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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## U.N. secretary-general visits Kyiv



AP/Valery Soloviov

**President Leonid Kuchma presents United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan with the Ukrainian State Award of Yaroslav the Wise (first degree).**

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan paid his first visit to Kyiv on June 3-4, where he insisted that international agreements made in return for the closing of the Chornobyl nuclear energy complex must be upheld. The U.N. leader also praised Ukraine's peace-keeping role around the world and voiced concern over a growing AIDS problem in the country.

Mr. Annan called on the global community to fulfill obligations made in return for Ukraine's agreement to shut down the Chornobyl facility in December 2000, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986.

"Promises were made that have to be honored," said the U.N. secretary-general.

Mr. Annan made his remarks at a joint press conference at Mariinskyi Palace with President Leonid Kuchma, during which the Ukrainian state leader said that discussions on compensation for the closing of Chornobyl have gone on for far too long.

"It is a problem that we have been dragging out for too long in discussions," said Mr. Kuchma, who suggested that it is time for the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Group of Seven most industrialized countries to finally cough up the promised financing to put a new shelter over the damaged No. 4 reactor at Chornobyl and to complete two compensatory reactors at complexes near the cities of Khmelnytskyi and Rivne.

After a visit to the Chornobyl Museum in Kyiv, Mr. Annan emphasized that the world has a responsibility to deal with the aftermath of Chornobyl and to ensure that a similar accident is not repeated.

During his two-day stay in Ukraine's capital, Mr. Annan also turned the spotlight on a growing AIDS problem in Ukraine. At a government seminar on the topic, he called the battle against HIV/AIDS "one of the great challenges of our time."

Mr. Annan, who has dedicated himself to taking the lead in that fight and to work to halt the spread of AIDS by 2015 as agreed to in the Millennium Goals set out by the U.N. membership, underscored that the key to overcoming the endemic disease is awareness education, predominantly among young people.

"Research has shown that fewer than one in 10 girls in Ukraine knows how to avoid becoming infected. That is an alarming statistic," explained Mr. Annan, who also noted, more optimistically, that schools are well placed to provide the needed education.

During the press conference at Mariinskyi Palace he also expressed appreciation for President Kuchma's executive order declaring 2002 the Year of the Fight Against HIV/AIDS. He said the fight against the disease must be wide-ranging. "It is an effort that requires the mobilization of everybody," said Mr. Annan.

The secretary-general noted that the U.N. had pledged \$9 million to Odesa and Kyiv for medicines for AIDS treatment from a worldwide U.N. fund of \$1.9 billion dedicated to the effort.

Ukraine officially has about 46,000 registered cases of HIV/AIDS, but some non-governmental organizations, as well as the United Nations put the actual figure at closer to half a million people, or 1 percent of the population. The world body has warned the figure could rise to 6 percent by 2010.

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## Ukraine's Parliament gridlocked over committee chairmanships

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV— The Verkhovna Rada continued to remain mired in political gridlock over appointments to the remaining leadership posts on June 6, a week after a chairman and two assistants had been elected, and six weeks since elections had brought in a new group of national deputies.

The Ukrainian Parliament has essentially split into two coalitions with four factions — Our Ukraine, the Socialists, the Communists and the Yulia Tymoshenko faction — which have been dubbed the "Parliamentary Four" in opposition to the Social Democrats (United) and United Ukraine, the largest faction in the new convocation.

The Verkhovna Rada remained in adjournment for the better part of the week as the leadership of the six factions spent most of their time behind closed doors unsuccessfully trying to hammer out a compromise over who should get how many

committee chairmanships.

To a large degree, the paralysis has centered on how to assuage the Parliamentary Four and especially National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine faction, which continues to insist that as the political organization that received the most electoral support in the March 31 elections it should have a greater say in how the government and the parliamentary leadership is formed.

Mr. Yushchenko has called the various political strategies and games that went on before the May 28 vote for the Parliament Presidium — which some lawmakers have said came about through vote-buying and resulted in the United Ukraine and Social Democratic (United) factions grabbing the chairmanship and two vice-chairs by a bare majority of 226 votes — "unethical" and "immoral."

As the Parliament remained adjourned through most of the first part of the week, public debate among the national deputies

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## Levin introduces bill to graduate Ukraine from 1974 Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON — Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) introduced House Resolution 4723 (H.R. 4723), proposing to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment of the 1974 Trade Act, which limits U.S. trade with countries that do not allow free emigration of their citizens.

This legislation was designed to protect the interests of Jewish communities in totalitarian regimes and ensure their freedom to emigrate. As a successor of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine, too, must adhere to the Jackson-Vanik Amendment with a yearly waiver enacted by the U.S. president. Since re-establishing independence in 1991, however, Ukraine has reformed its laws significantly and has successfully eliminated the obstacles to emigration of its citizens imposed by the Soviet Union.

Rep. Levin's House Resolution, 4723, which he introduced on May 14, proposes to relieve Ukraine from the required evaluation process. This resolution would allow Ukraine to expand trade with the United States, as well as to remove the Cold War-era, stigma connected to the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

"Since gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine has taken important steps toward the creation of democratic institutions and free-market economy and, as a member-state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), is

committed to developing a system of governance in accordance with the principles regarding human rights and humanitarian affairs that are set forth in the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the Helsinki Final Act), states HR 4723.

HR 4723 is a result of the Ukrainian National Information Service's active work on Capitol Hill advocating this issue. UNIS has met with members of the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and provided them with information regarding the economic achievements and democratic reforms in Ukraine. UNIS also provided information on the tremendous improvements in the current life of the Jewish community in Ukraine: government-sponsored Hebrew schools; multiple local and national Jewish publications; revival of religious life; and gradual restitution of Jewish communal property to its rightful owners.

The NCSJ (formerly known as National Council on Soviet Jewry), a U.S. organization dealing with the problems faced by Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union, agreed in mid-January of 2002 that the Jewish Ukrainian community is indeed experiencing a renaissance, while expressing hope for a speedier process regarding restitution of former synagogues and communal property.

## ANALYSIS

## Lessons from two elections: Ukraine and Belarus

by Alex Campbell  
RFE/RL Newline

With the inexorable advance of NATO and the European Union to the East, the idea of working out some coordinated policy in the West's dealings with Ukraine and Belarus is starting to gain currency in the upper echelons of European bureaucracy.

The rationale is that since these former Soviet republics are experiencing similar difficulties in carrying out political and economic reforms, a unified approach by Brussels and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will help them achieve the success shared by many of their post-Communist neighbors.

The problem with this reasoning is that, despite some similarities shared by countries making the transition from communism to democracy, the situations in Ukraine and Belarus are vastly different. Despite many obvious setbacks, political and economic reforms are slowly beginning to take root in Ukraine, while in Belarus this process has actually reversed and resulted in the re-establishment in that country of an authoritarian regime that is disturbingly reminiscent of the worst periods of the Soviet era.

The divergent directions of these two former Soviet republics are best evidenced by their recent elections. The fraud that allowed Alyaksandr Lukashenka to claim victory in last September's presidential elections in Belarus did not come as a surprise. The OSCE-led body of international observers declared the election neither free nor fair and said it was conducted in an undemocratic atmosphere.

Those familiar with the situation in Belarus could hardly expect anything different in an election game in which President Lukashenka stacked his hand heavily with cards like the ruthless harassment of political opponents and total control over the election apparatus and the mass media. He took no chances and, in the event that these measures would not be enough, he allowed the ballot-box stuffing to begin five days before election day and disqualified almost all the local independent observers.

If all else were to fail, Mr. Lukashenka even threatened to resort to the brute force of his most trusted paramilitary troops, which the opposition claims had already proven their loyalty by physically eliminating some of Mr. Lukashenka's most prominent political opponents.

Predictably, merely an hour after the polls closed and in violation of the election rules he himself had carefully doctored in his favor, President Lukashenka went on national television to proclaim his "convincing victory." Even taking into account Mr. Lukashenka's popularity among the elderly and the uneducated, it is difficult to believe that his level of support among the impoverished Belarusian population stood at nearly 80 percent, as the preliminary official report claimed.

Also disturbing is the relative complacency with which the OSCE is watching gradual elimination of its own Miensk Advisory and Monitoring Group, established, among other things, for the purpose of ensuring that the elections in Belarus are democratic, fair and transparent.

German diplomat Hans-Georg Wieck, the former head of the group, left the country in January amid a very public scandal over the authorities' allegations that he conspired with the opposition to overthrow the

government and was engaged in intelligence gathering for the German secret services. His deputy, French diplomat Michel Rivollier, was forced to leave Belarus as soon as his visa expired. Miensk still refuses to accept the credentials of the newly appointed head of the Miensk Advisory and Monitoring Group, demanding, in violation of the OSCE's Istanbul summit agreements, the complete revision of the mission's mandate.

On the surface, the March 31 parliamentary elections in Ukraine provide many comparisons between the two countries. According to independent observers, the Ukrainian election was fraught with violations resulting from poor organization and financing, but also with widespread interference by pro-government forces. Observers noted that district electoral commissions were often understaffed, the polling stations poorly equipped, and the ballot papers too confusing (along with Verkhovna Rada deputies, Ukrainians were electing local authorities). Sometimes long lines at polling stations discouraged people from voting, which favored older and more disciplined pro-government and Communist electorates and worked against younger supporters of the reform-oriented Our Ukraine bloc.

Using election techniques similar to those employed by Mr. Lukashenka, Ukrainian authorities allowed large numbers of people to vote outside the constituencies where they had originally been registered. This legal trick was especially widely used by candidates of pro-government forces who bused people in – sometimes even from other regions – to swing the vote in their constituencies.

Still, in contrast to the Belarusian presidential elections, observers representing European organizations came to the conclusion that the Ukrainian elections were generally free and fair. However, although the U.S. State Department criticized Kyiv for media bias and international commentators noted that "most media failed to provide impartial and fair coverage of the campaign," one crucial difference between the Ukrainian and Belarusian elections is impossible to ignore. In Ukraine, organized debates, free airtime and paid advertising allowed all candidates at least some access to television and other media based in Kyiv. Even though the situation outside of Kyiv was worse, with access to electronic media often restricted by local authorities, this stands in stark contrast to the complete media blackout of the opposition that was organized by the Belarusian regime.

Another important difference is that last year, for the first time in its history, Ukraine passed an election law guaranteeing representation to different political parties on district electoral commissions. By March 24 some 944 foreign election observers were registered – the highest number seen since the country's independence in 1991. In the Belarusian campaign, the presidential administration exerted total control over every stage and level of the voting and vote-tallying, and Central Election Commission chair Lidiya Yermoshina even went on record saying that Mr. Lukashenka's loss in the election would be nothing less than a personal tragedy for her.

It is true that prior to the elections in Ukraine opposition rallies encountered power blackouts suspiciously often, but it is still a far cry from the brutality with which President Lukashenka's police apparatus attacked its opponents, and which put

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Kyiv, Miensk react to NATO-Russia deal

CHERNIHIV – Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and his Belarusian counterpart, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, met in Chernihiv, northern Ukraine, on May 29 to discuss bilateral relations, Ukrainian and Belarusian media reported. Messrs. Kuchma and Lukashenka told journalists after the meeting that they welcome this week's NATO-Russia cooperation agreement. President Lukashenka admitted that the NATO-Russia rapprochement may entail "a different system of mutual relations, particularly in the post-Soviet territory." He said his government is thoroughly studying Kyiv's recent bid to seek NATO membership in order to enable Belarus "to make appropriate conclusions and, possibly, appropriate moves." (RFE/RL Newline)

### Ukraine, Belarus discuss debt issues

CHERNIHIV – President Leonid Kuchma and Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed a protocol obliging the Ukrainian and Belarusian governments to prepare by June 15 an accord on settling the issue of Ukraine's debt to Belarus. "This story has continued since 1992," Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister Leonid Kozachenko told journalists. "The Ukrainian side considers that Ukraine owes Belarus no more than \$50 million, while Belarus considers that Ukraine owes it more than \$100 million," he added. According to Mr. Kozachenko, the debt problem arose shortly after the break-up of the Soviet Union, when Belarusian enterprises paid money to Ukrainian companies for products that have never been delivered. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Ukraine's population: 48.4 million

KYIV – The chairman of the State Statistics Committee, Oleksander Osaulenko, told journalists on May 29 that, according to last year's census, there were 48.4 million people living in Ukraine as of December 5, 2001, UNIAN reported. Sixty-seven percent of Ukrainians live in urban areas. Women constitute 54 percent of the population. The previous census in 1989 found that the Ukrainian SSR was inhabited by 52.5 million people. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Rada considers committee chairs

KYIV – Our Ukraine, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc have proposed that the 23 posts of parliamentary committee heads be distributed only among these four groups, in view of the fact that United Ukraine and the Social Democratic

Party gained the posts of chairman and two vice-chairmen on the previous day, the UNIAN news service reported. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn refused on May 30 to submit this motion for voting and adjourned the session until late afternoon. United Ukraine acting head Serhii Tyhypko has called on deputies to distribute the posts of committee heads among all the six parliamentary caucuses, arguing that the current arrangement of forces in the Verkhovna Rada – the "four" and the "two," with no side possessing a clear majority – is a "way to nowhere." Meanwhile, Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko told journalists that the "four" has begun collecting signatures under a motion to hold a no-confidence vote in the newly elected parliamentary leadership. (RFE/RL Newline)

### How will Rada name committee heads?

KYIV – The four "non-presidential" caucuses in the Verkhovna Rada – Our Ukraine, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc – failed on May 30 to pass a resolution according to which the 23 posts of parliamentary committee heads are to be distributed only among those parties, in view of the fact that United Ukraine and the Social Democratic Party gained the posts of chairman and two vice-chairmen. The proposal to give 12 committees to Our Ukraine, seven to the Communists, and two each to the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was supported by 202 deputies out of the 220 who participated in the voting, the UNIAN and Interfax news services reported. United Ukraine and the Social Democratic Party refused to vote. Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn failed to gather a "conciliatory council" of the heads of six parliamentary caucuses on May 30 and 31 to discuss the impasse over the election of committee heads. (RFE/RL Newline)

### New proposal on committee chairs

KYIV – An unspecified "initiative working group" has proposed a new distribution of the posts of parliamentary committee heads and their deputies among caucuses in the Verkhovna Rada, UNIAN and Interfax reported on June 2. According to this proposal, the Verkhovna Rada should constitute 28 committees and one "monitoring commission." United Ukraine is being offered the leadership of 13 committees, Our Ukraine seven, the Communist Party four, the Social Democratic Party two, the Socialist Party and the Yulia

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## UCCA president submits testimony to House Appropriations Subcommittee

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Michael Sawkiw Jr. on May 9 submitted testimony to the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee regarding foreign assistance to Ukraine for Fiscal Year 2003.

