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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXX

No. 24

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2002

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

U.S. agrees to restructure Ukraine's debt of \$179 million

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – United States Ambassador Carlos Pascual and Ukraine's Minister of Economy Ivan Yushko announced on June 10 that Washington had agreed to restructure \$179 million in Ukrainian debt on terms of the Paris Club of creditors.

"The agreement between the U.S. and Ukraine is a very important step not only because the U.S. is Ukraine's largest creditor to the Paris Club," explained Mr. Yushko, "but also because it sends a positive signal to other countries and the international financial community."

The agreement is the second one with the five countries in the 19-member Paris Club to whom Ukraine owes the largest share of money. Germany had agreed to reschedule Ukraine's debt in December 2001. France and Italy are close to agreement with Ukraine, while Japan will be sending its proposal soon. Ukraine owes the U.S. a total of \$286 million. The 19 permanent members of the Paris Club are governments with large claims on various other govern-

ments throughout the world.

Ukraine will repay the \$179 million covered in the restructuring over a 12-year period with a three-year grace period. It will pay interest on the debt of LIBOR plus half a percent. (LIBOR is the London Inter-Bank Exchange Offer Rate, the interest rate offered by the London Inter-Bank on U.S. dollars, or other denominations; it is widely used in Europe by international organizations to peg interest rates.) Mr. Yushko called the terms of the restructuring "standard" and much like the terms other countries have received.

The agreement comes as a result of a decision made by the Paris Club countries in July of last year to reschedule \$580 million of Ukraine's \$1.1 billion debt load with the five countries, loans that were taken by Kyiv between 1994-1999. Ukraine was required to come to an agreement on the new terms with each of the five countries individually. The move will reduce Ukraine's debt service payments to the Paris Club by \$515 million – from \$800 million to \$285 million,

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Verkhovna Rada reaches accord on its committee chairmanships

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament reached agreement on June 7 on divvying up committee chairmanships, which will allow it to finally begin its primary job of legislation.

Within days the controversial United Ukraine faction, which had swollen to 177 members through what opponents called coercion and pay-offs after winning only 36 seats on the 12 percent electoral support it had received, began to crumble into the five political components that had drawn together to form it, as had been widely predicted by experts.

More than two months after the March 31 elections and a month after the new Verkhovna Rada officially convened – a session that, thus far, has been marked by bickering between the six factions that make up the new Parliament and acrimony over the election of the parliamentary presidium – the legislative body finally sewed together an agreement on committees.

The political logjam surrounding the committee chairs seemed to break after

President Leonid Kuchma stepped into the process and invited National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, head of the Our Ukraine faction, for deliberations a day before further negotiation among the six factions led to the breakthrough. After the Yushchenko-Kuchma meeting the presidential press office released a statement in which it stated that preliminary agreement had been reached.

The statement became reality only two days later, however, after which President Kuchma expressed satisfaction with the newly elected parliamentary leadership.

"Let's consider that with the agreement reached today, the most difficult work of the Verkhovna Rada is completed and now it can go about the relatively mundane task of passing legislation," said Mr. Kuchma.

The Our Ukraine faction, which had stubbornly held out for the chairmanship of the Budget Committee as the basis for any further discussion, attained its objective, but only after another week of jumps and starts in negotiations. It was awarded a total of nine chairs, giving it the most committee heads of the six parliamentary factions.

The Communists came next with six chairs, including the committee on economic policy, national property, ownership and investments; followed by United Ukraine with four, most notably the committee on energy, nuclear policy and nuclear safety; and then the Socialist faction with two; the Yulia Tymoshenko faction, also with two; and the Social Democrats (United) with one.

The process of electing the parliamentary presidium led to a split among the six factions into two groups, with United Ukraine and the Social Democrats forming a coalition to support their nominees against the four other factions, which came to be known as the "Parliamentary Four."

The union between the two pro-presidential parties paid off when United Ukraine took the chairmanship of the Verkhovna Rada and a second vice-chairman's post, while the Social Democrats (United) received the first vice chair.

Our Ukraine had received the largest support in the national vote and the most seats awarded to an individual faction, but was shut out after seven of its members broke ranks and supported the slate proposed by United Ukraine, which occurred after nearly two weeks of unsuccessful votes. Our Ukraine managed to regroup, however, for the committee selections, and its steely resolve not to give in on its primary demand – the Budget Committee – forced United Ukraine and the Social Democrats

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History of Ukraine's Church of the catacombs being recorded

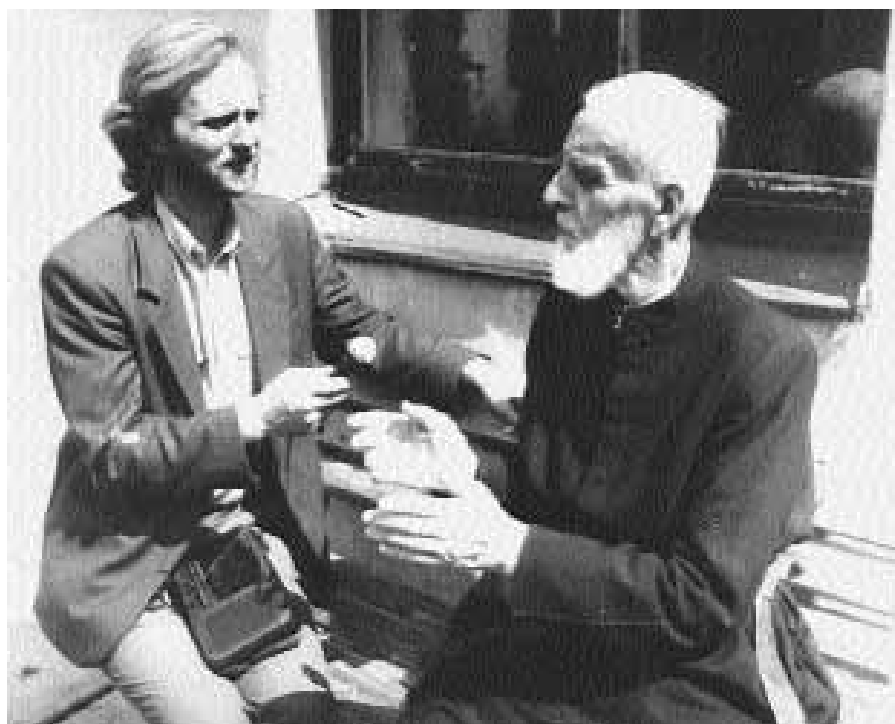
Religious Information Service of Ukraine

LVIV – The Institute of Church History at the Lviv Theological Academy has begun videotaping the testimonies of 50 of the oldest surviving members from the underground of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC). The accounts of these survivors, all over 70 years old, will be included in a documentary film about the UGCC's illegal existence in Ukraine from 1946 to 1989. This news was reported by the newspaper "Postup" (Progress) on June 4.

In hourlong interviews, bishops, priests, priests' widows, religious men and laity talk about important events in their lives and the ordeals they had to undergo, professing Christian values in defiance of Soviet ideology.

"These people are gradually passing away," notes Iryna Kolomyiets, head of the institute's pastoral department. "So we are simply obliged to leave their recollections, emotions, and world-views on film, to show future generations the right way to go. It is our duty to show and to preserve the faces of these everyday heroes."

In addition to the video project, since its founding in 1992 the Institute of Church History has been compiling a "living history" archive of the underground UGCC. This archive is a collection of texts, audio files, authentic doc-



In an archival photo, Borys Gudziak (left), founder of the Institute of Church History in Lviv, is seen conducting an interview with a surviving member from the underground period of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

uments and photographs. It is expected that the archive will soon be available not only to scholars and researchers, but will also be put up on the Internet. (The institute already has a website, available in English and in Ukrainian, at <http://www.ichistory.org>.)

The institute has collected 1,320 interviews, more than 2,000 photographs and 200 unique museum exhibit items. Nadia Rodnenkova, head of the archive and computer department, believes that for the next century researchers will have plenty of work to do in this field.

ANALYSIS

Why Kyiv chose to seek NATO membership now

by Askold Krushelnycky

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Since Ukraine's declaration of independence in 1991, NATO and the West have made it clear that they see Ukraine as a key element of new security structures in Europe. Although Ukraine has cooperated closely with NATO, its government has mostly avoided the issue of NATO membership because it did not want to offend Russia. Moscow strongly criticized NATO's first round of expansion in 1999 when Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined. Russian officials have also said they see no reason for NATO to expand further.

In January of this year, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a raft of agreements with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Among those was a 52-point military accord that included formation of joint naval units and arms production. At the time, observers said the agreement signaled a shift for Ukraine toward Russia and away from NATO.

But on May 23, National Security and Defense Council Secretary Yevhen Marchuk announced that Ukraine, with President Kuchma's backing, had changed policy and now wanted to join NATO. Explaining the decision, Mr. Marchuk said Ukraine's former policy of straddling Russia and the West no longer made sense. "Continuing with adhering to the policy of not belonging to a bloc, or what we called neutrality, seems to hold no [advantages]," he noted. "Furthermore, in certain circumstances, it

Askold Krushelnycky is an RFE/RL correspondent.

