairmen in the current

legislature: Ivan Pliusch and Leonid Kravchuk. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Melnychenko appeals to Putin over secrets

KYIV – Mykola Melnychenko has appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin to take measures to prevent the release of Russia's state secrets, Ukrainian media reported on May 4. Mr. Melnychenko wrote in an open letter that he was expected to testify to the U.S. Justice Department on May 9. He added that the tapes he made secretly in Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's office contain Mr. Kuchma's conversations with former Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Mr. Putin, and are related to Russian state secrets. Mr. Melnychenko asked the Russian authorities to officially raise the issue with U.S. law enforcement officials to let him preserve the secrets during his testi-

mony. The former presidential bodyguard filed a similar request with the Ukrainian authorities in 2001 but has received no answer. Kyiv denies that the recordings are factual. (RFE/RL Newswire)

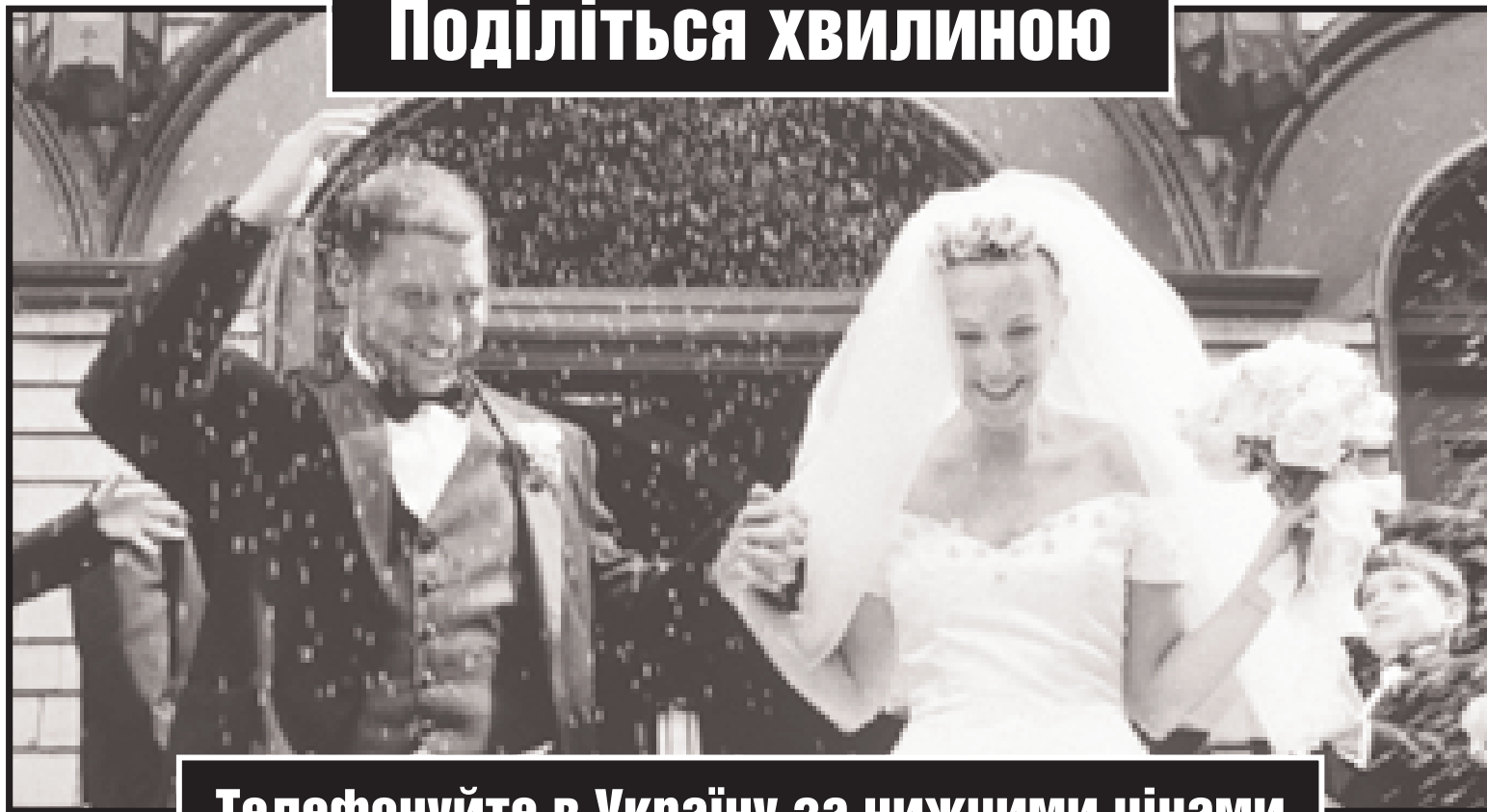
Chernomyrdin: no border demarcation yet

KYIV – Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin has said neither Russia nor Ukraine is ready for border demarcation, UNIAN reported on April 29, quoting the ForUm website. "We are not ready for that and do not intend to put a fence between Russia and Ukraine," Mr. Chernomyrdin said, adding, "It is our agreement that demarcation is out of the question as of yet." He said the issue of demarcation is being imposed on Ukraine by Western countries. According to the Russian envoy, the West is concerned because Ukraine's

neighbors Poland and Hungary will soon join the European Union. He stressed that neither Russia nor Ukraine can currently afford the demarcation because of the lack of funds and because the border is very long. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Black Sea Fleet deal expected in June

MOSCOW – Ukraine and Russia are planning to sign a comprehensive agreement on the Russian Black Sea Fleet in June, Russia's Industry, Science and Technologies Minister Ilya Klebanov said on April 29, according to RIA-Novosti. In Kyiv the same day, Mr. Klebanov and Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Vasyl Rohovyi presided over a meeting of Russian and Ukrainian officials who will work out details of the fleet's future deployment in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newswire)



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Lviv conference aims to tackle problems of Ukrainian terminology

NEW YORK – “SlovoSvit 2002,” the seventh International Conference on Problems of Ukrainian Terminology, will take place at Lviv Polytechnic University in Ukraine on September 24-26. This year’s conference will be held in honor of the late Anatole Wowk, author of several Ukrainian-English terminological dictionaries and the former head of the Ukrainian Terminological Center of America (UTCA).