Mr. Sawkiw remarked that although it comprises only 1 percent of the total federal budget, "U.S. foreign assistance is critical to promoting expansion of democracy and building lasting peace throughout the world." He added: "U.S. global leadership has become even more critical in the context of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. ... Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the UCCA continues to work in order to ensure that the United States remains involved in the political and economic development of the independent states of Central and East Europe and assists them in their difficult transformation into

democratic states with vibrant market economies."

Mr. Sawkiw also outlined the significant progress that Ukraine has made in a little over a decade since regaining its independence, including economic stabilization, achievements in the international arena, democracy-building, and changes in the legal climate. Mr. Sawkiw continued by providing recommendations regarding U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine for FY 2003.

He addressed the most important problems facing Ukraine today, underscoring the need for a sustained civic society in Ukraine aimed at the successful development of a mature democracy; the importance of continued legal reform, which would improve the investment climate in Ukraine and render the fight against corruption more effective; the necessity of supporting enhanced law enforcement procedures in the struggle against corruption and establishing mechanisms for more expedient enforcement of Ukrainian laws; as well as the critical need

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## Ukraine's Parliament...

(Continued from page 1)

took place on Ukraine's television screens, as one side defended its actions and the other took them to task on various news programs.

Oleksander Karpov of United Ukraine explained on June 4 that members of the Parliamentary Four keep forgetting that the by-party voting in the March 31 elections was only half the process and the only part that Our Ukraine won.

"Don't forget that ours is a mixed system of by-party and majoritarian votes, where half the seats were won by political parties and half by individuals running in districts," explained Mr. Karpov on one such television program. "[Our Ukraine] was the winner in one portion, but we were the winner in the other part, which was decisive."

Many in the Our Ukraine bloc have said that the process was far from being fair, as United Ukraine drew more than 100 winners from the 226 districts of Ukraine to its political bloc through a process of coercion and pay-off, which resulted in the political bloc attaining by far the most seats in the new Parliament.

Petro Symonenko, chairman of the Communist Party, which remains in an ideologically unwieldy coalition with the center right-oriented Our Ukraine political bloc – both are in common opposition to the two pro-presidential factions, explained that the Parliamentary Four must resist any compromises that will not be to their advantage.

"We must fight with the powers-that-be because the only thing they want to do is to find political and financial advantage for themselves. They are leading us to an Asian or African situation," explained Mr. Symonenko.

Mr. Yushchenko of Our Ukraine has proposed a comprehensive agreement to move the Parliament out of crisis, which would be signed by the president, the prime minister and the leaders of the Parliament and would set forth a common set of goals for political, economic and social development. His proposal is supported by the Socialist faction.

Our Ukraine released a document on June 4, in which it states that it recognizes only "a comprehensive approach to the system of power and the intensification of economic and social change," and that it is "categorically opposed" to the apportionment of parliamentary portfolios other than as "an instrument for the reform of the political, economic and social spheres."

Currently several other proposals on how

to break the impasse have been proposed by the Parliamentary Four. One such option calls for a second vote on the presidium posts, while another one calls for the Parliamentary Four to receive an overwhelming number of committee chairmanships, including the powerful Budget Committee, in return for acceptance of the current presidium.

While several leading members of the SDPU and United Ukraine, including ex-President Leonid Kravchuk and Serhii Tyhytko, have expressed a desire to find a compromise and get to work, Volodymyr Lytvyn, the head of United Ukraine, has kept a low profile before the press and preferred to do his talking at the bargaining table.

Mr. Lytvyn and other leaders of the two factions have put together a list of chairpersons from all the factions based on the proportion of the seats they currently have in the Verkhovna Rada – a proposal they hope that, with some tweaking, will become acceptable to the Parliamentary Four. Mr. Kravchuk said that he supports such a proportional division of committee chairmanships. However, the Parliamentary Four have essentially rejected such a division of responsibility.

"I could even see a few extra committees for the four factions, but no way can we expect that they should get all the committees," explained Mr. Kravchuk. "If the four do not accept any compromise, however, somebody will have to take responsibility upon themselves to break the paralysis. The Rada was elected to work."

On June 5 Mr. Yushchenko met with President Leonid Kuchma in search of a solution. While neither man commented on the meeting afterwards, the president's press secretary, Olena Hromnytska, said that an agreement had been worked out that would apportion the committee chairmanships according to the number of seats each faction controls, as Mr. Lytvyn, the president's former chief of staff, would like.

She said that the political agreement Our Ukraine had proposed also was discussed, but she did not state whether the president had accepted it as a basis for negotiations. She said, however, that Mr. Kuchma is interested in a compromise agreement.

"Ukraine needs an efficient Parliament with a stable majority," Ms. Hromnytska quoted the president as saying.

A day after the meeting, no political compromise had been announced and the leaders of the various factions remained in negotiations.

## Governor reaches out to New Jersey Ukrainians

NEWARK, N.J. – Gov. James E. McGreevey of New Jersey recently solicited the assistance of Theodore J. Romankow, a Westfield attorney of Ukrainian descent, and a friend and supporter of the governor, to form a Governor's Ukrainian Independence Day Committee and to celebrate the occasion at the governor's mansion, Drumthwacket, in Princeton on August 24.

Mr. Romankow immediately reached out to a cross-section of Ukrainian Americans in order to contact all community, professional, fraternal, religious, youth and other organizations to assure a large turnout at the Ukrainian flag raising to be held on Ukrainian Independence Day at 10 a.m.

The current committee members are: Dr. Julian Bemko, Walter Bodnar, John Burtyk, Gregory Dovbush, Jerry Kuzemchak, the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Jaroslawa Mulyk, Nestor Olesnycky, Bozhena Olshaniwsky (chair), Kvitka Semanyshyn, Adam Stec, Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky and Volodymyr Waskiw.

E-mail messages, telephone calls and letters have gone out and are continuously going out not only to Ukrainian community organizations. The committee is lining up entertainment and celebrities to make the flag-raising a rousing and patriotic success. The Governor's Office will provide drinks and hors d'oeuvres for the occasion. The governor has asked that,

for security purposes, the committee gather the names, telephone numbers and addresses of all those who wish to attend and transmit them to the governor's staff; and the Governor's Office will then send the formal invitations that will be required for admission to Drumthwacket for the ceremony.

There are two ways to submit the names of all those interested in attending: via e-mail to [Nolesnycky@comcast.net](mailto:Nolesnycky@comcast.net), or by regular mail to Bozhena Olshaniwsky, 43 Midland Place, Newark, NJ 07106. The deadline for submitting names, phone numbers and addresses is August 1.

The committee encourages communities and groups to arrange for buses to transport those who cannot drive to Drumthwacket. (It is suggested that either donations be solicited from individuals or entities, or that a sufficient fee be charged per person to pay for the buses.) There will likely be charter buses arranged from Wildwood, N.J., as well as buses from various cities throughout the state. Dress will be ethnic or business, with men requested to wear either embroidered shirts or jacket and tie, and ladies accordingly.

This promises to be a memorable occasion and committee members say it will show the governor that Ukrainians are a sizable and important part of New Jersey's ethnic mosaic.

## ACTION ITEM

### Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR)

One of the most important pieces of legislation introduced this year promotes graduation of Ukraine from the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which limits trade between the United States and countries that do not allow free emigration of their citizens. Despite the significant progress in Ukraine in satisfying the conditions set forth in the amendment, Ukraine is still subject to an annual presidential review and certification process. Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) has introduced a comprehensive bill (H.R.4723) to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment and grant it Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) urges the Ukrainian American community to contact their Members of Congress and bring this issue to their attention. Please write, fax, call or e-mail your representatives asking them to co-sponsor the PNTR bill for Ukraine. A sample letter is provided below for your assistance. Please refer to <http://www.house.gov/writerep> to contact your Member of Congress via e-mail. Should you have any further questions, please contact UNIS via phone at (202) 547-0018 or via e-mail at [unis@ucca.org](mailto:unis@ucca.org).

SAMPLE LETTER

The Honorable (name)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (name):

I would like to draw your attention to Rep. Sander Levin's bill (H.R.4723) regarding Ukraine's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. This bill is crucial to Ukraine's further economic progress and strengthening of the U.S. – Ukraine strategic partnership. Receiving Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status would increase confidence of Western investments in the Ukrainian market and allow Ukraine to join the World Trade Organization.

Ukraine has made strong efforts to comply with the conditions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. Since its independence in 1991, Ukraine has one of the best records of religious and national tolerance in the former Soviet Union.

As a Ukrainian American, I am interested in the improvement of bilateral relations between Ukraine and the United States. Furthermore, I am also concerned in seeing Ukraine develop into a truly free, democratic and economically viable state. As your constituent, I ask you to support H.R. 4723. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,  
(your name)

This issue of The Ukrainian Weekly is reaching all members of the U.S. Congress thanks to the generous sponsorship of

**Cleveland Selfreliance  
Federal Credit Union.**

## Ukrainian American Bar Association to celebrate 25th anniversary; Philadelphia to host commemorative conference

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) announced on June 4 that it will celebrate 25 years of activity at its annual conference on September 27-29 in Philadelphia. The venue for this commemorative event will be the Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel, located in one of the most prestigious areas of Philadelphia's historic Center City.

Twenty-five years ago, on September 23-24, 1977, the first national conference of Ukrainian American lawyers took place in Cleveland. The purpose of that gathering was to organize the first national association of American attorneys of Ukrainian descent, and to begin promoting and defending the interests of the Ukrainian American community as well as individuals in Soviet Ukraine.

"The founding members of the UABA were committed to the idea that they, as advocates, had an absolute duty to offer their legal expertise for the benefit of Ukrainian Americans," said Andre Michniak, current UABA president. "They also believed that human rights violations in Ukraine had to be exposed and brought to the attention of the international legal community. They were idealists, and set an example emulated by many who succeeded them throughout the UABA's 25-year history."

The UABA and its members have been involved in numerous matters of importance to the Ukrainian American community: litigation in federal court, including

cases arising from the denial of asylum to Ukrainian sailor Myroslav Medvid in 1985, and the defamatory portrayal of Ukrainians in "The Ugly Face of Freedom," which aired on CBS' "60 Minutes" in 1994; and representation of Ukrainian Americans accused of persecution during World War II, in denaturalization lawsuits brought by the Office of Special Investigations. Recently, the UABA filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) challenging its characterization of the National Movement of Ukraine (Rukh) as an anti-Semitic organization that persecutes Jews in Ukraine.

Besides litigation and representation of victims of discrimination and human rights violations, the UABA awards scholarships to law students, assists governmental and private institutions to implement rule of law projects in Ukraine, and develops contacts and working relationships between judges and lawyers in Ukraine and their American colleagues.

While the program is still being finalized, the September conference will include a panel and workshop on Ukrainian foreign adoptions, a presentation on current legislation to establish credit unions in Ukraine, and an overview of recent developments in U.S. employment law. There also will be workshops of practical importance to attorneys, including Internet website set-

up, design and maintenance. The conference will begin on Friday, September 27 with a reception hosted by the UABA. On Saturday evening, the UABA's 25th anniversary commemorative reception and banquet will take place in Sheraton's magnificent skylit atrium ballroom.

"We are very pleased that Philadelphia was selected to host this special event," stated UABA Vice-President Andrew E. Stecki. "An interesting and timely program in a great location. We are all looking forward to a successful and memorable conference."

The UABA's newly elected officers and board of governors have been responsible for organizing the September conference. They assumed their positions at this bar association's annual conference in Clearwater, Fla., in October 2001. In addition to Messrs. Michniak and Stecki, the UABA's officers are Treasurer Hilary A. Kinal and Secretary Bohdan Zachariasevych. The board of governors is chaired by UABA's immediate past president, Peter Piddoubny, and its members are George Pazuniak, Andrew A. Pidgirsky, Irene Romanelli, and Nancy E. Medwid. The UABA's long-standing Scholarship Committee consists of Roman Badiak (chair), George Pazuniak and Lidia B. Shandor.

The UABA's September conference will have a twofold purpose: celebrate its 25th anniversary and to embark on the second quarter century of activity and service to its members and the Ukrainian

American community. During the last 25 years, the challenges facing this organization and Ukrainian Americans were many, and usually clearly defined. Often they had to do with issues involving human rights abuses in Ukraine and with that country's subjugated status.