Loser takes all: president co-opts Parliament

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Newline

On May 28, after over a week of intrigue and inter-faction squabbles, the Ukrainian Parliament finally selected candidates to fill its three key positions. Aside from the 177 votes from the pro-presidential For a United Ukraine bloc, which has been renamed United Ukraine, and 31 votes from the oligarchic Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united), the vote was carried by seven Our Ukraine deputies who were immediately expelled from that faction, and Communists "loaned" for the vote.

The election resulted in two eastern Ukrainian pro-presidential and oligarchic groups, United Ukraine and the SDPU, taking full control of parliamentary leadership positions: chairman and two vice-chairmen. Volodymyr Lytvyn, the head of the presidential administration and the United Ukraine faction, became Rada chairman Hennadii Vasyliiev, a member of the oligarchic Labor Ukraine Party, was elected first vice-chairman Oleksander Zinchenko, the vice-chairman of the SDPU, was voted in as the Rada's second vice-chair. Mr. Zinchenko was head of the SDPU faction in the 1998-2002 Rada and is honorary president of Inter-Television, which broadcasts mainly in Russian to eastern Ukraine.

The vote on the Rada leadership brought President Leonid Kuchma one step closer to what he failed to obtain in 1996 with his

Dr. Taras Kuzio is a resident fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto.

could even be harmful."

Analysts say the reasons behind the shift may be more complex, and due in part to Ukraine's isolation by the West and the recent formation of a NATO-Russia Council that brings Russia itself closer to the alliance.

Serhii Komisarenko is the former head of Ukraine's U.N. delegation and a former ambassador to Britain. He now leads the Ukrainian International Institute for Peace and Democracy. Mr. Komisarenko said international criticism of President Kuchma over allegations of corruption and possible involvement in the murder of a journalist led the president, initially, to tilt toward Moscow. He said this tilt, combined with Ukraine's lack of progress in its ambition to join the European Union, left the country with no clearly defined strategic course.

"It's constantly being said of the president that he has no clear-cut foreign policy, either toward Europe or Eurasia," Mr. Komisarenko told RFE/RL. "His meeting with Putin [in January] was fairly controversial because people couldn't understand which way Ukraine was heading. So, possibly after the [March parliamentary] elections, [Kuchma] felt it was necessary to demonstrate that he did have a foreign policy."

This sense of isolation increased, said Mr. Komisarenko, as Russia itself was courted by NATO. The courtship culminated last week in a ceremony marking the creation of a NATO-Russia Council that will give Russia more direct involvement in NATO decision-making. The council has been hailed by U.S. President

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Russian-style constitution, which led him to initiate an internationally unrecognized referendum in April 2000 designed to turn Ukraine into a presidential republic with a malleable Rada. Mr. Vasyliiev's position was given in gratitude to the Donetsk clan, the only region where For a United Ukraine finished first in the March 31 parliamentary elections.

In the party-list vote in the March elections, For a United Ukraine finished third with 11.81 percent of the vote, compared to Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine with 23.65 percent. On the basis of these results, Mr. Yushchenko proposed after the election that because Our Ukraine won the elections, it should serve as the basis for creating a Rada majority. In a joint statement on April 26, Our Ukraine, the Communists (which polled 20.4 percent), the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (7.21 percent) and the Socialists (6.93 percent) said that they won the elections, which was a defeat for the authorities.

But Messrs. Lytvyn and Kuchma disagreed, as did Russian President Vladimir Putin. Their shared understanding of the elections was that For a United Ukraine had won. Mr. Lytvyn based his argument on the fact that his faction had become the largest in the Verkhovna Rada after the elections by virtue of inducing, or black-mailing, the majority of deputies elected in majoritarian districts into its ranks. Through these tactics United Ukraine has been able to increase the size of its faction from 102 deputies to 182 (compared to the 111 in Our Ukraine) – the largest in the

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NEWSBRIEFS

United Ukraine to become less united?

KYIV – The United Ukraine parliamentary caucus has launched a "process of creating an inter-factional association" based on the bloc's deputies, the UNIAN news service reported on June 11, quoting United Ukraine lawmaker Mykola Onyschuk. According to Mr. Onyschuk, the parties currently constituting United Ukraine – Labor Ukraine, National Democratic Party, Party of the Regions, Agrarian Party, and Party of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists – want to create their own parliamentary groups within the United Ukraine "inter-factional association." Meanwhile, Communist Party lawmaker Heorhii Kriuchkov commented that the transformation of United Ukraine into such a group is "not a split but decomposition oriented toward obtaining a larger number of official offices and cars." (RFE/RL Newline)

Survey says: Church most trusted

LVIV – According to a recent survey, 26.8 percent of Ukrainians trust the Church completely, and 33 percent are "more likely" to trust it, which was the highest score among other social and political institutions. The survey was conducted on May 21-28 by the Oleksander Razumkov Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Studies. The aim of the survey was to identify the level of trust in various social institutions and political parties, as well as the degree of support for their activities. It also aimed to find out people's preferences concerning the future presidential elections. The Ukrainian mass media is "trusted completely" by 13.3 percent of respondents, and 40.6 percent are "more likely" to trust it. Political parties received complete trust from only 4 percent, and with 38.3 percent scored highest on distrust. Public organizations received trust from 6 percent and distrust from 25.4 percent. Asked to assess freedom of speech using a 5-point system (1 for worst, 5 for best), 37.5 percent of respondents answered "3" and only 6.8 percent answered "5." The survey, in which 2,015 Ukrainian citizens over 18 years old took part, was carried out in 24 oblasts of Ukraine, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Kyiv. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

New impeachment effort is initiated

KYIV – Lawmakers from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc – including Yulia Tymoshenko, Hryhorii Omelchenko and Anatolii Matvienko – have submitted to the Verkhovna Rada a draft bill called "On the Initiation of Impeachment of President Leonid Kuchma and the Creation of a

Special Temporary Investigative Commission," UNIAN reported on June 10. The Ukrainska Pravda website commented the same day that the impeachment issue is likely to be put on the parliamentary agenda (150 votes are necessary for this purpose), but added that there is "no hope" that the bill can muster 226 votes necessary for starting the impeachment process. (RFE/RL Newline)

Europeans support move toward NATO

LJUBLJANA – Meeting at an informal summit in Slovenia on 1 June 1, the presidents of 14 Central European countries hailed Ukraine's decision to seek NATO membership, Ukrainian media reported, quoting President Leonid Kuchma. "They accepted this decision as a long-awaited one," Mr. Kuchma said following the summit. (RFE/RL Newline)

Russia plays Ukraine card re Kaliningrad

MOSCOW – The Russian government is not concealing the fact that its switch away from routing energy supplies through Poland is connected with the hard line taken by Warsaw and the European Union on the Kaliningrad issue, RIA-Novosti reported on June 10, citing an unnamed official in President Vladimir Putin's administration. If Poland continues to rebuff Russian proposals for a visa-free transit corridor between Kaliningrad Oblast and the rest of Russia, the official said, the country stands to lose this lucrative pipeline, as well as several billion dollars' worth of related development projects. The pipeline issue is political, not economic, and by dealing with President Leonid Kuchma, Moscow is sending a clear signal to Warsaw that it expects a concession on Kaliningrad, the BBC's Russian Service commented. (RFE/RL Newline)

Rada rejects prosecution of Tymoshenko

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has rejected an appeal from the Procurator General's Office to pursue criminal proceedings against former Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition faction of Parliament, according to an Associated Press report of June 6. Deputy Procurator General Mykola Obikhod appealed to the Parliament on June 3, asking for permission to continue a criminal investigation into charges of corruption against Ms. Tymoshenko. Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn rejected the prosecutor's appeal on June 5, citing legal imperfections. Prosecutors accused Ms. Tymoshenko last year of hiding hard-currency profits, large-scale theft

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members — \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN — 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz

Editors:

Roman Woronowycz (Kyiv)

Andrew Nynka

Ika Koznarska Casanova (part time)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, June 16, 2002, No. 24, Vol. LXX

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Kyiv's Rotary Club marks a decade of service, recalls its beginnings

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In 1990, Lubomyr Hewko, an auto industry executive living in Clarkston, Mich., who was very active in his local Rotary Club, was invited to give a presentation at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute on the workings of the auto industry. The talk included a short discourse on Rotary International, the charitable organization of businessmen and professionals founded in 1905, whose purpose it is to do good deeds while fostering collegiality and close ties among the members.

Mr. Hewko's remarks elicited much interest from the academics and professionals present at KPI regarding the concept and workings of Rotary clubs.

At about the same time in Seattle, Wash., Volodymyr Kulyk of Kyiv, a member of the National Olympic Committee who had just attended the Goodwill Games in Canada, was accompanying the world's largest aircraft, the AN-225 known as Mria, at the Seattle Air Show, after which it was to do a medical airlift to Ukraine for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund of Short Hills, N.J. Mr. Kulyk was very impressed with the work and motivation of the volunteers on hand at the air show, who were members of the Lynnwood, Wash., Rotary Club.