The Lviv conference is sponsored by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science, Lviv Polytechnic University, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Terminological Center of America and Canada, and other organizations. The themes of the conference will include the theoretical principles of terminological knowledge and lexicography, normalization and standardization of Ukrainian terminology, and the terminology of the natural sciences and humanities.

A seminar honoring Mr. Wowk will be held after the conference opening on September 24. Besides heading the UTCA until his death in 1992, Mr. Wowk was a long-time member of the Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America (UESA) and the Shevchenko Scientific Society, as well as the editor of a popular page about the Ukrainian language which appeared regularly in the daily newspaper Svoboda. His last terminological dictionary was published posthumously in Lviv in 1998, and is currently available in the United States.

The submission deadline for papers to be presented at the conference is May 30. For a conference application form or more information about the event, including hotel accommodations in Lviv, please contact Andrij Wowk at wowk@email.com, or the conference organizer, Prof. Bohdan Rytsar, at rytsar@polynet.lviv.ua.

Sample exam in Ukrainian is available

HIGHLAND, N.Y. – New York state offers an accredited exam in the Ukrainian language for high school students, as reported in detail in the February 17 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.

The teachers’ committee responsible for the exam’s preparation noted that, should there be a small interest in this exam on the part of students and their Ukrainian studies teachers, the commit-

tee will not have any purpose in developing it in the future. Structuring a fresh examination every year is very time-consuming.

Requests for the 2002 Sample Comprehensive Examination in Ukrainian, along with \$5 to cover the cost of printing and mailing, should be addressed to the committee’s coordinator: Oksana Bakum, 18 Orchard Lane, Highland, NY 12528.

Selfreliance...

(Continued from page 9)

bers of Selfreliance Ukrainian American FCU held their 51st annual meeting. For the first time, this event was held in the credit union’s own building. The meeting was broadcast simultaneously in New Jersey through a videoconference link, so the credit union’s members in New Jersey could hear the reports and participate in discussions.

The meeting started with a prayer by Rt. Rev. Ivan A. Krotec of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Church. Various greetings and proclamations followed, including a speech by Vicki L. Ponzo, senior vice-president of the Illinois Credit Union League. The vice-president/secretary Victor Wojtychiw, read the minutes of the previous meeting, after which the members listened to reports from the President and chairman of the board, as well as from the committees.

Despite the fact that the United States

was in the grips of a recession in 2001, Selfreliance ended its 51st year with some impressive financial statistics. Assets totaled over \$390 million and credit union capital grew to nearly \$50 million. The credit union’s loan portfolio was nearly \$200 million, and the credit union’s membership will soon reach 20,000.