With Ukraine's independence, the issues of concern have become more vague and complex. Like other organizations, the UABA is faced with growing apathy among its members. "We see this lack of interest as a serious problem, but one that can be overcome. What is needed is a careful analysis of what really are the important issues facing our community here as well as the people in Ukraine," stated Mr. Michniak.

While the issues may have changed somewhat over the last 25 years, the challenges are still present. The derogatory and baseless characterization of Rukh as an extremist and bigoted group is a prime example. The United States still denaturalizes Ukrainian Americans, and various public and private institutions continue to defame Americans of Ukrainian heritage. Members of the community still require legal assistance in numerous important matters. Ukrainian American attorneys can play a vital role in all of these areas. "Our mission is to ensure that the UABA continues its role as an advocate for the community and a promoter and defender of the interests of Ukrainian Americans and the citizens of Ukraine through the rule of law," concluded Mr. Michniak.

## New York City community remains skeptical about Cooper Union's development plans

by Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – With the clock officially running on Cooper Union's large scale development plan – a plan which Ukrainian East Village residents argue could adversely and permanently affect their nearly 150 year-old community – local government review boards have emphatically voted against approving the school's intended expansion. Furthermore, the school's hiring of a new architectural firm has sparked the call of residents and elected government officials to have the clock on the one-year process stopped.

Residents argue that Cooper Union's refusal to stop the clock, as well as the school's obstinacy in past attempts at compromise, all confirm the school's intention to forcibly push its plan to certification.

Regarding the April 18 decision of school officials to employ the architectural firm of Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn, Claire McCarthy, director of public affairs at The Cooper Union said, "we felt that we wanted a firm that would

work with the community – possibly changing the look of buildings in order to make them more sympathetic to the community."

However, the decision to hire the new firm has left residents once again questioning the school's motives. Residents see the move as another false pledge in a series of promises from a school that continues to preach its intention to work with the community while it seeks to develop and finance their 143-year-old college.

Andrij Lastowecky, a 50-year resident of the Ukrainian East Village and official representative of the Ukrainian community in that neighborhood, during a telephone interview on June 5 called the hiring of the architectural firm "cosmetic" and a "sham." He added that Cooper Union's most recent appeal to the community is an attempt to win the heart of Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields.

"I'm very skeptical," Mr. Lastowecky added. "I see it as a political ploy and

that's it."

Anna Sawaryn, the head of the Coalition to Save the East Village, added: "What [the new architects] have come up with is more interesting than what we've had before, however, the bulk [in the development plan] is still there and the current plans still overshadow the [Ukrainian] church." She added that in her opinion Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn have "not been sensitive to the Hewitt site and the needs of the Ukrainian community."

Because Cooper Union's General Large Scale Development Plan (GLSDP) includes city map and zoning changes, its application must pass through numerous local government boards and commissions, including the Manhattan borough president's office, before gaining approval by either the New York City Council or the Mayor. The first groups to appraise the plan are local community boards which, in this case, all voted to reject the school's proposal as it stands.

Cooper Union has drawn support from its alumni and students, who argue that the school still provides value not only to the students it educates but the surrounding community as well. Karina Tipton, a graduate of Cooper's School of Engineering and currently an environmental engineer with TAMS Consultants and associate professor at Cooper Union's department of humanities and social sciences, called it a fight to preserve an institution.

"We are here to ask you to help us do the right thing and help save the school," Ms. Tipton said during the Community Board 3 meeting. "It's as simple as that."

However, the May 28 board meeting saw 36 of 38 Community Board 3 members turn down Cooper Union's plan. The remaining two members were not present during the vote.

Community board review is the first step in the process of evaluating a city zoning or map change proposal.

However, because the school's development plan affects more than one community board a joint task force of Community Boards 2 and 3 recently met to assess Cooper Union's application.

"We once again reiterate our opposition to the current Cooper GLSDP, which as currently proposed is a scheme more suited to midtown development and totally inharmonious to the Village and Lower East Side neighborhoods," said a statement by the joint task force.

The February 4 statement went on to say, "Further, the Hewitt site abuts an important East Village institution – St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church, with its beautiful stained-glass windows, mosaics and Byzantine dome. Any proposed construction must be cognizant of and sensitive to the historic and cultural significance of this area."

"The community is unanimously in favor of the continued existence and success of Cooper Union as an educational institution," the statement read. "However, it is unalterably opposed to this excessive bulk called for in the current GLSDP proposal. We recognize that the basic premise of zoning law is to rezone property due to changing land use and conditions for redevelopment purposes. Enhancing a private developer's bottom line is not part of this equation. We feel it would well serve all concerned if the City Planning Commission would convey these principles of zoning to Cooper, which has failed to recognize them in our months of intense dialogue and review."

The task force statement was also unanimously approved by Community Board 2 on February 21.

The time-clock on the review process takes one year and begins with the Department of City Planning receipt and certification of an application as complete. In this case that came on April 1.

(Continued on page 17)

## Batkivschyna back in the news

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian schooner *Batkivschyna* continues to garner media attention nearly two years after making its North American debut at OpSail 2000. The ship made the front page of the Metro section of The New York Times on Friday, June 2, in a follow-up article.

The Times reported that the ship was set to compete in a race from Curacao to Jamaica in early June. After that, the article goes on to say, the *Batkivschyna* and its crew plan to sail to the West Coast of the United States via the Panama Canal in order to participate in more tall ship events. The ship will stay in the Americas until

next year, when it will return home by way of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

According to the Times, the *Batkivschyna* currently has enough funds to sustain itself partway through its expected participation in West Coast sailing events. The ship and crew began their journey with only \$5,000, but have managed to support themselves and fund their voyage with event admission fees, souvenir sales and donations.

The Times quoted Roy Kellogg, the son-in-law of the ship's captain, Dmytro Biriukovich, as saying of his father-in-law, "He loves to sail and loves his country."

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Detroit UNA'ers lend a helping hand



DETROIT – The spirit of “Join Hands Day” was in full evidence on May 18, when members of the Detroit District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association and the Dibrova Estate spent the day beautifying the grounds of Dibrova in preparation for the picnic season. Seen above are some of the members who participated in the project.

## Young UNA'ers



Lev Jawny Gawdiak, son of Lada and Yuriy Gawdiak, is a member of UNA Branch 134 in Rutherford, N.J. Lev was enrolled by Ulana and Volodymyr Diachuk, his grandaunt and granduncle.



Kile and Jack Otto, sons of Tanya and Keith Otto, are new members of UNA Branch 134 in Rutherford, N.J. They were enrolled by their grandaunt and granduncle Ulana and Volodymyr Diachuk.

## FOR THE RECORD: Convention's letter to ABC's Diane Sawyer

Following is the text of a letter sent to Diane Sawyer, co-host of ABC's “Good Morning America,” by the presidium of the 35th UNA Convention held in Chicago on May 24-28.

Dear Ms. Sawyer:

On Tuesday, May 28, one of your guests was Ben Affleck, star in a soon-to-be released film “The Sum of All Fears” about a nuclear device that was smuggled into the United States. From the film's promotional material we have learned that scenes from this film take place in Ukraine.

During your conversation with him, Mr. Affleck commented that he had to learn several phrases in Russian and in Ukrainian, adding that “apparently” Ukrainian is different from Russian. It is as different as Portuguese is from Spanish. One would think that journalists would know the elementary facts about the fifth largest country in Europe.

For almost two centuries Russia attempted to “Russify” Ukraine, i.e., to destroy the Ukrainian identity, including language, culture and religion. In the early 1930s this assault on the Ukrainian identity culminated in the murder by starvation of between 7 and 10 million Ukrainian men, women and children. Within this context, one can

understand why Ukrainians may not appreciate the flippant reference to an “apparent” difference between Ukrainian and Russian.

We recommend that you and Mr. Affleck contact the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., in order to find out the “apparent” differences between the two languages and the persecution Ukrainians have suffered to preserve their language and culture.

Mr. Affleck then uttered a few phrases – we're genuinely not sure whether it was in Ukrainian or Russian since it was spoken so badly – one of which was “put down that gun before somebody gets hurt” and the other was “take off your boots.” You then asked him to say something else, to which he replied that these phrases were the only ones he knew, “because I figure that's all you need to know to get by in the [sic] Ukraine, you know? ... Tell people to put down their guns and take off their boots. And other than that, everything's going to be just fine.”

And you, Ms. Sawyer, giggled. Then you made a flip comment that Mr. Affleck is not ready for diplomacy. The comments and attitude of both you and Mr. Affleck were not only insensitive, but insulting. Would either of you have said that those two phrases are all you

(Continued on page 16)

## The Ukrainian National Association

congratulates all  
Fathers, Grandfathers and Great-Grandfathers,  
and wishes each and everyone  
MNOHAYA LITA!



## The Traditional UNA “Father's Day”

will be celebrated Sunday, June 16, 2002

at the UNA Estate Soyuzivka

10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

1:00 p.m.

Special Father's Day Luncheon

3:00 p.m.

Entertainment Program  
(free admission for all)

Featuring:

“TRIO” - IRYNA HRECHKO  
ALLA KUTSEVYCH  
HALYNA CECHOWSKA

Baritone - YAROSLAV HNATIUK  
Piano accompaniment - SVITLANA HNATIUK

For luncheon reservations please call SOYUZIVKA  
Tel. 845 626-5641

Come visit Soyuzivka again this summer. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary, and would love to include you in our festivities!

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Ukraine moves toward NATO

It was never inconceivable that Ukraine would eventually move into NATO. Ukraine's armed forces have trained regularly with NATO troops in the Partnership for Peace program for years. The two have a distinctive partnership formalized in a NATO-Ukraine special charter signed in Lisbon in 1997. Furthermore, President Leonid Kuchma and his administration have talked about moving closer to Europe for more than two years now.

Right about the time of the last presidential elections in 1999, Kyiv had rejected the unworkable foreign policy of "multi-vectorism" that had put equal accents on maintaining relations with both Russia and the West. And while the new policy focus was to be on integration into Europe, practical steps in that direction were few. The problem always was Moscow – whether Kyiv admitted it or not. Even as Kyiv talked more often of a serious need for European integration, ties with Moscow began growing faster and closer. Everyone understood: Moscow was not going to let Kyiv get any closer to Brussels than it was already. Then, last autumn the world suddenly changed.

When Vladimir Putin seized the initiative on September 11, 2001, and made the historic phone call to the White House to offer Russian support, which eventually led to the special relationship he now enjoys with U.S. President George W. Bush, it changed how the countries that loom in Russia's geopolitical shadow could behave.

Ukraine has now taken the initiative and begun to do what was not thought realistic only months before. On May 23, Yevhen Marchuk, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, declared that the country would take all the necessary steps to obtain NATO membership. Not surprisingly, the announcement came only after Mr. Kuchma had met in Sochi with Mr. Putin, and where, not coincidentally, the subject was Russia-NATO relations.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko, an architect of Ukraine's latest foreign policy, which has been dubbed "To Europe with Russia," received strong support for Ukraine's decision at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, where he met with NATO Secretary General George Robertson, and in Paris with French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin. Britain and the U.S. also have expressed support for the decision through their diplomats in Kyiv.

Without question, we support Ukraine's declaration and a move towards and eventually into NATO. There is no reason not to. Ukraine will be able to continue to modernize its armed forces and to adopt NATO military standards. The action will bring Ukraine more security, and Ukraine will be forced to continue down the road to democracy. We just wish Kyiv would stop looking back at Moscow for approval every time it makes a strategic move – what Taras Kuzio of the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto, called continued "Little Russianism" (June 4 RFE/RL Report).

Likewise, Ukraine must begin to ascertain what its strategic place and role will be in a Europe that may no longer need it as a buffer zone, or go-between if you prefer, with Russia. Writing in the Ukrainian magazine *Politics and Culture*, Prof. Bohdan Osadchuk of Berlin University, who was present at the signing of the new NATO-Russian partnership, noted that Polish journalists responded to his question on Kyiv's role in the new arrangement by stating that such questions will only irritate the Russians, while an unnamed Western diplomat told him flatly: "We no longer need Ukraine."

We hope that Kyiv begins to understand that while Moscow is a lurking giant that Ukraine will always have to watch with a wary eye, Russia is on its way to a semblance of normal relations with the West, and now is the time for Ukraine to carve out its future spot within Europe – without Moscow's guidance. The first step should be an uncompromising move to complete economic and democratic reforms. For, while NATO is about common military strategies and standards, it is also about common democratic principles and human rights standards.

Much will be discussed and decided at the next Ukraine-NATO commission meeting scheduled for Prague in November. Ukraine must show a strong desire to follow up its declaration with actions, which begins by giving a clear impression that Kyiv is developing democratic practices, a civil society, a free press and the rule of law – in other words, that it is becoming a European state.

June  
10  
1976

## Turning the pages back...

Famed Ukrainian poet, writer and journalist Roman Kupchynsky died on June 10, 1976, at the age of 81. He was known to many by the pseudonym "Halaktion Chipka."

Born in 1894 in Rozhadiv, western Ukraine, Mr. Kupchynsky completed his secondary education at Peremysl Gymnasium and a year of study at the Lviv Theological Academy. He then joined the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, attaining the rank of lieutenant. After his release from a Polish POW camp, Mr. Kupchynsky continued his education at the Ukrainian Secret University.

Mr. Kupchynsky was a prolific writer and songwriter. He wrote nearly 100 songs, mostly about the Sich Riflemen. His prose trilogy "Zametil" (Snowstorm) and his satirical poem "Skoropad" (Fast-fall) also focused on the Sich Riflemen. He is perhaps best known as the writer of the religious hymn "Bozhe Velykyi, Tvorche Vsesvitu" (O Great God, Creator of the Universe).