When Mr. Hewko turned to the European headquarters of Rotary in Zurich about having his Clarkston club help begin a local Rotary chapter in Kyiv, he was informed that five other clubs from around the world – the Vancouver and Toronto organizations of Canada, the Lynnwood, Wash., and Shrewsbury, Pa., clubs of the U.S., and the Edinburgh club of Scotland – also had made inquiries. Likewise, when Mr. Kulyk got back to Kyiv and started to talk about Rotary, he quickly learned that preparations for a club were already in the works.

The six foreign clubs, only two of which had members with Ukrainian roots, decided to pool their efforts and to contribute \$2,000 each to the development of a club in Ukraine's capital. Within a short time an initiative group had been formed, and then in May 1992 the Kyiv Rotary Club received the first Ukrainian charter.

That club celebrated 10 years in Ukraine on May 17 with a gala banquet and various other festivities, attended by Rotary International President Richard D. King. Also on hand were the two veritable founding fathers of Rotary-Ukraine, Mr. Hewko, who spent much time and even personal funds organizing the Kyiv club, and Mr. Kulyk, who was the charter president.

Speaking during the banquet, Mr. Hewko said the work had been gratifying



Representatives of the three sponsoring Rotary Clubs from the United States: Clarkston, Mich., Shrewsbury, Pa., and Lynnwood, Wash., with Richard King, president of Rotary International, and Lubomyr Hewko (fourth and fifth from right) at a reception marking the 10th anniversary of Kyiv's Rotary Club.

and that the organization's potential in Ukraine had exceeded his expectations.

"When I look back today at the wonderful growth and development of the Rotary movement in Ukraine my heart is filled with great satisfaction for time well spent," explained Mr. Hewko. "The streamlined private assistance channel which we have established through Rotary for conducting humanitarian aid and the various international contacts which became possible for Kyiv Rotarians have resulted in invaluable aid and comfort for countless needy in Ukraine."

Since that first club appeared on the Ukrainian horizon a decade ago, Rotary Clubs have sprung up in 35 Ukrainian cities, including throughout western Ukraine in cities such as Lviv – which had representatives of its own initiative group on hand when the Kyiv club was chartered – Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne and Ternopil. A Kharkiv club, the first in the eastern oblasts, was formed in 1993. The newest Ukrainian Rotarians are found in Dnipropetrovsk, and the first Crimean club is scheduled soon for Sudak.

Rotary has grown so much in Ukraine and Eastern Europe over the last decade that in 2001 Rotary International formed a separate Eastern Europe District, consisting of Ukraine, Poland and Belarus. Next year Petro Kaskadanov, a Ukrainian

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Ukraine, Germany and Russia agree to cooperate on gas supply

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The presidents of Ukraine, Germany and Russia, meeting in St. Petersburg on June 10, signed a statement of understanding and cooperation on the continued use of Ukraine's natural gas pipeline for transporting Russian natural gas to Germany, which should guarantee an unimpeded flow of energy through Ukraine to Western Europe for the next decade.

The document also envisages European participation in a multinational consortium that will guarantee the gas supply. Eighty percent of European gas supplies that come from Russia currently pass through the Ukrainian pipeline – a dependency that is expected to grow still greater in the coming years.

The signing came a day after President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Vladimir Putin of Russia signed a separate declaration of strategic cooperation in the natural gas sector, which should give Russia joint management and development influence over the Ukrainian natural gas pipeline in return for its agreement to abandon a gas transport project that would have circumvented Ukraine in favor of a route through Belarus.

To calm fears by some elements in Ukraine's political spectrum that Moscow would assume ownership of a key strategic element of Ukraine's economy, First Vice Prime Minister Oleh Dubyna said on June 10 that Ukraine's natural gas transport system had not and would not be privatized, but would merely be supervised by an international consortium.

"This will be control, not ownership," explained Mr. Dubyna, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

He said that other entities, whether governmental or private, were invited to enter into the partnership and obtain equal share values. In addition he underscored that plans for construction of a Belarus pipeline was an issue that "no longer exists."

The statement by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents calls for the draw-

ing up of a detailed 10-year agreement on cooperation in gas storage and transportation to be signed by the end of this month.

It was part of a larger declaration signed by Presidents Kuchma and Putin in St. Petersburg on the need for continued strategic cooperation between the two countries in trade and economic matters, and a call for a quicker pace for European and world integration by the two neighbors.

President Kuchma said after the signing that the natural gas agreement would promote "settlement of one of Europe's global problems," according to Interfax-Ukraine.

German President Gerhard Schroeder expressed full support for the idea of a bilateral natural gas partnership between Russia and Ukraine, calling it "a brilliant idea."

All three signatories will gain from the agreement. Europe, with Germany in the lead, has increasingly come to depend on Russian gas and oil as an alternative to the energy resources supplied by countries in the politically unstable Middle East. Meanwhile, Ukraine, in the person of its president, had been searching for reliable partners in a consortium that would guarantee that Russian energy resources continue to move to Europe through the country and provide needed revenue.

Ukraine is almost wholly dependent on Russian natural gas, but has a difficult time paying for what it imports. Kyiv and Moscow have often bickered over what Ukraine owes and how it is to repay the debt.

Russia, for its part, wanted a reliable Ukrainian partner that could be trusted and was ready to guarantee that natural gas would flow to Europe as ordered. Russia had often accused Kyiv of siphoning off gas that moved through the Ukrainian pipeline.

"Russia and our Central Asia partners can now be sure that the gas markets will be secured, and those who own the natural gas distribution system can be sure

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Despite his confession, defendant is exonerated of journalist's murder

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch

Donetsk Appeals Court Judge Ivan Korchystyi ruled that there was insufficient evidence to convict Yuri Verediuk of premeditated murder, even though the 46-year-old ex-convict confessed to killing journalist Ihor Oleksandrov, the Kyiv Post reported on May 23.

According to the Kyiv Post: "Oleksandrov, the general manager of TOR television in the Donetsk Oblast town of Slaviansk, was found July 3 lying in a pool of blood near his TV station with his head cracked open and two baseball bats lying nearby. He was hospitalized but never regained consciousness.

Shortly before he was murdered, Oleksandrov had exposed corruption in local law enforcement agencies. He had asked the Procurator General's Office for armed protection prior to airing the allegations, but it wasn't provided."

Officials from the Procurator General's Office said the case is far from over. They have appealed the ruling to the country's Supreme Court.

Mr. Oleksandrov was the 11th journalist killed in Ukraine in the last five years, according to the international watchdog group Reporters Without Borders, which has accused the Justice Ministry and law-enforcement bodies of obstructing investigations into the killing.

Telecommunications fund-raiser helps The Ukrainian Weekly

by Roman Woronowycz

CHICAGO – Perhaps it was the genius of George Stromeckyj that led to the creation of “Dial All Day for the UNA,” for some say that the simplest of ideas are usually the most ingenious. But, more likely, it was merely the work of a good businessman who wanted to help a newspaper, which he had faithfully read for years, get over difficult financial times.

Dial All Day for the UNA is a profit-sharing program developed by Mr. Stromeckyj in which the Chicago-based businessman, who owns Sputnik Global Telecommunications, gives a percentage of the money he makes on the service he provides to long-distance telephone service users to The Weekly. Thus far the program has already given the UNA newspaper \$2,500.

“When I heard that The Ukrainian Weekly was having financial difficulties, I put two and two together and realized that I could help with this program,” explained Mr. Stromeckyj, who added that he believes the program has yet to truly take off and reach its full potential.

The fund-raising program that the 44-year-old businessman created is a beneficial opportunity for both the The Ukrainian Weekly and long-distance telephone users. Mr. Stromeckyj’s customers get competitive, affordable rates, while The Weekly gets a percentage of commissions generated by the purchase of long-distance services from Mr. Stromeckyj’s company.

Sputnik Global Telecom donates money on a monthly basis to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund from commissions earned from clients who use long-distance telephone service provided by Sputnik. Depending on the total monthly volume of use by Dial All Day for the UNA customers, Mr. Stromeckyj’s company donates anywhere from a minimum of 25 percent to a maximum of 50 percent of commissions earned. The more customers use the long distance service, the more money is donated.

Sputnik is an agent for Touch Tone Communications, located in Whippany, N.J., which has supported Mr. Stromeckyj’s project and provides his

clients competitive prices on its long-distance usage. Within the United States, customers can utilize the service for 4.9 cents per minute, whether for state-to-state, intra-state or local toll calls. To call Ukraine, the rate is equally affordable at 20 cents a minute when utilizing an access code.

Mr. Stromeckyj explained that, in essence, what he has developed is a variation on telecom fund-raisers, a marketing tool that has been around for years and uses incentives to ensure its effectiveness. For The Weekly to receive the maximum amount of dollar donations, long-distance users in the Dial All Day for the UNA program need to generate a total of approximately \$20,000 in long-distance charges per month. Then, by the rules of the agreement, Sputnik would donate 50 percent of its commission, or approximately \$2,000 a month, to The Weekly’s press fund.