In 2001 alone, the credit union disbursed \$588,000 for community promotional and educational expenses, in support of Ukrainian organizations: churches, museums, youth groups and various other associations. The year 2001 has been an auspicious beginning for the credit union’s second 50 years.

As Michael R. Kos, chairman of the board of Selfreliance Ukrainian American FCU stated at the conclusion of his annual report, “with the utmost belief in God, and in our people, I am firmly convinced that the credit unions in Ukraine, as well as our own credit union, will continue in one direction only. Forward!”

Saradjian and Vynnytsky...

(Continued from page 12)

entrants from Ukraine, Maryna Radyushyna and Oleksiy Yemtsov.

Ms. Radyushyna, 22, winner of the second prize of the 1999 Vladimir Horowitz International Competition (Kyiv), and laureate of the Festival of Young Musicians (St. Petersburg, 2002), received her early music training in Odesa. She came to the United States in 1996 to study at Florida International University. She is currently enrolled in a master’s program in piano performance at the University of Miami.

Mr. Yemtsov, 19, was awarded first prize in the Vladimir Horowitz International Competition (Kyiv) and the Prokofieff Competition (Donetsk), and was a semi-finalist in the Sydney International Competition (2000). Currently a student at the Australian Institute of Music, he continues to study with Victor Makarov, with whom he began studies at the age of 7.

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UMANA board meets at New York's Ukrainian Institute

by Dr. George Hrycelak

NEW YORK – The board of directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) met on Saturday, April 6, at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City. Nearly 50 members of the New York Metro Chapter welcomed UMANA President Dr. Ihor Voyevodka, Vice-President Dr. Ihor Fedoriw, Secretary Dr. Ariadna Nychka-Czartorysky, UMANA News Editor Dr. Adrian Baranetsky, World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA) Representative Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj, and Executive Director Dr. George Hrycelak to their city.

New York Metro Chapter President Dr. Alexandra Kushnir, Vice-President Dr. Artur Hryhorowych, Secretary Dr. Marta Kushnir and Officer Dr. Ihor Magun, joined the discussion table with many issues pertinent to their particular affiliate. Many more members participated in a spirited question-and-answer session throughout the meeting.

The meeting was historically significant since UMANA was originally incorporated in New York City by the organization's founding fathers in 1950. Several senior members were able to attend, and the chapter officers surprised those gathered by providing albums of pioneering photographs from those originating times. Many "war stories" of those early days were retold over those photos while identifying the early members.

In addition to routine housekeeping issues, the board discussed the possibility of expanding informational assistance to newly arrived health care professionals from Ukraine. Dr. Alexandra Kushnir presented the New York experience; and several options were reviewed, concluding with a commitment to formulate a range of helpful sources for these physicians to use.

Four new members were approved for induction into the UMANA: Dr. Roxolana Fokshey (New York), Dr. Yanina Holovatska (New York), Victor Pavlych (student, Illinois) and Christine Tymczyna



Members of the UMANA board of directors and Metro New York members gathered at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

(student, Arizona). In an effort to expand membership and appeal to a broader range of health professionals, Dr. Voyevodka proposed a plan aimed at Canadian colleagues. A recruitment initiative could include dues relief relating to the difference in currency valuation and earnings between U.S. and Canadian funds, as well as a membership drive particularly geared to the Western provinces.

In a spirit of cooperation between UMANA and WFUMA, Dr. Horbowyj reported on the status of a joint project in the early stages of preparation for the WFUMA Conference slated for August in Luhansk, Ukraine. She informed the board of an ongoing initiative, with the help of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to allow live satellite video and teleconferencing from the United States to Luhansk during the scientific sessions on August 19-21. The symposium involving U.S. speakers would center on AIDS treatment and updates relating to the epidemic in Ukraine – a topic that is currently of burning impor-


tance to medical professionals overseas.

Dr. Voyevodka and Dr. Nychka-Czartorysky were pleased to relate their pleasant experiences from the joint professional summit on "Re-engaging the Younger Generation" held at Soyuzivka in March. As one of several participating professional groups, the UMANA was able to present its experience with recruiting and involving young medical, dental and other health care students and residents in an effort to solidify the base of the association. One major conclusion of the summit focused on expanding contacts between students and profes-

sionals at the college level in social and mentoring capacities.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the New York Metro Chapter hosted a buffet; discussions went on in small groups for several more hours on a variety of topics. New friendships were made, old ones rekindled, and a new feeling of camaraderie encompassed all those present.