As a journalist, Mr. Kupchynsky wrote for the newspaper *Dilo*, the journal *Chervona Kalyna* and, after emigrating to the United States after World War II, the Ukrainian-language daily *Svoboda*. Over the course of his life, he headed the Society of Writers and Journalists in Lviv, co-founded the Association of Ukrainian Journalists in America, and was given the title of honorary president by the journalists' society in 1966.

Source: "Roman Kupchynsky, Poet, Writer, Journalist, Dies," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 19, 1976. "Kupchynsky, Roman," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine, Volume II*, edited by Volodymyr Kubijovyc. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988.



## Sci-Tech Briefing

An occasional series on science and technology

# New weapons against anthrax

by Andrij Wowk  
and Ihor Magun, M.D.

In the wake of the recent anthrax contamination cases in the U.S. mail research into new methods of protection against biological and chemical weapons has become an important part of the global war on terrorism – one involving a large team of scientists, engineers and medical experts throughout the world.

According to the U.S. Defense Department's annual report to Congress, at least 10 countries have the capability of producing and disseminating biological weapons such as anthrax. And, for many hostile regimes around the globe, anthrax has long been a "weapon of choice," according to Theodore Procriv, CEO of Versar, Inc., a Washington, D.C.-area-based engineering and environmental services firm heavily involved in anthrax testing and decontamination.

Dr. Procriv, 54, became Versar's CEO two and a half years ago, after spending 15 years in industry and five and a half years, as the Pentagon's main specialist on biological and chemical weapon demilitarization in the Clinton administration's Department of Defense. He has also worked closely with officials in both the Ukrainian and Russian governments on the elimination of chemical and biological weapons.

"When I was at the Pentagon, we had a lot of concern about anthrax being used as a biological weapon," noted Dr. Procriv, who grew up among the Ukrainian-American community in New York City and finished a Ph.D. in chemistry there. Today, his role at Versar includes developing better methods for anthrax detection and decontamination, and products for protecting humans against such potential attacks.

### The nature of anthrax

Anthrax is a disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, a gram-positive, spore-forming bacterium. Anthrax spores can exist dormant for decades, but when exposed to the appropriate environment, they can germinate and cause the disease. There are three possible ways to acquire anthrax: skin contact, inhalation and ingestion of anthrax-infected undercooked meat. Of note, human-to-human transmission of anthrax infection has not been shown to occur.

Skin or cutaneous anthrax starts about five days after exposure to anthrax spores. The skin lesion presents as a non-painful elevation on the skin, which then becomes a blister with a central black crust. This black crust actually gives the disease its name, since anthrax is a Greek word that means coal. Cutaneous anthrax is curable.

The human health threat posed by anthrax is not new. For over a century, individuals working with livestock or processing animal products were routinely exposed to anthrax just in the course of a normal working day. Cases of anthrax, in those circumstances, were rare and usually caused as the result of contact with infected animals. In Ukraine, where anthrax is commonly known as "sybirka," the disease is believed to have existed even before the appearance of humans (The Ukrainian Observer, February 13).

There are two recorded events in world history in which anthrax was used as a potential weapon. The first occurred during

*Andrij Wowk is president of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America. Ihor Magun is a board certified physician in internal medicine.*

World War II, when anthrax was used by the Japanese government. The second occurred in 1979, when anthrax spores were inadvertently released in the Ural mountain region of Soviet Russia. This resulted in 77 confirmed infected individuals, with 66 deaths.

### Technical approaches

In autumn 2001, Versar was hired to decontaminate the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, where anthrax spores were discovered as a result of contaminated mail. The company has also tested some 200 other office buildings throughout the U.S. for the presence of anthrax, including the corporate offices of The New York Times and CNN, according to Dr. Procriv. The technology for anthrax screening and decontamination is continuously evolving, he noted.

For example, chlorine dioxide gas was used to decontaminate the Hart Building, which Dr. Procriv is now considered a "sloppy" decontamination method. Versar currently uses hydrogen peroxide, a "more-benign" agent he said, which has the added benefit of killing molds that grow within buildings. Researchers at the University of Florida are also experimenting with a common pesticide, methyl bromide, which has been found to effectively kill anthrax more safely and cheaply than chlorine dioxide (The Star Ledger, April 29).

As a preventive measure, the floors and walls of some buildings can be coated with an epoxy compound – known as "hardening" a facility – to make these surfaces more easily cleaned if anthrax is detected, Dr. Procriv said. Methods of personal protection against biological or chemical agents also are evolving. For example, Versar has developed and will soon release a new type of gas mask that seals at the neck, and is thus more effective than existing gas masks, which must be individually fitted to the wearer. The new type of mask is also expected to cost only one-third as much as current models.

Developing new instruments that can quickly and accurately screen for the presence of anthrax spores is also a key area of research. One such instrument is an improved anthrax detector which has been developed by Versar. The device, a modified version of a medical instrument known as a flow cytometer, is much more sensitive to anthrax than other existing instruments, according to Dr. Procriv.

According to the March issue of *Scientific American*, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a device known as The Canary, which detects the presence of anthrax using sensors which consist of living cells – B cells of the immune system – that have been genetically altered to emit light when their calcium levels change. And Cepheid, a California-based company, has developed a DNA-based anthrax detector known as the GeneExpert system, which extracts DNA samples from micro-organisms and analyzes them to determine if the anthrax bacterium is present.

### Medical approaches

On the medical front, researchers are investigating possible new treatments for those who have already been infected by anthrax, as well as new vaccines against it. Anthrax infection is positively diagnosed through a blood test, but treatment with antibiotics is usually started as soon as

(Continued on page 15)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## Gongadze case causes rift in U.S.-Ukraine relations

Roman Kupchinsky of RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch recently noted that the killing of independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze in Ukraine in September 2000, as well as the alleged implication that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma ordered his "disappearance," has created a rift in the relationship between the United States and Ukraine.

Below is the text of the latest statement in the U.S. Congress on this matter, delivered on May 2 by Rep. Christopher H. Smith, co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

"Mr. Speaker, the murder of Ukrainian investigative journalist Heorhii Gongadze remains unsolved. On September 16, 2000, Mr. Gongadze, editor of an Internet news publication critical of official, high-level corruption in Ukraine, disappeared. Seven weeks later, his remains were found in Tarascha in the Kyiv region. Repeated expressions of concern to the government of Ukraine have been met with stonewalling. Over the last 18 months, the Helsinki Commission, [m]embers of the House and Senate, the Department of State, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other international institutions repeatedly have raised this case and urged President Kuchma and the Ukrainian [g]overnment to undertake a speedy, serious, open and transparent investigation into the Gongadze murder case.

"Back in December of 2000, I urged Ukrainian authorities to resolve this grave matter in a timely and just manner before the case further tarnished their credibility in dealing with fundamental human rights. Last July, a number of us were present at the Paris OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting, where Mr. Gongadze's widow, Myroslava Gongadze, accepted the OSCE PA Prize for Journalism and Democracy on his behalf. A resolution adopted by the OSCE PA in Paris expressed dismay 'that the criminal investigation into the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze has been obstructed by authorities and has not been carried out in accordance with the rule of law.'

"Last month, Ukrainian authorities blocked FBI experts from examining evidence gathered during the initial investigation. The Bureau had been invited by Ukrainian authorities to advise and assist in the investigation of the case and earlier had participated in identifying Gongadze's remains. Over the last year, Ukrainian prosecutors routinely cited their request for assistance from the FBI as evidence that they were working diligently to solve the murder.

"According to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, the four FBI experts were told that Ukrainian law prohibits prosecutors from releasing any information to them. They were 'unable to discuss any aspects of the case, share evidence or conduct a joint site inspection. Because of this, the FBI team could not provide suggestions that might help Ukrainian law enforcement authorities advance the investigation of the murder of Mr. Gongadze.' This lack of cooperation – after promises to accept the U.S. technical assistance – is an indication of bad faith on the part of the Ukrainian authorities.

"This is only the latest example [that] seriously questions the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to resolving this case and has led many to conclude that the Procurator-General's office is hampering the investigation into Mr. Gongadze's

death. Particularly telling was the Procuracy's initially casting doubt on the results of a DNA test reported in February 2001, which determined with a 99.6 percent probability that the body exhumed from a shallow grave in Tarashcha was, indeed, that of Mr. Gongadze. The procurator-general, Mykhailo Potebenko, who recently announced he would resign to become a member of Parliament from the Communist Party, has also been uncooperative with Gongadze's widow and mother, even after the court gave them status that legally permitted them access to details of the investigation. An assessment of the case last year by Freimut Duve, the OSCE representative on freedom of media, found that the investigation into Mr. Gongadze's disappearance has been 'extremely unprofessional.' It is high time for the Ukrainian authorities to mount a serious, transparent investigation into this case, as well as the cases of other murdered journalists.

"Since 1998, 11 journalists have been killed in Ukraine and 48 severely injured in unexplained attacks, according to Reporters Without Borders. Over the last year, several international bodies have called on Ukrainian authorities to launch a fresh investigation into the disappearance and death of Mr. Gongadze and other journalists and to allow for an independent investigation or to set up a new independent commission of inquiry comprised of international investigators. I also hope that the newly elected Ukrainian parliament will take aggressive action in encouraging governmental accountability for solving the murder and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

"Mr. Speaker, on March 31, Ukraine held parliamentary elections. Despite governmental interference in the campaign and abuse of state resources, the Ukrainian electorate showed a strong independent streak with a strong pro-democratic, pro-European orientation. A substantial portion of the Ukrainian people clearly want change – they want to live in a country where democracy and human rights are honored and where the rule of law prevails.

"The United States remains committed to encouraging these yearnings. The U.S. government is the largest bilateral donor in Ukraine, and American companies still are the largest investors in Ukraine. We are deeply engaged with Ukraine in military and security issues, educational exchanges, small business, agriculture, energy, and the development of civil society. American engagement with Ukraine is a testament to the importance that we attach to U.S.-Ukraine relations. However, the level of U.S. engagement is increasingly being questioned, in part because of the obstructionist actions of the authorities concerning the Gongadze case, the curtailment of media freedoms, the persistent debilitating problem of corruption and, most recently, troubling allegations that President Kuchma may have authorized the clandestine sale of the Kolchuha radar system to Iraq in violation of U.N. sanctions.

"Mr. Speaker, as co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I once again urge in the strongest possible terms Ukrainian authorities to take seriously the concerns regarding the circumstances that led to the Gongadze murder and the subsequent investigation. His widow, young children, and mother deserve better. The Ukrainian people deserve better.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



## A new beginning for the UNA

As unlikely as it seemed a few weeks ago, the 35th UNA Convention in Chicago marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the Ukrainian National Association. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, the mood of the convention shifted from survival to revival, from competition to cooperation, from discord to harmony. Much of the credit belongs to the convention chairman, the kinder, gentler Nestor Olesnycky. His lighthearted direction was a mellowing influence.

Also helpful was the fact that most delegates were not interested in addressing problems or shortcomings. People who offered constructive criticism were often booed, while sycophants who voiced unsubstantiated praise were cheered. Past mistakes were simply ignored, swept under the table as it were.

More encouraging was the election of a new executive board headed by Stefan Kaczaraj. His most notable accomplishment as UNA treasurer was to arrest an 11-year, \$20 million decline in surplus funds with a variety of cost-cutting measures. A certified public accountant and a member of such Ukrainian organizations as the Dumka Choir, Selfreliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union and The Ukrainian Museum, Mr. Kaczaraj's community credentials are solid.

Elected to replace Mr. Kaczaraj as treasurer is Roma Lisovich, a seasoned financial professional with broad experience in accounting and financial controls and operations. She has been active in both Plast and SUM, as well as the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Elected national secretary was Christine E. Kozak, a licensed insurance agent with a background in public relations. She has worked closely with Martha Lysko as the director of UNA insurance operations.

The top three UNA officers are all professionals with a proven record of accomplishment and expertise in the financial and insurance management arena.

The new executives have two enormous assignments to fulfill in the next four years: to increase UNA membership among the Fourth Wave of immigrants and to save Soyuzivka for future generations. These are monumental tasks. Success will require assistance from all of us, especially in the marketing arena, a sadly neglected domain within the UNA. They will also need to energize UNA Home Office staff and sales personnel with a management style that rewards excellence and elevates morale.

Our new executives bring no political baggage with them. If they revive the UNA fraternal base, reach out to all segments of our community, heal the divisions of the past and demonstrate a policy of inclusion, they can succeed mightily.

As pleased as I am with our new executive board, I am not as yet convinced that our auditors will be up to the task. Two of them have a record of going along to get along. Being popular with management is not part of an auditor's job description. In addition, there seems to have been a concerted effort to prevent Wasyl Szeremeta, M.D., M.B.A., from being elected as auditor. As an advisor during the previous four years, Dr. Szeremeta raised valid questions which were never answered in any meaningful way. We need controllers who are not rubber stamps, and I am disturbed that he was not included on the in-house slate. What is the message here?

I am also distressed by the decision of Taras Szmagala Jr. and Stefko Kuropas not

to run for re-election. Both indicated their disillusionment (albeit for different reasons) with the UNA way, especially the apathy of branch secretaries, certain executives and delegates. The replacement of these two accomplished young men by older in-house types does not bode well for our future. We need to cultivate youth who still care about the UNA and have new ideas. Pushing out young talent sends a poor message.