To achieve maximum potential, the Dial All Day for the UNA program needs an additional 700 to 800 customers averaging roughly \$25 a month in long-dis-

ance phone calls. Mr. Stromeckyj said he believes the target figure is very realistic because other organizations have organized up to 15 percent of their membership to receive the benefits of the program. The Weekly would only need to sign up around 8 percent to get the monthly donation of \$2,000.

“The way I look at it, every time a customer makes a long distance phone call, The Weekly makes money,” explained Mr. Stromeckyj, who is a member of UNA Branch 399.

In the two years that the program has been in place Sputnik Global Telecom has issued a check for 25 consecutive months. To ensure that people are recognized for their effort, Mr. Stromeckyj also sends along a monthly list of subscribers.

“There is no downside to this,” explained the president of the telecommunications firm. “We simply need to get the word out.”

For additional information or to subscribe to Dial All Day For the UNA, call 1-847-298-5900.

Kyiv’s Rotary...

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from the Lviv club will become the district’s second president.

The mottoes of the members of the Rotary movement – “Service above self” and “We do things that people think just happen – accurately reflect the way in which the Ukrainian clubs have approached their charitable work. During its decade of existence in Ukraine, the Rotary movement already has several exceedingly notable accomplishments under its collective belt.

In 1996 the Kyiv club, with active support from UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Ukrainian Red Cross and Ukraine’s Ministry of Health, organized a nationwide polio vaccination program for infants and toddlers, which resulted in the inoculation of 4 million Ukrainian children (98.5 percent) from the age of 3 months to 4 years.

The initiative was part of a worldwide Rotary International project called Polio Plus, which is funded by Rotary International and administered by UNICEF.

The Kyiv Rotarians, the most active of Ukraine’s groups, also developed an ophthalmologic project in conjunction with the Rotary Clubs of Pennsylvania, which

brought a group of Rotarian eye doctors to Ukraine in November 1992, where they conducted more than 100 operations and donated medical equipment worth \$15,000.

The Kyiv club also organized a children’s cardiology center at the Amosov Cardiology Center in Kyiv, which was the first to perform operations on infants age 2 months to 2 years with congenital heart defects. The center came about after two Kyiv Rotarians who are also heart surgeons, Ilya Yemets and Andrii Mazur, visited Australia as part of that country’s Rotary-sponsored professional exchange program. The Australian club, as well as clubs in Canada and the U.S., contributed to a project equipping the larger cardiology center with modern medical equipment. The Clarkston Rotarians alone gathered \$420,000 worth of equipment for the project.

On a smaller scale, in its most recent project the Kyiv Club helped the Bila Tserkva orphanage for children affected with cerebral palsy with a new minibus for its needs, including transportation of the handicapped children.

In Kharkiv, the Rotarians of the city cooperated with Rotary Club No. 1930 in Germany to obtain school textbooks, audiovisual materials and copying machines for

26 schools and six teacher-training institutes in Ukraine that emphasize the German language.

The list of prominent businessmen and professionals who belong to the Rotary movement in Ukraine is extensive. It includes individuals who have access to the highest levels of government and the professional world, such as Oleksander Chalyi, today the state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a former Ukrainian ambassador to NATO; former Minister of Defense and current National Deputy Ihor Shmarov; National Deputy Mykola Onyshchuk; Volodymyr Mostovyi, editor-in-chief of Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, Ukraine’s most prestigious newspaper; and renowned attorney Yevhen Kubko.

The clubs of Rotary are autonomous organizations that pay dues to Rotary International. They take upon themselves the responsibility to use their money-raising activities to help the needy and the sick. Meetings are generally held once a month during breakfast or lunch at a local restaurant and include a guest speaker. Club officers are annually changed in full. All new members must be sponsored by a member in good standing and be voted in by a majority – but only after the candidate has been observed at three consecutive meetings. There is also a limit of two representatives from each profession, which is done to ensure a good representation of professional fields. Many of the groups have extensive traditions, their own songs and mottos.

Rotary International, the coordinating body of the local clubs, coordinates projects

on the global scale and obtains its financing from the dues-paying local clubs. Headquartered in Evanston, Ill., the international body has identified three major areas of charitable work: student exchange programs, humanitarian aid and international medical programs.

As part of the third program, it was a major player in the successful effort to vaccinate against smallpox and wipe the virus from the face of the earth – a project that is virtually complete today.

Rotary International, which today numbers 1.2 million members who belong to 30,000 clubs organized in 155 countries that are committed to democratic values, was founded in Chicago in 1905. The idea developed from a group of closely acquainted businessmen who for some time had gathered at each other’s homes in rotating sequence (hence the name Rotary) for fellowship and discussion. At some point it was proposed that the friends formalize their get-togethers and give them a concrete purpose, and the Rotary movement was born.

Mr. Hewko said that today Rotary International is very happy with the Ukrainian Rotary movement. He specifically noted the exceptional work of Kyiv’s charter president.

“Rotary International is very satisfied with the programs and the work of the Ukrainian clubs,” explained Mr. Hewko. “A good part of the reason for this is the effort that Volodymyr Kulyk, the first president of the Kyiv club, gave. He set the proper tone and set the highest standards, which are now being followed.”

Hollywood Trident Foundation seeks 1933 Famine survivors

LOS ANGELES – The Hollywood Trident Foundation needs the Ukrainian community’s help in contacting Ukrainian survivors of the 1933 Famine-Genocide now living in the United States and Canada in order to record their recollections on videotape.

Next year will be the 70th anniversary of the genocide. “We hope to ensure that no one will ever forget the details of this monumental tragedy, by recording for history the experiences and emotions expressed in their own words and images, of those survivors who are still living. We hope to teach this history to those who don’t know it, as well as to remind those who do know it, the extent of the ferocity and the slaughter that our families endured, said the president of HTF, Peter Borisow.

“Ideally, we would like to locate every survivor and arrange an interview. We need the help of the Ukrainian community to locate and

contact survivors, especially in the Los Angeles area, since these are the closest and easiest to visit. We are painfully aware that the youngest survivors are now close to their 80s and few are in good health. We are in a race against time to document as much living evidence as we can before history claims these heroes for itself,” Mr. Borisow added.

Jason (Taras) Harper, a producer-director with Nickelodeon Television will produce and direct the interviews, while Mr. Borisow will do the interviewing. The oral histories will be recorded on state-of-the-art digital video, suitable for easy distribution to educational and media venues worldwide.

Anyone who is a survivor or knows a survivor who would be willing to participate in an interview is asked to contact the Hollywood Trident Foundation at (212) 721-2990 or e-mail the foundation at apbuke@earthlink.net.

Ukraine, Germany and Russia...

(Continued from page 3)

that natural gas will be available at favorable prices and on time,” explained President Putin. “All this can only lead to positive results.”

Russia had signed a declaration of cooperation with Kazakstan, located in Central Asia, on natural gas distribution two days before the announcements were made in St. Petersburg.

Mr. Putin said he expected that \$2.5 billion would be sunk into reconstruction and modernization of the Ukrainian gas pipeline in the near term and that the entire effort would draw a total of \$15 billion into the project in the next decade, which Mr. Kuchma explained would eventually allow Ukraine to handle 1.5

times its current pipeline capacity.

Almost immediately after the signing, Germany’s energy giant, Ruhrgas AG, announced its readiness to take part in the gas transportation project. A day later the British corporations Wintershall AG and Shell, the Italian ENI and France’s Gaz de France also expressed an interest in participating in a future consortium.

The same day, Greece’s Development Minister Apostolos-Athanasios Tsokhatzopoulos, while in Kyiv for trade talks, proposed Ukraine’s participation in the construction of a connecting gas pipeline between Turkey and Greece for transportation of natural gas to southern Europe. The project, estimated to eventually cost \$300 million, is the result of an agreement on a connecting pipeline between Turkey and Greece signed in March.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

The UNA: a quality fraternal society that offers quality products

by Robert E. Bruce

Following is the text of remarks delivered at the UNA's 35th Convention held in Chicago on May 24-28.

It has been my privilege to have served as the UNA's actuary for the last few years. I appreciate this opportunity to review a few actuarial items. A full report has been printed for distribution. Therefore, only a few of the highlights need be mentioned now.

My actuarial responsibilities include providing technical information to your leaders and reporting any unfavorable circumstances or trends. That has been done. There are no unfavorable points that need to be called to your attention. By the same token, I have an equal responsibility to report on favorable items. There are a number of such which deserve to be reported to you.

First, since the last convention, there have been a surprising number of regulatory changes. The rate of change continues to accelerate. Your leaders have met these challenges admirably. The high quality of leadership and the fine stewardship of your money have served the UNA very well. Quality is the keynote. You have a quality society, which offers quality products, backed by quality investments. The UNA is the best place in the world for members to hold money for future delivery.