UMANA members are looking forward to the organization's next scientific conference scheduled to take place in Chicago in 2003, exploring the topic of infectious diseases. For more information, call UMANA at (773) 278-6262.



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130 Route 10 West
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on

Wednesday, May 15, at 7:30-11 p.m.

Refreshments and appetizers will be served.

Tickets are \$30 (of which \$5 will go to Verkhovyna Sports Camps)
and may be purchased at the door.

Due to possible conflicts in Mr. Shevchenko's schedule, please call to
confirm the event at the Ramada, 973-386-5622.


Thursday, May 16

the NY/NJ Metrostars take on
Andrii Shevchenko and AC Milan
at Giants Stadium following
the U.S. Men's National Team vs. Jamaica
at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the doubleheader are \$35

(Of which \$5 will go to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church,
Whippany, and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Newark)

Tickets for the event must be ordered in advance and will be available at the
May 15 reception. Transportation from the Ramada Inn to Giants Stadium will
be available for the first 50 requests.



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- * Master of Ceremonies Mrs. Ulana Mazurkewych
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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

A sixth grader's view: we should be thankful for Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms

by Cassandra Luciuk

I am not that old, but already I know that I am lucky to have been born in Canada.

Why?

Because my grandparents and great grandmother have told me what they went through before they came to Canada. And I am pretty sure that they don't tell me everything.

They survived Nazi and Soviet oppression. Even before the second world war, when they lived in Ukraine, they would often find themselves at the mercy of governments that persecuted them, only because they were Ukrainian. They suffered under governments that denied them their basic religious, cultural and political rights, under regimes that denied them education, that prevented them from speaking their own language, regimes that even claimed there was no such thing as a people called Ukrainians.

How different is the world we live in, here in Canada! Laws govern our society. Together we have built a society where everyone is free to believe whatever they want to, to speak openly about their beliefs, and to do so without having to worry about being arrested, or worse.

My grandparents and great grandmother never enjoyed those basic freedoms – not until they came to Canada. And so they are very grateful for the sanctuary and the liberty Canada gave them.

All Canadians, whether we were born here, or came here as immigrants, or were political refugees like my family, enjoy the same rights and freedoms. We are all Canadians regardless of where we came from, or when; or the faith, or race, or beliefs of our ancestors.

I have learned about this from both my parents. My mother became a lawyer in the very same year that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was proclaimed. Her copy is in Ukrainian! Imagine that! Canada issuing one of its most basic documents,



Kassandra Luciuk before her speech at Osgoode Hall.

not just in our two official languages, but in Ukrainian, a language that my grandparents had to struggle to preserve when those who occupied their homeland tried to stamp it out!

My father is a professor. He also has told me about how important the Charter is. He served as a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board. I used to visit his office and even went into a hearing room. He explained how our Charter protects people who come to Canada to seek our protection, refugees like my grandparents.

I also know, because my father writes about these things, that before the Charter there were dark periods in Canada's own history, when the human rights and civil liberties of innocent people were not respected.

Many of us know about how badly Japanese Canadians were treated in World War II. But fewer people know that in World War I many thousands of Ukrainian Canadians and other European immigrants were put into Canadian concentration camps and labeled "enemy aliens" – not because of anything they had done but only because of where they came from.

My father writes a lot about that sort of thing. He can do that because the Charter exists and protects his freedom of speech, and ours. And the Charter also makes sure that the injustices that happened decades ago in Canada will never happen again.

Like many others I watched the terrorist attacks against New York and Washington. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It did not look real. I don't pretend to understand why those who killed so many innocents did what they did.

I can't believe those responsible were truly religious for I do not believe God wants us to take other peoples' lives. I think we must now fight against terrorism. But, even as we do, I am glad to know that in Canada we have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. That will help ensure that the mistakes that were made in Canada's past, when innocent people were arrested and interned in times of hysteria and prejudice, do not happen again.

We must stand on guard for Canada. We can do so with confidence. For guarding all of us, as Canadians, is our Charter. For that all of us should truly give thanks.

Kassandra Luciuk is a Grade 6 student at Josyf Cardinal Slipyj Ukrainian Catholic School in Toronto. She spoke recently at Osgoode Hall for the opening of Law Week, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Charter. That same speech was broadcast, nationally, on CBC Radio One on the morning of April 17, marking the 20th anniversary of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Children celebrate Easter by performing "hahilky"

HILLSIDE, N.J. – Local children shared Easter joy by participating in "hahilky" (ritual spring dances and songs) after the divine liturgy on Sunday, April 7, at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside, N.J. Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert and Christine "Tynky" Janak lovingly taught the children five different hahilky.