In the end, the convention mood was upbeat, hopeful, even enthusiastic. Many delegates described the convention as the best they had ever attended. I'm proud to say that the Convention Committee provided a number of convention "firsts."

Chicago's Ukrainian-language newspaper, Chas i Podiia, dedicated its May issue to the UNA convention with articles featuring local UNA leaders, significant moments from UNA history, greetings from Presidents George W. Bush and Leonid Kuchma, as well as commentary on the significance of the UNA in the history of the Ukrainian American community. Edited by Anatoliy Ghorokhovskiy, a member of the Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigrants, the gazette is widely read by Ukraine's newest émigrés who pick it up free of charge at various stores in Chicago's Ukrainian Village. Every delegate received a copy.

The gala concert on Saturday evening, May 25, featured St. Nicholas kindergarten and primary grade Ridna Shkola singers, directed by Oksana Chytra and Oksana Chuyko; the teenage ODUM bandura ensemble directed by Motria Poshyvanyk; an extraordinary Fourth Wave chamber ensemble, directed by Zeonid Modtryzkyj; a folk ensemble featuring sopilka soloist Vasyl Skilskyj; world-class soloists Vasyl Matvyiv, Myroslava Kuka and Olenka Novyk, accompanied by Oksana Kryshchalska; violin duets by Daria Horodysky and Vera Mucha-Hytra, accompanied by Dr. Kateryna Kishka; the Char-Zillya Bandurist Ensemble, directed by Iryna Turchyn; and the Surma Choir, directed by Serhiy Bondarenko.

The bus trip to the Ukrainian Village on Sunday morning featured a video describing this unique Chicago neighborhood. The divine liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Innocent Lotocky and the moleben with Archbishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church which followed were convention firsts as was a reception for delegates hosted by the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union. The city tour of beautiful Chicago that followed allowed delegates to relax and revive their spirits after two days of deliberations.

The presence of Rep. Marcy C. Kaptur at the gala banquet on Sunday evening was the first time since 1986 that an important U.S. official attended a UNA convention. Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj delivered a dynamic speech that was informative and inspiring.

Congratulations and best wishes to the new UNA General Assembly, especially Chicagoans Andriy Skyba, who was re-elected, and Michael V. Kuropas, who continues the Kuropas line on the General Assembly inaugurated by Stephen Kuropas in 1937. And very special thanks are due to the people who worked so hard to make Chicago a convention site that will be remembered by all participants.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is [mbkuropas@compuserve.com](mailto:mbkuropas@compuserve.com).

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## Plast camporee combines competition with compassion



Sviato Vesny organizer Taras Ferencevych congratulates the leaders of the troops that took the top three places in the camporee's overall competition.

by Deanna Yurchuk

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – The old adage of “do good and it will be good” was tested this past Memorial Day weekend as 163 teenage members of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization partook in an extraordinary event of competition and compassion organized by the Lisovi Chorty fraternity at Vovcha Tropa, the Plast campground in East Chatham, N.Y.

Upon receiving the directives about this annual jamboree, the troops knew from the start that this year's gathering would be unique. Months before their arrival at the splendid woods of Vovcha Tropa, the scouts were assigned three tasks.

The first was to respond to the following question, inspired by Yuri Starosolsky's book “Velyka Hra” (the Great Game): “What does it mean to be a productive member of society?” The other two included preparing a skit to reflect the theme of good deeds and choosing a charity on whose behalf each troop would be collecting points throughout the weekend competition. The top three winners would have a donation made in their name to their charity of choice.

“The idea was to bring the program back to the basic concept of brotherhood and to instill in the kids a sense of community service, which is one of the core tenets of our organization,” said Taras Ferencevych, the organizer of the event.

Although the overall competition was to result in sizable monetary prizes, the organizing body also wanted to remind the young scouts of the importance of small-scale altruism. In an effort to encourage random acts of kindness, leaders handed out colorful “good deed cards” whenever they witnessed an honorable act. In the end, the accumulated cards were tallied into each troop's total score.

In addition to the underlying theme of social consciousness, the weekend's activities included traditional sports events, group challenges, debates, an outdoor dance, a bonfire and an innovative field game requiring resourcefulness, strategy and wilderness know-how which wowed even the most seasoned participants.

For Myron Deputat, a leader from Buffalo, N.Y., the event was successful

because it provided a forum for the youth to socialize. “Our teens are happiest when they gather with their friends in Plast settings,” he said.

This year's participants hailed from New York, Buffalo, and Rochester, N.Y., Philadelphia, Newark, Passaic and New Brunswick, N.J., Washington and Boston. The program offered opportunities to both strengthen bonds among troop members, as well as meet scouts from other parts of the country.

The winners of the overall competition were: the boys' troop from New York in first place, girls from Newark in second, and girls from New York in third – the groups earned \$500 for the 9/11 Firefighters' Fund, \$300 for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) and \$200 for City Harvest, respectively.

Malanka Misilo, 17, from the Newark girls' troop, said, “I really liked the theme of this year's Sviato Yuriya. You always see famous people on game shows like

(Continued on page 15)



Lisovi Chorty leaders (from left) Vasyl Liteplo, Taras Ferencevych and Marko Turchan at the Vovcha Tropa campgrounds.



A group of “plastuny” during the field game competition.



Participants of one a group challenge (the “slymak,”) that was part of the Sviato Yuriya program in upstate New York.

Photos in this series by Taras Ferencevych, Paul Mulyk and Andrew Liteplo

THE 35TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Chicagoans roll out the red carpet for UNA delegates

by Roma Hadzewycz

CHICAGO – Chicagoans rolled out the red carpet on May 24-28 for delegates traveling from all around North America to the 35th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association.

It was only the second time that a UNA convention was held in the Windy City. The first – the UNA's 26th Convention – was held here in 1966. That Chicago is a dynamic community was evident from the convention's start to its finish.

Welcoming delegates, UNA President Ulana Diachuk noted that Chicago is home to a growing and vibrant

Ukrainian community, and can boast of a UNA district committee that unites the state's 17 branches.

The Chicago Convention Committee's chairman, Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly and a former UNA vice-president, promised delegates a program that would be "informative, educational and entertaining."

It was all of the above. UNA conventioners' first opportunity to learn about Chicago's Ukrainian community was the extensive English-language entry in the convention journal prepared by Dr. Kuropas, an immigration historian, and a Ukrainian-language version of that article prepared by Bohdan Kukuza.

Then, on the evening of the convention's second day, Saturday, May 25, they had a chance to see first hand the talents of this community at a concert at Ridgewood High School that showcased all segments of Ukrainian Chicago: from the uninhibited and charming pupils of the local School of Ukrainian Studies to the noted Surma Choir, from the ODUM Bandura Ensemble to a Chamber Ensemble of professional musicians, all of them recent arrivals from Ukraine, directed by Zeonid Modrytzkyj, plus other vocalists and musicians. The introduction at the concert was offered by UNA Advisor Andrij Skyba, while the program's

(Continued on page 14)



Roma Hadzewycz

Members of the Chicago Convention Committee at the UNA Convention banquet: (from left) Nick Chemers, Roksoliana Dachniwsky, Stefko Kuropas, Lesia W. Kuropas, Myron B. Kuropas, Olga Berejan, Joseph Stawnyczy, Andrij Skyba, Michael Kuropas and Bohdan Kukuza.



UNA President Ulana Diachuk thanks Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union CEO Bohdan Watral for hosting the UNA's delegates at a luncheon reception at the credit union's new building.



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## THE 35TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### *Greetings received by the UNA on the occasion of its convention*

- George Bush, president of the United States of America
- Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine
- John Engler, governor of Michigan
- James McGreevey, governor of New Jersey
- George Ryan, governor of Illinois
- Carl Levin, senator, U.S. Congress
- Debbie Stabenow, senator, U.S. Congress
- Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States
- Valeriy Kuchinsky, ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations
- Serhiy Pohoreltzev, consul general of Ukraine in New York
- Dr. Borys Bazylevsky, consul general of Ukraine in Chicago
- Executive Department of Illinois: signed by Jesse White, secretary of state, and George Ryan, governor
- Corinne Wood, lieutenant governor of Illinois
- Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois state treasurer
- Jim Ryan, attorney general of Illinois
- State Senate of Illinois: signed by Walter Dudycz, state senator; James Philip, Senate president; and Jim Harry, secretary of the senate
- Carl Hawkinson, Illinois state senator
- Joseph Birkett, state's attorney of DuPage County, Ill.
- Cardinal and Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church
- Metropolitan Michael Bzdel of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg
- Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
- Archbishop Vsevolod of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- Archbishop Antony of the Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.
- Bishop Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford
- Bishop Robert Moskal of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma
- Bishop Michael Wiwchar of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Chicago
- Ukrainian World Congress: signed by Askold Lozynskyj, president, and Victor Pedenko, secretary general
- Mykhailo Horyn, president of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council
- Ivan Fedorenko, president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America: signed by Michael Sawkiw, president, and Marie Duplak, executive secretary
- Ukrainian American Coordinating Council: signed by Ihor Gawdiak, president, and Roman Baranowsky, secretary
- Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress
- John Andrzejewski, chair of the board of the National Fraternal Congress of America
- John Oleksyn, president of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association
- Anya Petrenko, second vice-president of the UNA
- Alex Chudolij, UNA advisor
- Ukrainian Medical Association of North America: signed by Dr. Ihor Voyevodka, president, Dr. Ariadna Czartorysky, secretary, and Dr. George Hrycelak, executive director

(Continued on page 15)

### *We mourn their passing...*

*Delegates to the 35th Regular Convention of the Ukrainian National Association paid tribute with a moment of silence to UNA leaders and activists who had passed away since the previous convention. Following are the names of the deceased UNA'ers listed by year of death. (Editor's note: the title supreme was used in UNA terminology until 1994 when an amendment to the UNA By-Laws dropped that appellation; e.g., Supreme Assembly became General Assembly.)*

#### 1998

- Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, supreme advisor (1954-1958), supreme secretary (1958-1974), honorary member of the Supreme Assembly
- Dr. Bohdan Hnatiuk, supreme auditor (1970-1990), honorary member of the Supreme/General Assembly
- Mykola Chomanczuk, supreme advisor (1978-1982, 1986-1990)
- Anne Dubas, supreme advisor (1966-1970)

#### 1999

- Iwan Wynnyk, supreme advisor (1970-1978), auditor (1994-1998)

- Walter Korchynsky, supreme advisor/advisor (1990-1999)

#### 2000

- Andrew Jula, supreme advisor (1966-1994)
- Alexander Blahitka, supreme treasurer/treasurer (1990-1997)

#### 2001

- Walter Sochan, supreme vice-president and recording secretary (1966-1974), supreme secretary (1974-1994), honorary member of the General Assembly
- John O. Flis, supreme vice-president (1974-1978), supreme president (1978-1990), honorary member of the Supreme/General Assembly
- Stephen Kuropas, supreme auditor (1937-1962), supreme vice-president (1962-1970), honorary member of the Supreme/General Assembly

#### Editors of UNA publications:

- Ludmyla Wolansky, editorial staff member (1974-1994), editor of UNA almanacs through 1999
- Zenon Snylyk, editor of The Ukrainian Weekly (1962-1980), editor-in-chief of Svoboda (1980-1998)

### UNA honors top local activists



Roma Hadzewycz

The UNA's national secretary presents awards to the top organizers for 1998-2002, including (from right) Myron Pylypiak, Branch 496 (138 new members), Stephanie Hawrylyk, Branch 88 (76 members), Eugene Oscislawski, Branch 234 (69 members), Joseph Hawryluk, Branch 361 (63 members), Andre Worobec, Branch 76 (50 members) and Joseph Chabon, Branch 242 (41 members). Also cited was Lubov Streletsky, Branch 10 (68 members).



Nicholas Bobeczko, seen above with UNA National Secretary Martha Lysko, was among the branch secretaries honored at the UNA's 35th Regular Convention for 50 or more years of service to the Ukrainian National Association. Mr. Bobeczko, secretary of Branch 102, was cited for 56 years of service (1946-2002). Also honored with awards were: Mary Pelechaty, Branch 165 (1935-2002); Stephen Kolodrub, Branch 137 (1939-2002); Stephen Sayuk, Branch 318 (1946-2002); John Laba, Branch 177 (1947-2002); Basil Romanyshyn, Branch 254 (1949-2002); Stefan Hawrysz, Branch 83 (1952-2002); Oleksa Prodywus, Branch 356 (1952-2002); and Mykola Denysiuk, Branch 487 (1952-2002).



Three districts were honored at the UNA's 35th Convention for strong fraternal activities programs during the past four-year term (1998-2002). Receiving the awards from UNA National Secretary Martha Lysko are: (from left) Dr. Alexander Serafyn of the Detroit District, Nick Diakiwsky of the Pittsburgh District and Nicholas Fil of the Albany District.

# THE 35TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE UNA: PHOTO REPORT



UNA Convention delegates and General Assembly members during the moleben at St. Nicholas Cathedral. In the front row are Auditor William Pastuszek and his wife, Theodozia, a delegate of Branch 231.



Photos in this series (except where indicated otherwise) by Roma Hadzewycz.

Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Innocent Lotocky and Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop Vsevolod, assisted by clergy, including the Rev. Myron Stasiw (second from right), UNA director for Canada, during the moleben service.



Anna Buriy, Branch 402, addresses fellow delegates during the discussion on the UNA's future in Canada.



Roman Woronowycz

Delegates vote in the final election for members of the General Assembly. In the foreground is George Trenkler, Branch 206.