Part of the quality picture is the safety margin that the UNA holds for the protection of its members. On over \$63 million of assets, the UNA maintains a surplus of over \$7 million. This represents a solvency ratio of 112.5 percent, which translates to protection of \$112.50 behind each \$100 of liability. By comparison, the average solvency ratio for comparable fraternal societies is 111 percent and the average for giant fraternal societies also is 111 percent. The giant commercial companies report 105 percent.

Beyond that basic margin, the UNA holds security valuation reserves of \$655,000 to guard against adverse fluctuation of investments. There is no liability against that amount. Therefore, the UNA holds a total margin of safety for members of 13 percent. If a prospective member prefers to place insurance with a giant commercial company, remind that person of the higher margin of protection provided by the UNA.

In developing the surplus as of

December 31, 2001, the UNA earned an operating gain of \$307,000 in 2001. This is a very notable achievement, which brings great credit to your leaders. First, the losses of prior years were reversed. This is extremely important in an era of over-regulation. Second, the profit was achieved in contrast to the trend in the fraternal industry. The year 2001 was a down year for many societies. Death claims increased, expenses went up, capital losses were incurred and additional deposits were required to guard against capital losses. The fact that the UNA earned a profit in spite of those trends represents a fine accomplishment.

The profit in 2001 was especially important with respect to fraternal benefits.

The UNA is a fraternal society that exists for its ethnic and charitable purposes. These fraternal activities are supported by profits on life and annuity policies. Therefore, it is extremely important to develop insurance profits sufficient to sustain the fraternal objectives. To understand the sources of insurance profits, it should be recognized that there are only four possible sources of profit: interest, mortality, terminations and loading.

Of these sources, interest earnings are the largest and, therefore, the most important. In 2001 the UNA earned \$1,763,000 of interest on life policies in excess of requirements. For annuities, excess interest amounted to \$293,000. This fact sends a clear message that cash value life insurance and annuities will build assets on which excess interest will be generated. Asset growth is the key to the future.

Mortality is the second largest profit source. In 2001, \$530,000 of mortality profits were generated because fewer deaths occurred than provided for by policy terms. Margins of safety provided by us as your actuaries and improving mortality will provide mortality profits, even though the amount generally may fluctuate from time to time.

The third source of profits arises on terminations. When a policy terminates, the reserve released is greater than the cash value amount paid (insurance laws require policy reserves to exceed cash values), thereby releasing a small amount to profits. Greater future profits will arise if the policy continues in force, so terminations are not to be encouraged. The UNA lapse rate at 2 percent is very favorable and indicates con-

fidence in the UNA by its members.

The last source of profits is loading. Loading is the difference between the premium actually charged and the statutory net premium required by law for reserve purposes. The rates charged are determined by competition. The UNA cannot charge more than the competition. The difference is a margin for expenses which is insufficient for the UNA and all other insurers. No carrier reports a profit on loading. It is necessary to borrow against excess interest earnings and mortality savings. These circumstances are dictated by the industry and not the UNA. The important consideration is not that a loss on loading arises, but that it is sustained by other profit sources in a sufficient amount to sustain the fraternal activities.

Happily, in 2001, insurance profits of over \$1,500,000 were sufficient to meet the fraternal activities and the costs related thereto and leave an operating profit of \$307,000. It is recognized that some of the decisions which were necessary to develop that profit were very difficult. Your leaders deserve great credit for leading the UNA to a profit position.

The convention reports provide magnificent financial detail as to where the UNA stands and how it got there. But, what about the future? As your actuaries, we are required to make projections for 10- and 20-year periods, based on book and market values, according to at least seven interest scenarios prescribed by statute. Twenty-eight separate studies are required. The present book of business is carried forward under each of these scenarios to determine whether the assets will be sufficient and will be available to meet the members' claims as they arise.

The regulators recognize that the interest scenarios which they prescribe represent extremes of interest paths, no one of which will actually happen. However, if profits

are generated under these extreme assumptions, it is apparent that the future will be assured under actual interest experience. The conclusion from these studies is that the present book of business on UNA policies will produce future profits. The average present value of future profits at \$1,700,000 is excellent. Future profits will develop under the present managerial strategy of controlling expenses.

Further assurance as to the future is provided by a series of statistical tests and ratios that appear in the printed report. These are favorable to the UNA and speak for themselves. However, attention should be called to the gross rate of return on invested assets of 9.06 percent. This is the highest rate of return among fraternal societies of comparable size, giant fraternal societies or mutual companies with \$10 billion of assets. A fine record.

The question will naturally arise in your minds whether this high rate of return was achieved at the expense of safety, quality or liquidity. The data in the report shows there was no compromise or sacrifice. The UNA holds a higher percentage of assets in mortgages, which provide a higher return; 98 percent of bonds are rated investment grade (highest) by the NAIC; and the average duration to maturity is a short six years, which will give the UNA an investment edge when interest rates rise.

The actuarial conclusion is that the UNA is a quality organization for which the necessary moves have been made by management to position it to meet the challenges of this century. The actuarial charge to the delegates is to take the message to the constituency that the UNA is the best place to hold their money for future delivery and all life and insurance needs should be placed with the UNA rather than an outside commercial company.

I thank you for the privilege of addressing you. It is an honor to serve as your actuary.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Every year tens of thousands of students throughout North America receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities. And then there are those who graduate high school or complete the "matura" in our schools of Ukrainian studies.

The Ukrainian Weekly's special section – Congratulations, Graduates! – offers readers of The Ukrainian Weekly the opportunity to place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This annual section will be published on July 7, 2002.

To place a congratulatory ad please send us the following by June 25:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
- in English, the full name of the graduate, the degree completed or diploma received, along with the date it was presented, a list of awards and honors given the graduate, and the name and location of the school;
- a photo of the graduate (optional);
- payment for the ad;
- your daytime phone number.

The ad sizes for the greeting are a 1/8 page horizontal for \$100 or a 1/4 page for \$180.

Please make checks payable to The Ukrainian Weekly and mail along with above information to:
The Ukrainian Weekly – Congratulations Graduates!
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

For further information, call (973) 292-9800 ext. 3040 (Maria)

UNA recognizes Detroit-area graduates



WARREN, MICH. – Twenty students graduated from Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic High School on Sunday, June 2. Among them were three UNA members, who received financial awards from the Ukrainian National Association. The three recipients (center from left), Andrew Melymuka, Andriy Lhawrin and Stephan Woloszczuk, are seen above during the graduation rehearsal with Principal Michaeline Weigle and UNA Auditor Dr. Alexander J. Serafyn.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Saluting our grads

Knowledge is man's treasure. – Ukrainian proverb

June is the month when we traditionally salute our graduates, be they from colleges, high schools, grammar schools, or, yes, even our youngest graduates – the kindergartners who are no less proud to wear their caps and gowns. It is a time for us to congratulate students on their achievements and to wish them further success.

This is also a time to honor the very special graduates of our community: the high school-age students who successfully complete the "matura" – the comprehensive written and oral exams administered by the Educational Council, the national body in the United States that oversees schools of Ukrainian studies. The matura is no small task. To earn a graduation certificate students have to demonstrate their proficiency in five subjects: language, literature, history, geography/natural history and culture. They do so by taking three days of tests before a board of examiners that includes their teachers plus representatives of the Educational Council. The matura is the culmination to a course of study pursued throughout a student's elementary and secondary school years; it is a pinnacle to be reached.

This year in the metropolitan New York area six schools of Ukrainian studies from three states – New York, New Jersey and Connecticut – held a joint graduation ceremony for their 33 students who had passed the matura. All these students have earned our admiration and respect for their hard work. That they achieved this success is all the more remarkable given the busy lives that all of us today lead. But let there be no mistake: these Ukrainian school grads did not miss out on other activities. They, too, participated in their schools' sports programs, took music lessons, achieved the highest ranks in Plast or SUM, danced in Ukrainian dance troupes and participated in community service programs. They, too, were top students in their respective high schools – many of them were members of the National Honor Society and recipients of various academic awards. What makes them even more extraordinary than their peers is the fact that they devoted so much time and effort to learn about our Ukrainian heritage and about the proud history of our nation.

No small measure of credit is due also to their parents, who saw to it that their children would complete the required course of study and were properly prepared for their final exams. To be sure, congratulations also go to the devoted teachers who shared their knowledge and gave of themselves to benefit the next generation of Ukrainians raised in this country with an awareness and appreciation of their Ukrainian roots.

These graduates from the tri-state area, and others like them across the country, are the future of our community here. We are proud of them, and we salute them all.

A POSTSCRIPT: Unfortunately, the 33 students whose graduation ceremony we attended were not in the spotlight at an event that was to be their night. We were surprised, for example, that the students were not seated in a place of honor at the graduation dinner-dance, but at tables set up on both sides of the dais among the audience. (The dais was reserved for school directors, event organizers and Educational Council officials, plus the keynote speaker.) As well, it was disconcerting to find the diploma presentation transformed into an assembly-line affair during which the graduates were quickly routed down a line of persons (teachers, as well as guests unfamiliar to the students, representatives of the Ukrainian National Association and several credit unions among them) who presented them with diplomas, gifts and monetary awards. There was no opportunity for congratulations or an exchange of feelings between student and teacher upon this momentous occasion, much less a meaningful explanation of who all these other people were and why they came bearing gifts.