The audience and children seemed to especially enjoy "Posadzhu ya Hrushechku," which translates as "I Will Plant A Pear Tree," which describes the steps in planting and nurturing a pear tree.

It was gratifying to see this group of children, from many ethnic backgrounds, join together to learn a beautiful Ukrainian tradition – and most importantly – to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

Following the hahilky, the children engaged in an Easter egg hunt on the parish grounds.



Children perform ritual spring dances, or "hahilky."

Artist teaches students about icons



NEWARK, N.J. – Catholic Schools Week brought to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School a fascinating visit with Christina Saj, an accomplished New Jersey artist who creates modern icons. Ms. Saj discussed traditional icons and instructed children in kindergarten through fifth grade on how to create their own découpage angels and saints in her very unique and engaging style. The children’s work was on display during the last week of April at St. John’s Church Hall as part of the school fair spotlighting the students’ myriad projects in subjects ranging from art and science, to history, social studies, religion and math. Above, Ms. Saj tells the schoolchildren about icons.

OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated June 9, please send in your materials by May 31.

Please drop us a line:

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Eighth-grader continues school’s success in National Geography Bee

NEWARK, N.J. – Eighth-grader Evan Litosch has carried on a proud legacy at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School of Newark, N.J., as in April he competed at the New Jersey state level competition of the National Geography Bee.

Evan, a resident of Summit, N.J., won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 4. He subsequently took a written test, the result of which qualified him for eligibility in the state competition held on April 5 at Rutgers University’s Busch Campus in Piscataway.

Evan became the seventh St. John’s student in as many years to qualify for the state championship of the National Geography Bee, which has been held annually for the past 14 years.

The National Geography Bee, a competition open to students from grades 4-8, is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Thousands of schools in the United States and in the five U.S. territories participate in the event.

This year’s oral bee began the week of November 26, 2001, in the various schools. The top school winner was then required to take a written test; 103 top scorers in 433 participating New Jersey schools were invited to compete in the state bee.

The National Geographic Society provides an all-expenses-paid trip

to Washington for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the national championship on May 21-22. The first-place national winner receives a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the society.

“Jeopardy!” host Alex Trebek, who is of Ukrainian background, will moderate the national finals on May 22; the program will air on the National Geographic Channel, and afterwards on PBS stations.



Evan Litosch, champion geographer of St. John’s School.

Mishanyna

M	O	M	G	O	S	R	E	W	O	L	F	E	R	H
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P	O	D	T	A	O	C	G	R	H	U	G	R	E	D
A	N	N	A	R	A	T	G	H	O	W	E	E	D	M
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To solve this month’s “Mishanyna,” prepared on the occasion of Mother’s Day, please find all the words that appear in the story below in capital letters.

(A special challenge: one of the words appears in the grid five times. See if you can find it!)

Today is Mother’s Day. The SECOND Sunday in May has been celebrated as a special day for all mothers, as well as GRANDMOTHERS, godmothers, aunts, etc., since 1911.

However, the tradition of honoring mothers goes way back to ANCIENT GREECE. Such celebrations were held during the SPRING, when the Greeks paid tribute to RHEA, the mother of the gods. In the 17th century people in England honored mothers on a HOLIDAY called MOTHERING SUNDAY.

In the United States, it was in 1872 that Julia Ward HOWE suggested the idea of the day to honor mothers. She saw the day as one dedicated to PEACE and organized the first observances in BOSTON.

Later, Anna JARVIS of PHILADELPHIA began a CAMPAIGN to celebrate Mother’s Day nationwide. First she persuaded her mother’s church in WEST VIRGINIA to observe the day on the second Sunday in May, Ms. Jarvis and her supporters wrote to politicians, businessmen and ministers to encourage them to establish a national Mother’s Day. By 1911 the day was celebrated in just about every state of the United States.

In 1914 Mother’s Day became a NATIONAL holiday, in accordance with an official announcement by President WOODROW WILSON. Today the day is also celebrated in many other countries around the WORLD.

So, dear readers, how will you CELEBRATE with your MOM on this lovely day? Will you GREET her with FLOWERS, or perhaps a CARD? We suggest something simple: a HUG, a SMILE and an “I LOVE you.”