President-Elect Stefan Kaczaraj delivers his acceptance speech.



Anne Chopek, honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, smiles as delegates sing a round of "Mnohaya Lita" on the occasion of her upcoming 91st birthday.



Ukraine's Consul General Borys Bazylevsky speaks at the convention banquet. On the left are Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskij, one of the keynote speakers at the banquet, and Bishop Innocent Lotocky.



Rep. Marcy Kaptur addresses UNA'ers and guests during the banquet.



Along with a representative from the company that provided balloting services (left), are members of the Elections Committee (from left): Zenon Wasylkewycz, Julian Kotlar, Nicholas Bobeczko, Ihor Hayda, Gerald Tysiak, Oksana Lopatynsky, Stephania Rudyk, Roman Pyndus, Roma Dyhdalo and Yaroslawa Komichak.



President Ulana Diachuk acknowledges the audience's applause after the women's caucus presented her with a bouquet of roses in recognition of her 52 years of service to the UNA.



Irene Pryjma, Branch 292, and Motria Milanytch, Branch 450/291, vote during the primary election.



Convention delegates who are employees of the UNA: (from left) Oksana Trytjak, Valia Kaploun, Christine Kozak, Roman Woronowycz, Daria Semegen, Maria Zaviysky, Nadia Salabaj, Maria Haluszczak and Maria Oscislawski.



Newcomers to the UNA Executive Committee Treasurer Roma Lisovich and National Secretary Christine Kozak after being sworn into office.



Anne Chopek administers the oath of office to the members of the newly elected General Assembly.

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## Chicagoans...

(Continued from page 10)

mistress of ceremonies was Advisor Halyna Kolessa.

Sunday, May 26, was Chicago's day indeed, as UNA'ers traveled in buses to the Ukrainian section of Chicago for church services, a luncheon and sightseeing.

A video prepared by Michael Kuropas shown during the bus ride gave conventioners information about the Ukrainian Village neighborhood before they arrived there for a liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral celebrated by Bishop Innocent Lotocky, assisted by other clergy, and a moleben concelebrated with Archbishop Vsevolod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

Afterwards, there was a bountiful luncheon reception to welcome delegates at the newly constructed headquarters of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, where UNA'ers were greeted by CEO Bohdan Watral and other officials and employees of the largest Ukrainian American credit union, which has nine branches in three states, Illinois, Indiana and New Jersey.

Then delegates had a choice of further exploring the Ukrainian Village and/or heading downtown to the Chicago waterfront for a tour of the second city's main attractions. Even the weather cooperated, giving the UNA'ers a glorious day.

That evening the Chicago Convention Committee organized the traditional convention banquet, featuring two keynote speakers, Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, and Dr. Kuropas, longtime UNA leader and historian, as well as greetings from political, religious and community leaders.

In his presentation titled "The Phenomenon of the World's Ukrainians," Mr. Lozynskyj spoke of the 20-million-strong Ukrainian diaspora and exhorted his listeners to recall the words of the UNA's patron, Taras Shevchenko, and to "embrace the youngest brother" - the millions of Ukrainians living outside of Ukraine on former Soviet territory who are fervent and proud Ukrainians.

Dr. Kuropas' topic was a fitting one: "The UNA: Reviving the Dream." He spoke of the UNA's great achievements of the past and asked his listeners: "Are we worthy of these great deeds, or will we squander our heritage?" He concluded by observing: "Some say decline is inevitable, but this is not the time to quit. ... The UNA is worth fighting for. Do not miss this grand opportunity."

Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, a member of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, shared her thoughts on Ukrainian issues and her visits with her family in Ukraine. She underscored that Ukraine is "the most important country in Central Europe" and told the audience that "our heritage tells us there's work to be done" to help Ukraine. Afterwards UNA President Diachuk presented the UNA Recognition of Excellence Award to Rep. Kaptur.

The UNA's 35th Convention was noted by state and local politicians who issued proclamations and statements to honor the UNA, and May 26 was declared by Gov. George H. Ryan as UNA Day in Illinois.

\*\*\*

The Chicago Convention Committee, chaired by Dr. Kuropas, was composed of: Andrij Skyba, vice-chairman; Osyp Panczyszyn, Ukrainian-language secretary; Lesia W. Kuropas, English-language secretary; Nick Chemers, treasurer; Mr. Skyba and Roksoliana Dachniwsky, Concert Committee; Stefko Kuropas and Bohdan Kukuruza, Banquet Committee; Dr. Kuropas and Roman Golash, Journal Committee; Mrs. Kuropas and Anna Golash, Cultural Committee; Michael Kuropas and Olga Berejan, Sightseeing Committee; and Joseph Stawnczyz, Auditing Committee.

## New weapons...

(Continued from page 6)

infection is suspected, based on observed symptoms or an individual's potential exposure to the anthrax bacteria.

Although antibiotics help the body to fight the multiplication of the anthrax bacteria, they do not prevent damage to the body caused by the toxin that the bacteria produce. Therefore, researchers are focusing on developing new therapeutic drugs for those infected with anthrax, according to Scientific American. Such drugs are generally known as antitoxins, since they would be aimed at neutralizing the anthrax toxin in infected individuals. Antitoxins would probably be used in combination with antibiotics, in the same way that cocktails of antiviral drugs are used for HIV patients.

Researchers at Rutgers University in New Jersey are exploring another possible weapon against anthrax infection: viruses. As an alternative to antibiotics, viruses can be designed to target and destroy only specific bacteria, such as anthrax. Antibiotics kill both good and bad micro-organisms within an individual, and some bacteria can develop

resistance to them.

The development of new and improved vaccines against anthrax is also being pursued by medical researchers. The only anthrax vaccine approved for human use in the U.S. is known as AVA (anthrax vaccine adsorbed) and consists of anthrax toxin molecules that have been treated to prevent them from making people ill. Although this vaccine is given to soldiers and some civilians, it is not practical for providing immunity to anthrax in a short amount of time. Some researchers are looking into the possibility of producing a more powerful, faster-acting vaccine based on DNA technology. Some such vaccines may have antitoxin effects, as well as the ability to stimulate immunity to anthrax.

Research into anthrax vaccines for animals is also being done in Ukraine. Veterinary anthrax vaccines, including one known as "Antrakal," are currently being produced at a facility in the city of Kherson (The Ukrainian Observer, February 13).

Medical information on anthrax is rapidly evolving, and readers are encouraged to visit the website of the Centers of Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) for the latest information and advice about this topic.

## Plast camporee...

(Continued from page 9)

Celebrity Jeopardy playing for a good cause. It was nice to see that we could do something, too."

The troops' selections of charities spanned the gamut and reflected the various allegiances of today's Ukrainian American teenagers. In addition to those mentioned above, others included the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Jerry's Kids, Vovcha Tropa, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, the St. Constantine Church Chernobyl Fund and the Plast magazine Yunak.

When asked how her troop chose its charity, Ms. Misilo responded that the CCRF had been the Ukrainian charity of choice among her peers for years. Inspired

by recent photos of orphanages in Ukraine the girls said, "Why not give more?"

On a different note, Adrian Podpirka, 17, from New York City said that along with his friends he decided to give back to the community in which they live. "The competition for the donation was a real incentive for us to work together. We felt it our duty to help others out," he explained.

According to Mr. Ferencevych, the greatest success was the cooperation among all those involved, leaders and participants alike. "I was impressed by the level of enthusiasm generated by the humanitarian theme of this year's Sviato Yuriya. It was fun with a purpose," Mr. Ferencevych said.

Mr. Podpirka attested to this by saying, "This was my last year as a participant and I had a blast."

"Do good and it will be good." The old adage held true indeed.

## Lessons...

(Continued from page 2)

Belarus in a league of its own among other post-Soviet states. The senseless violence with which the Belarusian regime for years dealt with the participants of opposition's peaceful manifestations is well documented by international human rights organizations and was sharply criticized by the democratic community of countries.

All these differences added up to making the recent elections in Ukraine and Belarus

major turning points. In Ukraine, for the first time since independence, Communists will be only a negligible minority in the country's new Parliament. In Belarus, Mr. Lukashenka's neo-Stalinist regime has basically completed the total takeover of all the institutions of democracy and civil society.

The Euro-Atlantic community's decision-makers, trying today to work out policies with regard to these two countries, which dominate the still very volatile region between Russia and the rest of Europe, would be wise to remember these points.

## Greetings received...

(Continued from page 11)

- Daria Pishko, president of the Ukrainian Orthodox League of the U.S.A.
- Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program: signed by Marta Farion, committee chair
- Orest Baranyk, chairman of the Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
- Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union: signed by Michael Kos, chairman of the board; Bohdan Watral, CEO; and Victor Wojtychiw, vice-president/secretary
- Dr. Eugene Fedorenko, chairman of the Educational Council
- The Ukrainian Museum: signed by Olha Hnateyko, president; and Maria Shust, director
- Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, president of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy
- Dr. Mykola Zhulynskyi, director of the Shevchenko Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
- Pavlo Movchan, head of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Society "Prosvita" and national deputy of Ukraine
- Maria Drach, head of Women's Community (Ukraine)
- Ukrainian School of Chicago Inc.: signed by Nadija Chojnacka, director, and Victor Wojtychiw, head of the Ridna Shkola Society



## In Loving Memory

Dymitro Czyrko, loving father, grandfather, husband and uncle. He was born on October 8, 1913, in Dibcza, Poland, and died on Thursday, May 23, 2002. He has been predeceased for nine years by his loving wife, Anastasia Dika Czyrko. He is survived by his daughters, Jaroslawa (Jenny) and Christina; his son, John; and six grandchildren, Erika, John, Pamela, Michael, Caitlin & Larissa; daughter-in-law, Katherine Cherko; and son-in-law, Peter Farnan.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, May 29, 2002, at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, with interment at Holy Spirit Cemetery in Washingtonville, NY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to New Britain General Hospital, Critical Care, c/o Development Office, 100 Grand Street, New Britain, CT 06050.

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# UKRAINE 2002

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## Ukrainian American Youth Association's Yonkers branch holds annual elections

YONKERS, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) Yonkers Branch held its annual elections marking the 52nd year of activities on March 2. Outgoing President Orest Kozicky welcomed the approximately 50 members to the meeting and asked Father Philip Weiner, pastor of St. Michael's Church, to lead those present in prayer. Dr. Kozicky then asked for a moment of silence to commemorate departed members and supporters of the organization, namely, Michael Terlecky, Valentyna Yurchenko and Natalia Shukhevych.

The presidium of the meeting consisted of Yaroslav Palylyk, chairman; Andrew Horbachevsky, assistant; Adrianna Rudyk, secretary; Yuri Nakonechnyi, president of UAYA worldwide and honorary member of UAYA-U.S.A.; and Father Philip Weiner, honorary member. The meeting agenda was announced and accepted unanimously, at which time the chairman asked that greetings be read by attending organizations, namely, Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna, School of Ukrainian Studies, Veterans of UPA, and SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union.

Lew Futala, president of the SUMA FCU, presented a donation on behalf of the credit union to support the educational activities of the Yonkers Branch of the UAYA and its sports club Krylati.

The minutes of last year's annual meeting were read by Mr. Palylyk and were accepted as written. Reports of outgoing board members were presented in the following order: Yaroslav Kiciuk, secretary; Roman Kozicky, treasurer; Myron Dashko, treasurer of the Krylati soccer team; and Andriy Horbachevsky, reported for Basia Kuzemczak, co-chair of the Parents Committee.

Natalie Wasizcko, "bulavna," reported on her activities with youths over the preceding year. She mentioned that there are currently 134 in "yunatstvo," 14 "vykhovnyky" and one "vporiadnyk." The youths take part in artistic groups, including dancing and bandura.

Orest Kozicky, president of the branch, commended all the counselors and artistic directors for their exceptional work. He

extended a warm thank-you to Andriy Burchak for all his hard work this year and wished him well as the branch's new president. He reminded all present of how dedicated Mr. Burchak's late father had been to the children and the goals of the UAYA, and pledged to support Mr. Burchak in his new position.

Mr. Kozicky also thanked Peter Duda for his continued work as chairman of the Yonkers Heritage Festival Committee which holds its three-day event every year on the grounds of St. Michael's Church. He congratulated him for his successful work in heading the committee for the past 14 years.

Mr. Palylyk, head of the Nominating Committee, read the proposed recommendations for the new board of directors for the 2002 year: President Andriy Burchak; Vice-President Andriy Horbachevsky; Secretary Roman Kozicky; Finance Officer, Mr. Kiciuk; Bulavna Natalie Wasizcko; Assistant Bulavna, Oksana Wasizcko; "Holovnyi Vykhoynyk" Orest Kozicky; Krylati President Roman Hlushko; Festival Committee Chair Peter Duda; Parents Committee Co-Chairs Oksana Tomashewsky and Basia Kuzemczak; Webmaster Nykola Rudyk; "Referent Druzhynnykiv" Robert Odomirok; Press Secretary Adrianna Rudyk; Facilities Directors Myron Kuzemczak and Sam Warycha; Members-at-Large, Yaroslava Perich, Maria Wasizcko, Darka Horbachevsky.

The Auditing Committee members are Olya DeBruin (chair), Lubomyr Shchur and Christine Barankiewicz; Arbitration Board – Wasyl Kocur (chair), Myron Kuzemczak and Irene Bundziak; Scholarship Committee – Orest Kozicky (chair), Peter Duda, Maria Wasizcko, Maria Kiciuk, Darka Horbachevsky, as well as the branch president and finance officer ex officio.