As has been the tradition for nearly 25 years, one school hosted the joint celebration; however, this year's program was organized as if it were a single school's graduation, with the others simply serving as props. There was no time set aside on the program for the individual schools to have some sort of special presentation that would have marked the event as their graduation; no time even for the students to formally present gifts to their dedicated teachers.

In the end, this year's event turned out to be less than exceptional for those who truly were exceptional: the graduates.

June
22
1958

Turning the pages back...

On Sunday, June 22, 1958, the new UNA Children's Summer Camp at Soyuzivka was dedicated in front of a crowd of 800 guests at the UNA estate. The camp accommodated 80 children from the ages of 7 to 11, with the month of July set aside for boys and the month of August for girls. The cost was \$24 per week for UNA members, and \$30 for non-members. The camp was on a newly acquired piece of land adjoining Soyuzivka, formerly the Foord Sanitarium, which the UNA had originally purchased in 1952. At the camp dedication ceremony a building on that property, christened "Lviv," was blessed. It housed the residence and dining facilities for the camp.

The dedication ceremony featured performances by a Ukrainian folk dance group under the direction of Roman Petrina; the SUM (Ukrainian American Youth Association) mandolin orchestra of Passaic, N.J., directed by Yaroslav Kostyshyn; and Ukrainian humorists Ivan Kernytsky and Mykola Ponedilok.

Following the celebration of divine liturgy, Msgr. Nicholas Babak said at the dedication: "In the acquirement and the establishment of this Ukrainian children's camp, located on the extensive Soyuzivka — the UNA estate-resort — the Ukrainian National Association has once more accomplished a great and noble deed." The supreme president of the UNA, Dmytro Halychyn, added that he was sure the camp would strengthen the reputation of Soyuzivka as "a fragment of Ukraine on the free American soil."

Source: "June 22 Set for Dedication of Soyuzivka Children's Camp," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 14, 1958; "Weekend Ceremonies to Launch Children's Camp at Soyuzivka," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June, 21, 1958; "U.N.A. Summer Camp for Children Dedicated with Impressive Ceremonies," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 26, 1958.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About those UNA elections....

Dear Editor:

If I'm not elected president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association, I might as well place my name on the ballot for the position of groundskeeper/custodian! Several candidates had their names on up to three ballots! Were they qualified for those positions/offices? Is there no shame?

In any case, congratulations to the newly elected board.

Zenon Izak
Warminster, Pa.

EDITOR'S NOTE: As pointed out in our coverage of the UNA Convention, the primary vote is a write-in process. As a result, delegates can write in any person's name for any slot, whether that person had declared himself/herself a candidate or not, and regardless of which position that person was interested in running for. For example, of the "candidates" written in for the position of president in the primary balloting, only one, Stefan Kaczaraj, had declared his candidacy for that position. That is also why the name of Christine Kozak, who had declared her intention to run for national secretary, was written in for the positions of not only national secretary but also second vice-president, treasurer and director for Canada (although she is not from Canada). The good news is that on the final ballot a candidate's name could appear in only one slot.

Soyuzivka needs volunteers' help

Dear Editor:

In response to Chris Szpak's article "What will you do next summer...if there is no Soyuzivka?" (May 26) I can only ask the following: Where is the management?! And why hasn't the management taken the issues directly to UNA members? How? By simply getting the members involved. Create a large committee (for lack of a better word) with multiple working subcommittees.

Depending on the level of expertise, each subcommittee or group can concentrate on a variety of functions such as painting, carpentry, plumbing or grounds maintenance. Still other groups, with business or law professionals can assist with various business practices, such as vendor contract negotiations, or other activities aimed at increasing the resort's utilization. Obviously, functions such as the resort's daily operational duties would not be an objective of the committee. However, with proper supervision, by targeting these working groups for specific projects, many quality improvements can be made – and at a substantial savings to Soyuzivka.

With proper commitment, the UNA would get not dozens but hundreds of responses from members to join and occasionally assist in a multitude of projects. Through these working groups, Manager John A. Flis would have, at his disposal and under his supervision, virtually unlimited help for various projects throughout the year.

Another, even more important, topic worthy of action is patronage – a campaign endorsed by the UNA to obtain donations for the preservation of

Soyuzivka. I'm not referring to a conventional attempt at raising a few bucks, but to a royal effort on the same grand scale as that demonstrated by The Ukrainian Museum.

The UNA, above any other Ukrainian American organization, has the manpower and the marketing/advertising capabilities to pull this off. Soyuzivka can hold gala affairs, festivals and other numerous fund-raising events. Gifts, contributions, donations, whatever you call it, these funds will bail out Soyuzivka.

These are just two ideas that, I say without hesitation, would quickly garner both the human and financial resources necessary for further action. In fact, there were many good suggestions submitted by UNA members throughout the years. Few, if any, of these have been acted upon. Possibly with new leadership, the Ukrainian National Association will have the vision to implement some of these ideas.

I strongly encourage all UNA members, now more than ever, to make their voices heard. Soyuzivka was acquired for UNA members and guests – with whom the ultimate fate of Soyuzivka should rest.

Myron Krywulych
Westfield, N.J.

More on Microsoft's Ukrainian program

Dear Editor:

As you surely know, The Ukrainian Weekly arrives here with considerable delay in these parts, hence my late reaction.

It is with considerable interest that I read Roman Woronowycz's article about the Ukrainian version of Windows XP (The Ukrainian Weekly, April 14). Being equipped with unicode, this platform makes it possible to write in numerous languages that use the Latin and Cyrillic alphabets (and many others as well), and among the available pre-programmed keyboards is a Ukrainian one. I recently bought a computer equipped with Windows XP and was very much looking forward to using it for Ukrainian word processing.

Since the intended users are primarily in Ukraine, the key layout is close to the one of traditional Ukrainian keyboards. But the nerds from Microsoft struck out again. On the positive side, it is a Ukrainian keyboard and not, as in Soviet times, a Russian one with the Ukrainian letters added on the right as an afterthought. However, it has two major drawbacks. First there is no letter "Г", at least not on the surface. One has to go into insert symbol mode and paste it in. Was there no room for the letter? Hardly, for under the "~" key one finds the Belarusian or Russian "ѐ," which is not used in Ukrainian.

Furthermore, the period is located at the "7" while the comma is at the "3". Having these two punctuation marks, one in lower-case and one in uppercase on the same key is inconvenient at best, but having the comma – which is used much more frequently in Ukrainian than in English – in the upper case while the period is in the lower case shows very poor planning indeed.

Last but not least, Windows XP seems to have no built-in way to modify the keyboard to the user's preference, an option that was available in earlier versions of Windows. Back to the drawing board, boys.

Dr. Andrij Hornjatkevyc
Edmonton

UNA CONVENTION ADDRESS: Pioneers' dreams are our dreams

by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas

Below is the text of the keynote address delivered on May 26 at the banquet of the Ukrainian National Association's 35th Convention.

You and I live in the greatest country in the world. There are many, many reasons why the United States is so powerful, so rich, so united, yet so diverse.

It all began with America's Declaration of Independence, a mighty statement which settled for all time the standard by which all nations and people would be judged. "We hold these truths to be self-evident," our American founding fathers proclaimed on July 4, 1776, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

These were profound words. But they were more than words. They were a clarion call for freedom. They inspired the most successful and far-reaching revolution in the history of the world.

America's founding fathers were deeply religious men whose faith in God was unwavering. In his often-cited farewell address to his Cabinet on September 17, 1796, President George Washington urged Americans to preserve religion and morality as the "great pillars of human happiness." No matter how refined our education is, America's first president cautioned, "reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

When it appeared that the United States would be torn asunder, President Abraham Lincoln mobilized the people of the North to fight for the preservation of the union. Following the Battle of Gettysburg he came to honor the fallen heroes and to declare



Dr. Myron B. Kuropas speaks at the UNA Convention banquet.

"that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

America's founding fathers and those who came after them were willing to sacrifice and to risk their lives for the fulfillment of an idea. They had vision and they dared to dream.

One of the great orations of our time was a speech by Dr. Martin Luther King titled "I Have a Dream." It was delivered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 1963. It was an optimistic speech proclaimed during a pessimistic time. "I say to you today, my friends," declared Dr. King, "that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths

to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." His was an inspiring message that touched the hearts of most Americans and helped turn the tide in favor of racial reconciliation.

I share the dream of America's founding fathers and their heirs. I dream about an independent Ukraine predicated on American principles, a nation, free of graft, corruption and lies, a nation that respects the rule of law and permits all of its citizens to live prosperous and meaningful lives.