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 12

ENCINITAS, Calif.: Adrian Bryttan will return to conduct the Lake San Marcos String Orchestra at the San Dieguito United Methodist Church, 170 Calle Magdalena at 2:30 p.m. The LSM String Orchestra is composed of the top professionals from Los Angeles and will feature Clayton Haslop as soloist in Mendelssohn's rarely performed Violin Concerto in D minor. The program will also include Tchaikovsky's String Serenade, Vivaldi's "Sinfonia alla Rustica" and Quincy Porter's "Ukrainian Suite." The president and artistic director of the LSM Chamber Music Society is Gregory Bemko. Tickets: \$20; \$10, students. For further information call (760) 744-7516.

Friday, May 17

NEW YORK: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 123 is holding a festival-zabava at 9 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home, 140 Second Ave. Tickets: \$20; proceeds to benefit the initiation of the "Aid to Women of Chernobyl" Fund. To reserve a table call Christina, (212) 982-6366 (evenings), or Roma, (212) 777-7324.

Saturday, May 18

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society is holding a musicology conference dedicated to Dmytro Bortniansky (1751-1825). Participating in the program will be: Andriy V.R. Szul, Penn State University; Roman Sawycky, Lviv Academy of Sciences; Jaropolk Lassowsky, Clarion University; Stepan Maksymiuk, Voice of America; Vasyl Hrechynsky, Dumka Chorus, with soprano Natalia Honcharenko and pianist Christine Karpevych. The exhibit "Bortniansky in Iconography: Text and Music Publications," prepared by Messrs. Sawycky and Maksymiuk, will be on view. The conference will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave., at 4 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

WASHINGTON: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies invites the public to attend its annual graduation dance, which will be held at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE. Cocktails are at 7 p.m.; the graduating class will be presented at 8 p.m.; a short program and dancing to the sound of the Mandry Band will follow. Tickets are \$15 (cash buffet and cash bar); free admission for children and students. For more information call (310) 779-8468 (after 8 p.m.).

Sunday, May 19

WEST HARTFORD, Conn.: The Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble presents "Echoes of Spring," a concert performance of Ukrainian folk, classical, liturgical and bandura music. Under the direction of Alexander Kuzma, the choir will perform

works by Leontovych, Bortniansky and Koshetz, and some well-loved folk songs from the villages of our ancestors. The performance will be held at 2-4 p.m. at the West Hartford Meeting and Conference Center, Town Hall Auditorium, 50 S. Main St.; (minutes from I-84, Exit 41; parking off Burr Road and entrance on South Main Street). Admission to this full-length concert: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. For information and tickets in New Haven call (203) 265-2744; in Hartford, (860) 563-5983.

PHILADELPHIA: The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is hosting its annual Spring Festival at St. Michael's Church, 700 Cedar Road, in Jenkintown, Pa. The festival begins at 1 p.m., with a performance by the Voloshky School at 2:30 p.m. Admission: adults, \$5; children between the ages of 3 and 12, \$3. Come join us for an entertaining day on the beautiful grounds of St. Michael's. For additional information contact Nina Prybolsky, (215) 572-1552.

Saturday-Sunday, May 25-26

CHICAGO: The Kryla Soccer Club of Chicago, under the auspices of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) of Chicago, will be celebrating 50 years of national and international soccer this year and is honored to be able to host the seventh annual Great Lakes Cup. This international tournament will be played over two days and involves American and Canadian cities with Ukrainian soccer clubs located around the Great Lakes. The tournament will be held on Memorial Day weekend and will involve a youth division, men's open division and an over-30 division. The games will be played at three locations: youth games will be played at Palatine Ukrainian Community Center, 136 E. Illinois St.; men's open and men's over 30 at Cardinal Park and Virginia Lake Park, also in Palatine. On Friday, May 24, Kryla SC will host a Pub Night at Chicago SUM; music, food and drink will be available. For more information contact Taras Jaworsky, (773) 384-1719.

ONGOING

Through Wednesday, May 15

DENVER: Tatianna Gajecy-Wynar, artist/photographer, is the current "Art on the Wall" exhibitor at the Denver West Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 14347 W. Colfax Ave. Ms. Gajecy-Wynar's exhibit, titled: "A Glimpse of Ukraine - Its Land, People and Architecture - Through the Lenses of Tatianna Gajecy," features 65 photographs works in color, taken during her most recent visits to Ukraine in 2001 and 1998. (The exhibit, which opened April 1, is on view through May 15.) Ms. Gajecy's original artwork, based on Ukrainian themes, has been viewed in Ukraine, Canada and the United States. This is her first comprehensive photography exhibit. Ms. Gajecy may be contacted at (303) 238-3523.

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.