The proposed list was accepted by acclamation. The newly elected branch president, Mr. Burchak, thanked all present for the vote of confidence. After the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem, the meeting was declared closed, and Mr. Burchak invited all present for a buffet and refreshments.

## Convention's letter...

(Continued from page 5)

need to know in Northern Ireland? Greece? Israel? Any country in Africa? The United States?

We the 150 delegates of the 35th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, representing the 50,000 members of our 108-year-old organization, on the final day of our convention issue the following statement:

"We are genuinely appalled at the insensitivity, and frankly, profound ignorance exhibited by Ben Affleck and Diane Sawyer. Mr. Affleck's comments were insulting and Ms. Sawyer's reactions completely unprofessional.

"50 million people live in Ukraine and close to 20 million Ukrainians live in countries beyond Ukraine, with more than 2.5 million in the United States and Canada. It is the birthplace of Nikolai Gogol (Mykola Hohol in Ukrainian) and of Mykola Leontovych, composer of the music for 'Carol of the Bells,' renowned pianist Vladimir Horowitz, violinist Oleh Krysa, Olympic champion Oksana Baiul, and current home of world chess champion Ruslan Ponomarev, boxing greats Volodymyr and Vitaliy Klychko, and soccer phenomenon Andrei Shevchenko.

"Need we say that among Ukraine's

50 million citizens are doctors and nurses, priests and rabbis, writers and editors, teachers and politicians, truck drivers and cooks, farmers and factory workers, engineers and scientists, academics and librarians? None of them carry guns and most don't wear boots.

"We believe that Ms. Sawyer and Mr. Affleck owe Ukrainian-Americans as well as the citizens of Ukraine an apology for trivializing their language and misrepresenting the people of Ukraine.

"We authorize the translation of this letter into Ukrainian and distribution to Ukrainian-language media in the United States, Canada and Ukraine, with copies as noted below."

On behalf of the convention,

Nestor Olesnycky  
Convention Chairman

Eugene Iwanciw  
Convention Vice-chairman

Zenon Holubec  
Convention Vice-chairman

Cc: Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States; Dr. Michael Flier, acting director, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute; Ben Affleck.

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## New York City...

(Continued from page 4)

However, two months into the formal review process, elected officials have called for a stoppage. In a May 24 letter addressed to Dr. George Campbell, president of The Cooper Union, New York State Sen. Martin Connor expressed his concern saying: "I am joining Council Member Margarita Lopez in requesting that you stop the clock on the ULURP [Uniform Land Use Review Procedure] process and give your new architects the opportunity to revisit this plan in an effort to again make it more acceptable to the community."

Cooper's Vice-President for Business Affairs and Treasurer Robert Hawks responded to Councilwoman Lopez's May 9 letter by stating that "City planning has informed us that there is no mechanism for stopping the clock. Instead, we would have to withdraw the

ULURP application ... and begin the entire process all over again."

"The Cooper Union and EEK [Ehrenkrantz Eckstut & Kuhn] are fully engaged in the process of working with the community, and we believe this process can be productively continued beyond the May 28 community board vote through the City Planning Commission review period. This should provide sufficient time to explore thoroughly the issues and attempt to reach consensus on many of them."

"It also provides a defined time frame," the May 23 letter continued, "which will assist everyone in focusing on the key issues, which have been under discussion for nearly two years."

Councilwoman Lopez could not be reached for her reaction to Mr. Hawks' letter.

For the next 30 days the application sits squarely in the hands of Manhattan Borough President Fields before moving to New York's City Planning Commission.

## U.N. secretary-general...

(Continued from page 1)

During meetings with Ukrainian leaders and in an address to the Verkhovna Rada, Mr. Annan acknowledged Ukraine's extensive contribution to U.N. peacekeeping efforts in various hotspots around the globe. He praised the professionalism and dedication of Ukrainian soldiers and explained that should U.N. peacekeeping forces ever be called in to stabilize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Ukrainian troops would no doubt play a key role.

In his 15-minute presentation to the Ukrainian legislature on June 4, Mr.

Annan hailed Ukraine's reforms, but called on the lawmakers to become fully aware of their important role in developing democracy, pluralism and European integration in Ukraine. He also noted that democracy is more than just a principle, which requires diligence. He called on established democracies to guide the newly emerging ones "so that democracy cannot be subverted in insidious ways through the slow accretion of abuses such as flawed elections and majority rule that takes little account of minority concerns."

On June 4, Mr. Annan flew to Moscow, where he was to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.



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# Spartanky sorority members hold annual conference at Plast campgrounds

by Lesia Pleskun-Palylyk

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – The Spartanky are no ordinary group of women. This sorority, which is part of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, is hard at work making the lives of children better both here and in Ukraine. The group's focus is on health and well-being with an emphasis on athleticism within the framework of the Plast organization.

The group's most recent conference took place at Vovcha Tropa in East Chatham, N.Y., the idyllic setting in upstate New York of Plast's summer camps for children age 6-18. The conference took place in late September shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States and appropriately focused on spiritual well-being and stress reduction. The group's leader, Lydia Prokop, is very active in helping to set the ambitious agenda with these women at the conference and throughout the year.

The Spartanky are segmented into three groups: New Jersey, Philadelphia, and the Westchester, N.Y./Connecticut regions. They run a camp in East Chatham during the summer for the youngest Plast children (age 6-7) for one week. In addition, they handle the training, preparation and testing of adults and children in all age groups to pass Plast's test of physical fitness, of which there are three levels. The Spartanky themselves recently endeavored to take the most rigorous physical fitness test and most were successful in passing. Also in the area of athletics, the



Members of the Spartanky sorority of Plast gathered at their annual conference.

Spartanky handled the sports events at Plast's annual camporee over the Memorial Day weekend.

The group is also in the process of developing a strategy to help the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund cre-

ate awareness and to publicize the CCRF with the goal of garnering support for the organization on the corporate sponsorship level. They are also working on facilitating the flow of United Way contributions, both personal and corporate

matching, toward Ukrainian causes.

Those interested in contacting the Spartanky about membership or any of the work they do may e-mail Ms. Prokop at [lprokop101@aol.com](mailto:lprokop101@aol.com) or phone her at (914) 245-8128.

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## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Tkaczuk remains top Blues' prospect

Roman Turek certainly proved most of his worth to the Calgary Flames this past regular season, but the St. Louis Blues insist they are in absolutely no hurry to fulfill their part of last June's draft-day trade.

Ukrainian center Daniel Tkaczuk posted average offensive numbers with the Worcester IceCats this season – 10 goals, 27 assists and 37 points in 72 games. IceCats' General Manager John Ferguson Jr., however, has a quick reminder for those lacking patience.

"If he went to college, he'd be getting out of his senior year," said Ferguson of the No. 6 draft pick overall in 1997. "If you look at it broadly, you can't hold it against him because he left junior when he was 20."

Ferguson said Tkaczuk remains a top prospect for the parent Blues, one whose development is continuing.

"He probably hasn't had the consistency he had a year ago (2000-2001)," Ferguson said. "He has certainly shown capabilities beyond this level, but he has failed to do it on a consistent basis to warrant a recall (to St. Louis)."

Tkaczuk had 66 points in 80 American Hockey League games in his rookie season with St. John and 36 in 50 games in 2000-2001, as well as 19 points in the playoffs to help the Flames to the Calder Cup (the championship of the AHL). The Toronto native also had four goals and 11 points in 19 NHL games two seasons ago.

"Guys need to show a good three-month stretch," Ferguson said. "Things are becoming more clearly defined for him. We're focusing on his ability to adapt and excel in areas like face-offs, defensive zone coverage and checking the opposition's top line without forsaking offense."

Ferguson said the Blues believe they'll soon have a long-term read on Tkaczuk, who is only 22 years old.

"This coming off-season, with things like off-ice conditioning, will be a clear indication of what type of personal investment he'll make into his career," Ferguson said.

### Naumenko starts fresh as a Pirate

Different eyes watching Nick Naumenko along with his playing in a new league, have made a world of difference for the Portland Pirates' 27-year-old defenseman.

After four seasons with four different International Hockey League teams, the Chicago-area native said he feels rejuvenated after attending the Washington Capitals' training camp, agreeing to a contract with their American League affiliate, the Portland Pirates, and manning their blueline in 2001-2002.

"There's definitely a difference," said Naumenko, who was one of the Pirates' top scorers with 13 goals and 33 assists for 46 points in 72 games. "Everyone has heard all of the stories about how tough it has been for older guys to find spots. There are new eyes watching you. You're not slotted in and overlooked by people who have seen you play a lot before. It's like a clean slate, a fresh start."

Naumenko, who tallied only five goals and totaled a high 50 points for the IHL's Cleveland Lumberjacks in 2000-2001, saw a different league this season.

"It's younger, and I would call it more like 'mistake hockey,' so you've really got to be careful," Naumenko said.

"Mistakes are how the scoring chances come in this league, but they're mistakes out of enthusiasm and energy. You'd better be ready every night."

Being game-ready is one of the elements Naumenko likes about playing for Coach Glen Hanlon. "The younger players might not realize it, but he puts in so much time preparing for a single game," Naumenko said. "As you get older, you appreciate that more. He knows when to get on you, when to pat you on the back and when to ask you how your day is. It's rare to see somebody who can mix that into one package."

Hanlon, who regularly uses Naumenko on the power play as one of the point men, was very much rewarded.

### Two ECHL firings yield Uke coaches

Changes at the top for the Baton Rouge Kingfish eventually trickled down to the bench, with David Lohrei becoming the East Coast Hockey League's first coach to be fired this past regular season.

Citing the team's general lack of direction, new owner Scott Bolduc fired Lohrei last December 15, with the Kingfish off to a 13-14-3 start. Bolduc replaced Lohrei on an interim basis with former NHL forward Dennis Maruk, who was hired in November as the team's director of hockey development.

The move came three days after Bolduc hired Kevin Melancon as executive vice-president. Melancon replaced Ron Hansis, who resigned as GM on December 6, 2001.

"It just wasn't taking the team to where I needed it to go," said Bolduc, who purchased the club on October 8, 2001, from Hansis and five co-owners who had moved the franchise to Baton Rouge from Erie, Pa., in 1996.

The Kingfish went 35-26-11 in 2000-2001, setting club records for wins and points (81) in their first year under Lohrei. Bolduc said Maruk would not be considered for the job after the end of the current campaign.

Meanwhile, at the Greensboro Generals, Graeme Townshend was out as coach, replaced by former NHL defenseman Alexander Godynyuk. Owner Rocco Scarfone made the move last February 22 in the wake of consecutive losses to Charlotte and Trenton by a combined 15-2 score. The Generals were 18-28-6 in their first season under Townshend.

The 32-year-old Godynyuk, a native of Ukraine, was in his first year as an assistant coach with Greensboro. Townshend has decided to stay on as vice-president of hockey operations.

### Billionaire alumnus buys into junior hockey

St. Michael's College School alumnus Eugene Melnyk now owns the school's Ontario Hockey League team. Melnyk agreed to invest in the building of an 8,000-seat arena, likely on campus, within three years. The league's board of governors eagerly approved the sale.

The school had reached a deal with Melnyk only one week prior to the official approval by the governors. The sale price was a reported \$2.3 million.

"To become owner of the storied Toronto St. Michael's franchise and to be a part of the OHL is an extremely rewarding and exciting day for myself," he said.

Melnyk was ranked 16th on Canada's rich list in a report by Business Online. He compiled the bulk of his \$1.55 billion

(Continued on page 21)



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# NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Tymoshenko Bloc one each, and unaffiliated deputies one. Last week, the "non-presidential four" – Our Ukraine, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc – failed to agree on distributing the posts of committee heads solely among themselves. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Court rejects suit against Potebenko

KYIV – Citing procedural faults and legal technicalities, the Pecherskyi District Court on May 30 rejected a lawsuit by Lesia Gongadze, the mother of slain journalist Heorhii Gongadze, against former Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko, the Associated Press reported. Mrs. Gongadze sued Mr. Potebenko for violating her son's constitutional right to life by ignoring his requests for protection after he received threats. Mr. Gongadze disappeared in September 2000 and his decapitated body was later found in a forest outside Kyiv.

Mrs. Gongadze is expected to file a new lawsuit in the same court against President Leonid Kuchma, Mr. Potebenko and prosecutors from Lviv for neglect, complicity and other charges, the agency quoted Maria Sambur, a lawyer for the Reporters Without Borders representative office in Kyiv, as saying. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Annan praises Kyiv move to join NATO

KYIV – United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on June 2 praised Ukraine's decision to seek NATO membership as a positive step toward regional security, the Associated Press reported. "It is important that Ukraine is making these attempts to get closer to the rest of Europe," Mr. Annan said at Kyiv's airport at the beginning of his first visit to Ukraine. "Today, all European nations are striving to share common values – values of democracy, human rights and governance based on the rule of law – and Ukraine is becoming an important part of that movement, and I'm pleased about that," Secretary-General Annan added. (RFE/RL Newline)

# UCCA president...

(Continued from page 3)

for support of the agricultural and energy sectors of Ukraine's economy. Among other issues he addressed in the testimony was support for a business exchange program between U.S. and Ukrainian entrepreneurs, aimed at familiarizing Ukrainians with international business practices and improving their business culture.