But I also share the dreams of our other founding fathers, the pioneer priests who established the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz. It is no coincidence that our organization was formally established by 13 branches on an American holiday commemorating an American patriot. Svoboda reported the event in an editorial titled "It Has Come to Be."

Listen to the words of Svoboda: "On February 22, 1894, the day all America celebrates the birthday anniversary of the great George Washington, fearless fighter for liberty and the rights of man, Rusyn priests, delegates of Rusyn brotherhoods and Rusyn patriots from many areas assembled at 9 a.m. in the Rusyn church in Shamokin, Pa., to ask God's help in launching this all-important project, the founding of the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz ... Who could have hoped only a few years ago that the Rusyn, who escaped the bonds of slavery, want and poverty, would unleash so soon the long-suppressed power of the spirit? Who would think that under this shabby coat there beats a noble heart, capable of everything that is good and beautiful, once it has been freed from the bonds of slavery and oppression?"

Father Gregory Hrushka, Svoboda editor, composed a poem to commemorate the occasion:

Rejoice, Mother Rus',
Your children are not lost!
In America they are reborn,
From their graves they have emerged.
Your children have united,
The Soyuz they have established,
Brotherly love and mutual help
Forever is enshrined.

The UNA's founding fathers were men of principle. They, too, believed in equality, unity, the dignity of life and the need to pursue their sacred dream. We are their heirs. Their dream is our dream.

From its inception, UNA members accomplished what in retrospect seems impossible. The UNA established reading rooms in various towns and cities where immigrants from Ukraine could learn to read and write, and to learn about their Ukrainian heritage. UNA leaders worked with Rusyns from Ukraine who were poor, illiterate, and provincial, and transformed 40 percent of them into literate and nationally conscious Ukrainians. The UNA took Svoboda, today the oldest, continuously published Ukrainian-language newspaper in the world, and turned it into an educational guidebook for newcomers. By reading Svoboda, Ukrainians in North America learned about events in Ukraine as well as requirements for becoming citizens of the United States of America and Canada. By 1914, the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz was formally renamed the Ukrainskyi Narodnyi Soyuz, the Ukrainian National Association in English.

The UNA also helped build churches throughout North America. In many towns the creation of a UNA branch often preceded the establishment of a parish or a church building committee. The first Ukrainian divine liturgy in Canada was celebrated in Manitoba in 1897 by Father Nestor Dmytriw, former editor of Svoboda and UNA secretary.

In 1905 UNA executives protested what they believed were efforts by Roman Catholic prelates in the United States to "Latinize" the Ukrainian Catholic Church

in America. Svoboda pushed for a Ukrainian Catholic bishop who could better serve the needs of UNA members. Ukrainian Catholics received their first bishop in 1907.

In 1924 UNA executives and the Svoboda editor stood firmly on the side of those Ukrainians who were disenchanted with the actions of America's second Ukrainian bishop, a stance that eventually led to an estrangement between the UNA and the Ukrainian Catholic Church that

sored them housed them, and found them jobs. Some of you here tonight may remember that it was the UNA Center on Western Avenue that was your initial home in Chicago.

And so it went. The English-language Ukrainian encyclopedia, the Shevchenko Monument in Washington, Robert Conquest's "Harvest of Sorrow," the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. These are just a few of the accomplishments made possible by the Ukrainian National

No other organization in the diaspora has done more for Ukraine and for the preservation of our culture in the United States than the Ukrainian National Association.

took years to heal.

Between 1914 and 1923 Svoboda offered a daily commentary on developments in Ukraine, from the first, fledgling efforts at independence, through the unification of Ukraine in 1919, to the final incorporation of Galicia by Poland. Protests and fund-raisers were held throughout America. The UNA was one of the founding organizations of the Ukrainian National Alliance, which was instrumental in having President Woodrow Wilson declare April 21, 1917, as "Ukrainian Day" in the United States. Ukrainians associated with the Alliance collected more than \$53,000 in one day. This was a phenomenal sum for its day, equivalent to 10 times that amount today. A total of \$22,000 was immediately sent to Ukraine's president, Mykhailo Hrushevsky.

When the war ended, the Alliance changed its name to the Ukrainian National Committee and sent a delegation of Ukrainian Americans to Paris to plead for recognition of Ukrainian independence by the Versailles Peace Conference. When this effort failed, the focus shifted to Galicia, a region of Ukraine whose fate had not yet been decided. Svoboda helped raise thousands of dollars for the cause of Galician independence.

The UNA and its press were a bulwark against the growing power of the Ukrainian Communist Party in America. UNA publications mobilized the Ukrainian community against Poland's pacification of western Ukraine and Stalin's forced famine.

The UNA and The Ukrainian Weekly, founded in 1933, contributed to the creation of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, an organization that brought young people together from two nations.

Following World War II it was the UNA that lobbied Congress and the president for passage of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. When Ukrainian refugees began to arrive, it was UNA members who spon-

sored them.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is our heritage, our tradition, our pride and joy. No other organization in the diaspora has done more for Ukraine and for the preservation of our culture in the United States than the Ukrainian National Association.

The UNA and its publications have been the voice of Ukraine for over 100 years. Even today as journalists in Ukraine who criticize the government are being murdered, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly are still the voice of Ukraine, a voice that cannot, will not be silenced.

Are we worthy of these great deeds? Will we squander the precious inheritance our UNA pioneers left for us to build upon and to enjoy? Will we rationalize away our indifference? Already I have heard comments from some of you that we're too old to make a difference. It's too little, too late. The young people don't care. Decline is inevitable. Why fight it?

Let me be blunt. If you harbor any of these sentiments, perhaps you are part of the problem. I ask you. If you are too old, then why are you a delegate? If decline is inevitable, then why are you here?

Ladies and gentlemen. This is not the time to quit. This is not the occasion to turn away. This is not the time to despair.

No. This is our time, our turn to stand up and be counted, a time to make history, to build on the past and to pass on our inheritance to our children and grandchildren. Precious little time remains. I know that deep down in your hearts you believe that the Ukrainian National Association is worth fighting for. Don't be afraid. Do the right thing. If you don't, you will always regret it. If you do, generations to come will remember you, thank you and marvel at your perseverance. Don't miss this grand opportunity. It will never, ever come again. Our pioneers are watching. Let's not disappoint them.

Kuropas awarded Fulbright grant

DE KALB, Ill. – Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University, was recently awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach American history at the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine.

His popular column in The Ukrainian Weekly, "Faces and Places," will resume upon his return.

For the past year Dr. Kuropas was chairman of the Chicago UNA

Convention Committee. Many delegates have commented that for them the convention was the best they have ever attended.

Also significant is the fact that Dr. Kuropas' book, "Ukrainian American Citadel: The First Hundred Years of the Ukrainian National Association" has been published in the Ukrainian language by the National University of Ostroh Academy and will be available for purchase this fall.



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OBITUARIES

Sister Gabrielle, teacher, minister to elderly

SLOATSBURG, N.Y. – Sister Gabrielle (Catherine) Oskorip, a member of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate for 64 years, died on April 23.

Sister Gabrielle was born on March 22, 1914, in Olyphant, Pa., to Elias and Mary (Romaniuk), parishioners of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church in Olyphant. This same parish fostered religious vocations to the Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God, the Order of St. Basil the Great, the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate and diocesan as well as order priests.

Growing up in a family with two brothers and three sisters, Eugene, Peter, Ann, Mary and Mildred, Sister Gabrielle attended the local grade school and high school of Olyphant. She pursued a career as an assistant to a dentist before the choosing religious life as her lifetime goal. It was at the age of 24 that a turning point in her life came about.

Desiring to serve God, Catherine chose to enter religious life on March 22, 1938; she was to be the first postulant to enter the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate from the United States. It was only three years earlier that the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate had come to the United States from Canada to minister to the Ukrainian Catholic community. At this point in their history, the sisters were teaching catechism, cleaning and beautifying church sanctuaries, teaching liturgical music and holding evening school in parishes throughout the country. The tiny seed of the congregation was being planted.

Catherine traveled on her 24th birthday to St. Mary's Convent on what was then Brown Street in Philadelphia, joining the sisters as she began her journey to Mundare, Alberta, for her religious formation. This journey was to be the beginning for many young American girls who would follow Sister Gabrielle to the first active religious community for women in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, a community founded in Zhuzel, Ukraine.

Sister Gabrielle received her first vows on September 24, 1940, in Mundare, returning again on August 15, 1947, to Ancaster, Ontario, to pronounce her final vows. Upon completing her novitiate formation, Sister Gabrielle returned to the United States, educating children in Aliquippa, Chester, Keiser, Minersville and



Sister Gabrielle

Shamokin, Pa.; Detroit, Mich., Ansonia, Conn.; Passaic, N.J.; and Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y. She also ministered to the elderly at the Home of Divine Providence in Philadelphia and for the remaining 17 years of her life at St. Joseph's Home in Sloatsburg, N.Y.