In conclusion Mr. Sawkiw stated: "Measuring dividends, both political and economic, from continued U.S. foreign assistance to Ukraine is an almost impossible task. Improving foreign investment climate and establishing a vibrant and robust democratic rule in Ukraine would open a large and growing market

for the United States and open limitless possibilities for cooperation and mutual gain. ... The Ukrainian community in the U.S. lauds the effort that the United States Congress has invested in Ukraine in the past years. We admire the foresight in recognizing Ukraine as a fertile environment for democratic development and economic growth and appreciate the sustained effort to ensure that Ukraine continues to move in the right direction."

The Ukrainian National Information Service, the UCCA's Washington office, has been meeting with members of the Foreign Operations Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to support President George W. Bush's request to allocate \$159 million to Ukraine for FY 2003.

# Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 19)

fortune in the pharmaceutical business. Melnyk had been pursuing the team for almost a full year, but negotiations were slowed because most of the team's 10 shareholders did not want to sell the club to him.

Several weeks before the culmination of the deal the school bought out the shareholders, allowing Melnyk to negotiate with the school. Melnyk decided to retain the St. Michael's name and the Majors will continue to play at the 2,000-seat St. Michael's Arena until the new indoor complex is built. There will be no changes to the hockey staff in the near future.

"You don't screw around with something that's doing well," said new owner Melnyk of Coach-GM Dave Cameron, who led the Majors to the Eastern Conference final in 2000-2001 before being swept by the Ottawa 67s.

### Another Mosienko

Tyler Mosienko's name will be famous whether or not he achieves stardom with the Western Hockey League's Kelowna Rockets.

The 16-year-old center is the grandson of late Hall of Famer Bill Mosienko, who had a memorable offensive explosion against the New York Rangers on March 23, 1952. Skating for Chicago, the elder Mosienko potted the fastest hat trick in NHL history, scoring three times in 21 seconds.

"I got to know him pretty well, even though he passed away when I was young," said Tyler Mosienko, who – just

like his grandfather – is a 5-foot-8, 160-pound Winnipeg native.

"He was really nice, a real gentleman. I used to build a rink in my backyard every winter. He used to come out there with his old leather skates and show me some stuff.

"People ask me what it's like being his grandson. It's a pleasure. I'm very proud," said the young Mosienko.

(Thanks to The Hockey News' Tim Campbell, Kevin Oklobzija, Rob Mueller, Jim Cressman and Rob Vanstone for above quotes.)

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## Magical fairytale unfolds in Palatine as SUM branch presents spring concert



Performers at the Palatine SUM Branch's sixth annual spring concert.

by Walter Tun  
PALATINE, Ill. – More than 400 SUMivtsi (members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association) and parents and friends of the Dmytro Vitovsky Branch of SUM in Palatine, Ill., journeyed through the magical world of fairy princesses, “gnomyky” (elves), animals and flowers during the branch’s annual spring concert performed on April 21 by its School of Ukrainian Dance.

Comprising more than 85 dancers, Palatine SUM’s dance group has been presenting its spring concert for six years. This year, choreographers Adriana Striltschuk, Kalyna Wasiunec,

Peter Osijchuk and Rostyslaw Zbotaniw created a mosaic of mystical forests and faraway lands, where the young dancers performed traditional and modern Ukrainian dances, taking themes and characters from Ukrainian as well as non-Ukrainian tales.

The youngest dancers, age 3-6, thrilled the audience with their portrayal of characters, including rabbits, girls picking flowers and lumberjacks, who encounter Little Red Riding Hood and the evil wolf in the forest.

Seven of the youngest dancers also took on the roles of the seven dwarfs. Dressed in “sharavary,” embroidered shirts and silk caps,

the dwarfs enchanted Snow White with a traditional “Hopachok.”

The dance concert also included a duet, “Pan Kotsky and Lysychka Systrychka;” a modern dance based on the story of “Rukavychka”; a comical Hutsul dance whose main dancer was Gnomyk Romtomomyk; and the story of Goldilocks, who falls asleep in the bears’ cottage and dreams of dancing with Hutsuls.

The concert climaxed when the oldest dancers presented “Cinderella.” The 20-minute interpretation of the story culminated with the royal ball, where Cinderella, the prince and all guests dance a beautiful “Kozachok.”

The concert ended with the vibrant “Hopak” performed by the middle dancers age 7-9 and with a finale by the whole dance school.

The audience was also treated to a bandura performance by Palatine SUM’s Bandura Ensemble under the direction of Lesia Klimchenko, a graduate of the Lviv Conservatory and ODUM’s ensemble under the direction of Motria Poshyvanyk. SUMivka Krystyna Lopez also performed on the violin, while Tania Goncharoff accompanied her on the piano.

Adding to the success of this year’s production were beautiful

(Continued on page 23)

## Cherry Hill children remember Chornobyl

CHERRY HILL, N.J. – On Sunday, April 28, the 16th anniversary of the Chornobyl tragedy was observed here at St. Michael’s Ukrainian Catholic Church.

After Marissa and Daniel Orichowskij attached the number 16 and the date to the wall chart, Larissa and Yuri Stawnychy introduced the program in Ukrainian and in English. Original poems by Taisa Kohut and Tara Orichowskij were recited.

A candlelight procession followed. Sixteen children, one by one, slowly walked up and placed their lit candles in the long candle holder, while bandurist Stephan Orichowskij softly played “Chom,

Chom, Chom, Zemle Moya” (Why, Why, Why, O Land of Mine). The choir sang “Vichnaya Pamiat” (Eternal Memory), setting a mournful atmosphere.

Olga Prychka delivered a message focusing on the lyrics of the song “Chom, Chom, Chom...” and cited environmental problems in Ukraine today. She also pointed to the outstanding record of aid delivered to Ukraine by the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund (CCRF) and announced that the local committee was donating \$1,000 to the CCRF.

The participating children each presented a toy for the sick children of Ukraine. In conclusion, the children sang, “Jesus Loves the



Children light 16 candles to mark the Chornobyl disaster’s 16th anniversary.

Little Children,” with the lyrics adapted to present-day Ukraine. The Ukrainian verse was recited by

Irina Hrubiy, followed by comments and a prayer by the Rev. John Ciurpita.

# New York City Plast troop raises funds for children of 9/11 victims

by Adrianna Hankewycz

NEW YORK – Members of Plast Scout Troop 2 in New York City were deeply moved by the tragedy of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the United States. Soon after the horrific events they made a decision to help by raising funds for the children of the victims. Each patrol (hurtok) raised money in its own unique way.

Hurtok “Vodohrai” made red, white and blue lapel ribbons and American flags, which they sold in front of the Plast building on 2nd Avenue. “Leopardy” stood in Washington Square Park singing “God Bless America” along with other patriotic songs. Many pedestrians stopped to listen and drop money into their basket. Hurtok “Lileyi” organized a delicious breakfast served at the Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, N.Y. Father Philip Sandrick was enthusiastic and his help was immeasurable. The yunachky served everything from bagels and croissants to scrambled eggs and sausage after both Sunday masses. During the Christmas season the “Romashky” hand-crafted patriotic Christmas ornaments which they sold in front of the Plast building, and the “Chornobryvtsi” held a bake sale and made bookmarks which they sold by St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on Seventh Street.

All of their endeavors were highly successful and raised a grand total of \$1,275. After researching several organizations, they decided to donate the money to the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund, which was created by the Citizens’ Scholarship Foundation of America. As Plast is a youth organization, they wanted to help other children. This money will go toward scholarships for children of World Trade Center workers and visitors who lost their lives September 11.

Glad and proud to have made a small contribution, they expressed their thanks to all the people who helped and supported them during this project.



Members of Girls' Troop 2 of Plast in New York City.

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

To solve this month’s “Mishanyna,” prepared on the occasion of Father’s Day, please find all the words that appear in the story below in capital letters.

The first national FATHER’S DAY was marked in 1966. It was in that year that President Lyndon B. JOHNSON signed a presidential PROCLAMATION officially designating a SUNDAY in June to HONOR fathers. But it was President Richard NIXON who in 1972 established permanent national observance of Father’s Day to be held each year on the THIRD Sunday of JUNE.

But even before then, however, back in 1924, President Calvin COOLIDGE had expressed support for the idea of a NATIONAL Father’s Day, and in 1926 a National Father’s Day Committee was formed in New York. Congress weighed in with support for the idea with a special resolution in 1956.

And, even earlier than that, in 1910, the first Father’s Day had been observed on June 19 in SPOKANE, Washington. The day was the IDEA of Sonora Smart DODD who a year earlier had proposed a day to honor fathers. She wanted a special day on which to recall her own father, William Jackson SMART, a veteran of the Civil War who was widowed when his wife died. Smart was left to care for his six CHILDREN by himself on a farm in eastern Washington state. Mrs. Dodd considered her father to be courageous, SELFLESS and LOVING, and worthy of tribute for his great dedication to his FAMILY.

Today, Father’s Day is a day on which we also honor GRANDFATHERS, UNCLES and other adult males who are special to us. Just look in any card shop and you will see a huge selection of GREETING CARDS for all the important men in your life!

To all of our fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, uncles, brothers and others we say: HAPPY Father’s Day.

## Magical fairytale...

(Continued from page 22)

stage sets by Daria Kyszka and Luba Woodbine, and costumes made by a talented group of moms.

Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union sponsored this year’s concert. The Palatine Ukrainian Center is now the largest Ukrainian cultural center in

Chicago’s suburbs. Since its inception in 1968, Palatine SUM has grown into a Ukrainian community landmark offering Ukrainian dance and bandura classes, its own school of Ukrainian studies, and a complete soccer program.

The center is open to all who wish to learn about Ukraine and its culture. For information on programs call (847) 358-3582.

### OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated July 14, please send in your materials by July 5.

Contact: UKELODEON, c/o The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Call us at (973) 292-9800; or send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. (We ask all contributors to please include a daytime phone number.)

# UKRAINIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

On the church grounds at  
St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church  
N. Broadway & Shonnard Pl., Yonkers, NY  
(914) 375-4418

**FRIDAY JUNE 14**  
8 TO 10 PM

**SATURDAY JUNE 15**  
1 TO 10 PM

**SUNDAY JUNE 16**  
1 TO 7 PM

**FREE ADMISSION**

Band & Dancers  
Traditional Arts & Crafts  
Khorovody, Bandura, Kobza...  
Folk Games  
Silent Auction  
Kids Activities

**FESTIVAL**

<http://www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest>

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, June 14-16

**YONKERS, N.Y.:** The 17th annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival will be held on the grounds of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Broadway and Shonnard Place, on June 14 (6-10 p.m.), June 15 (1-10 p.m.) and June 16 (1-7 p.m.). This free-admission event features outdoor entertainment, demonstrations of Ukrainian arts and crafts, food, carnival rides, amusements and exhibits. On Saturday at 1-4 p.m. there will be Pay One Price Ride bracelets for \$10. For further information, visit the website at <http://www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest>, e-mail [yonkers@brama.com](mailto:yonkers@brama.com) or call (914) 375-4418.

Sunday, June 16

**ASTORIA, N.Y.:** Parents, relatives, friends, music lovers and interested children are invited to the year-end student recital of the Ukrainian Music Institute, New York/Astoria branch, which will take place in the Holy Cross Ukrainian Church Hall, 31-12 30th St. (corner of 31st Avenue) in Astoria, at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For additional information call (201) 498-0863.

Monday, June 17

**TORONTO:** The Peter Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the University of

Toronto presents a public lecture on the topic "Media, Politics and Money in Ukrainian Election Campaigns" (in Ukrainian). Featured will be Ihor Kulyas, editor-in-chief, Novyi Kanal; Natalia Lygachova, Telekrytyka; and Inna Pidluska, president, Europe XXI Foundation. The presentation will be held at 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Room 108N (North Building), Munk Center for International Studies, University of Toronto, 1 Devonshire Place. For more information call (416) 946-8113.

Saturday, June 22, and Saturday, June 29

**NEW YORK:** The Yara Arts Group presents "Kupalo in the Garden: Midsummer Night Ritual Songs, Art and Anarchy," featuring Mariana Sadovska with the Yara Arts Group, Experimental Bandura Trio, the Budmo Music Ensemble, Kolo Project and many others assembled by Virlana Tkacz. Time: 8 p.m. Place: La Plaza Cultural Community Garden SW (corner of East Ninth Street and Avenue C). The event is free. For more information and updates go to [www.brama.com/yara](http://www.brama.com/yara).

### CORRECTION

The "Kupalo in The Garden: Midsummer Night Ritual Songs, Art and Anarchy" event noted in the June 2 issue of The Weekly will be held on two consecutive Saturdays, i.e., June 22 and June 29, and not June 22-29.

### REMINDER REGARDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is a **\$10 charge per submission** for listings in Preview of Events. The listing plus payment must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. There is also the option of prepayment for a series of listings.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Information sent by fax should include a copy of a check, in the amount of \$10 per listing, made out to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly's fax number is (973) 644-9510.

## ROCHESTER UKRAINIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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## The Northern New Jersey District Committee of Branches of The Ukrainian National Association

invites the Ukrainian community  
to participate in celebrating

# FATHER'S DAY

on JUNE 16, 2002

at **SOYUZIVKA**

For this occasion the District Committee is sponsoring a bus trip  
Fare: \$15.00 per person

Departing Elizabeth, NJ – 6:00 AM  
Newark, NJ – 6:30 AM  
Passaic, NJ – 7:00 AM

### For further information call:

Eugene Oscislowski, Matawan, NJ - (732) 583-4537  
Michael Iwanciw, Elizabeth, NJ - (973) 635-6647  
Marijka Haluszczak, Jersey City, NJ - (973) 292-9800 ext. 3073 or (201) 653-5497 eves.  
Julian Kotlar, Clifton, NJ - (973) 772-5265  
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