In her elder years, Sister Gabrielle carried on a personal ministry of correspondence with friends from various parishes as well as faithful pilgrims who journeyed year after year to Sloatsburg for the Holy Dormition (Assumption) Pilgrimage. As Archangel Gabriel announced the good news to Mary, Mother of God, so too Sister Gabrielle followed the example of her patron in bringing joy and the message of God's love to all whom she corresponded with.

Sister Gabrielle's one remaining sister, Mildred, nieces Mary, Anne and Dianne (with her husband Larry), and nephew Stanley (with his wife Helen) joined Sisters Servants and friends gathered at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg to bid farewell.

Parastas services were celebrated in the Villa chapel by Bishop Basil Losten of Stamford. The following day, April 29, the Rev. Emil Paulshock celebrated the funeral liturgy; burial followed at the community cemetery in Sloatsburg.

Sister M. Benigna, teacher, school administrator

FOX CHASE, Pa. – Early in May the Sisters of St. Basil the Great entrusted into the caring, loving and compassionate hands of the Lord the soul of Sister M. Benigna, OSBM, who died on May 5.

There were quiet words of thanks that the Lord had chosen to free Sister Benigna from the burden of pain that she had borne so patiently for so many years. There were, as well, quiet words of thanks that the Lord had allowed the sisters to know a woman who served as friend, mentor and example. Individually and as a community, the sisters reflected on a life filled with grace, hope and service.

Born on December 21, 1920, Anna Wowchuk was a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Philadelphia. She responded to God's loving call at an early age, entering the convent at 16. She made her final profession at the age of 25 and on August 28, 1945, at a joyful liturgy celebrated by Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky, Anna Wowchuk became Sister Benigna.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University and a master's degree from Villanova University, Sister Benigna was asked to serve the faithful of the four Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchies as a teacher and school administrator. It was a ministry that spanned half a century and touched the lives of countless children in six states.

Always flexible and always willing to go anywhere and do whatever she was asked to do, Sister Benigna humbly and cheerfully moved from one school to another with the equanimity of one who truly knows that God's plan is a good plan.

She never questioned the circuitous path that took her from Philadelphia to the Immaculate Conception School in Hamtramck, Mich.; to St. John's in Newark, N.J.; to St. Nicholas in Watervliet, N.Y.; to Ss. Peter and Paul in Jersey City, N.J.; to St. Basil Academy in Fox Chase, Pa.; to Ss. Peter and Paul in Cleveland; to St. Nicholas in Chicago; to St. John the Baptist in Syracuse, N.Y.; and back to Philadelphia to St. Basil School.

Sister Benigna served on the Renewal Team for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great from 1978 to 1980 and as director of development at Manor College from 1988 to 1994, the year she retired. It was a retirement that was hastened by ill health, and here again Sister Benigna showed the courage and unwavering faith that are given to those who truly believe in God's divine plan. Through 10 years of



Sister M. Benigna

dialysis and excruciating pain, Sister Benigna prayed. She did not rage against her suffering. She did not protest the unfairness of her burden. She never questioned why. Instead she nurtured the little bud of compassion that miraculously blossoms in the desert of pain and continued to give to others, generously and even with a sense of humor.

Those who visited her during her last few weeks in the hospital will recall how Sister Benigna always asked about others. They will also recall the strength and perseverance that enabled the short but agonizing journeys from the health care unit to the chapel. Those whose lives she touched in earlier years will recall the sweet treats that appeared as if magically from the capacious pockets of her habit. They will also recall someone who taught not merely from textbooks, but by example.

Sister Benigna died on May 5, predeceased by her father and mother, Harry Wowchuk and Eva Madjar (Wowchuk); her brother, Nicholas Wowchuk; and her sister, Mary Louise Sharpley. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Dolores McCreery; nieces, Barbara and Ellen; and nephew, Harry.

The Rev. Edward Higgins officiated at the parastas services held Tuesday, May 7. A funeral liturgy was concelebrated by the Revs. Orest Mychailuk and Edward Higgins on May 8, with the sisters' choir singing responses.



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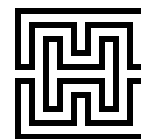
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THE SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY announces a competition for the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Grants (\$5,000 each) for best scholarly monographs on "The Effects of the Pereyaslav Treaty of 1654." Candidates should submit by October 1, 2002, a detailed proposal (1,000 to 1,250 words) and 2 letters of recommendation from recognized specialists in a given field. The winners of the competition shall receive one-half of the grant in November, 2002 and the balance of the award after submitting the completed work (by October 1, 2003).

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Proposals to be submitted to: **The Mykhailo Hrushevsky Competition 2002**, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 63 Fourth Avenue, New York, NY 10003-5200, USA. Tel. (212) 254-5130; fax (212) 254-5239; info@shevchenko.org

Volodymyr Vynnytsky to concertize with famed Zapolski String Quartet

NEW YORK – Volodymyr Vynnytsky will appear in concert with the Zapolski String Quartet of Denmark in a series of concerts beginning Saturday, June 22, at the Ukrainian Institute of America, presenting a program of works by Alexander Zapolski, Shostakovich, Mozart and Fauré.

Subsequent concerts will be held at the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y., on Saturday, June 29, at 8 p.m. as part of the Music and Art Center of Greene County summer concert series, where Mr. Vynnytsky is artist-in-residence, and culminate with a performance at Music Mountain, the oldest continuous Summer Chamber Music Festival in the United States, based in Falls Village, Conn., on Sunday, June 30, at 2:30 p.m.

The program at both venues will feature works by C. Nielsen, Lille Suite for Strigere, Op. 1; Brahms, Quartet No. 2 in A Minor, Op. 51; Beethoven, Quartet in F Minor (Serioso), Op. 95; and Fauré, Piano Quintet in C Minor, Op. 115.

The Zapolski String Quartet – Alexander Zapolski, violin; Jacob Soelberg, violin; Gregory Khodos, viola; and Troels Svane,

cello – since its founding in 1993 by violinist and composer Alexander Zapolski has been recognized as one of Denmark's leading quartets.

The quartet collaborates frequently with the Danish Cultural Institute, and has played in Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Austria and Scandinavia, including the prestigious Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland.

In 1999 the Zapolski String Quartet was appointed ensemble-in-residence at the Royal Library in Copenhagen. In a series of exhibition concerts the ensemble focused on hitherto neglected Danish quartet repertoire, contrasting it to works by more established composers. The collaboration with the Royal Library has also resulted in the founding of the Copenhagen Winter Festival, which invites internationally recognized soloists to Copenhagen for teaching and concerts with the quartet.

The quartet's artistic development is documented through regular national broadcasts by Danish Radio. The Zapolski String Quartet received the Danish Music Critics' Association award in 2000.

TWG Cultural Fund series finale spotlights music for the bandura

by Zdanna Krawciw

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – The last concert of the 2001-2002 music series sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine took place on Sunday, May 19, here at the Lyceum.

The program featured music for bandura solo, bandura and voice, and bandura with piano as performed by bandurist Ola Herasymenko Oliynyk, who also did the vocals, and her husband, composer and pianist Yuriy Oliynyk.

The first part of the program was devoted to music of Ukrainian composers, including four works by Mr. Oliynyk as well as "Elegy" for bandura solo by Oksana Herasymenko, Ola's sister. The last work before the intermission was the second movement of Mr. Oliynyk's Concerto No. 2 for bandura and orchestra, with Mr. Oliynyk performing the part for orchestra on the piano.

As noted in the printed program, Ola Herasymenko Oliynyk is the first professional bandurist to have been featured as a soloist with American symphony orchestras and has recorded three of her husband's concertos for bandura and orchestra.

In addition to several short pieces for bandura solo, two Ukrainian folk songs for bandura and voice, and a piece titled

"Yaroslavna's Lament" (music by Kucherenko to text by Taras Shevchenko), the second part of the program included variations on a theme by Mozart written for the bandura by an unknown 18th century Ukrainian composer, as well as music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Dmytro Bortniansky originally written for the harpsichord and transcribed for the bandura.

Mr. Oliynyk, who introduced the various pieces in the program and made interesting observations about the bandura, pointed out that the sound of the harpsichord is similar to that of the bandura, therefore, transcribing harpsichord music for the bandura is quite natural. The rendition of Bach's "Courante" on the bandura and Bortniansky's Concerto in D Major on bandura with piano accompaniment showed off the technical capabilities of the instrument. It was interesting to hear instrumental music by Bortniansky and to note that it is in no way inferior to his more familiar choral works.

Ms. Herasymenko Oliynyk is quite an accomplished bandurist with agile finger technique. She performed a varied program, but seemed most comfortable in the folk medium. The instrument she used for the recital was a beautiful bandura custom built by her father, Prof. Vasyl Herasymenko.



After a concert of The Washington Group Cultural Fund are: (from left) Laryssa Courtney, Cultural Fund director, bandurist Ola Herasymenko, and Lesia Bihun, Cultural Fund committee member.



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SUMMER PROGRAM 2002

Saturday, June 29	Zabava	Luna 10 PM
Saturday, July 6	Concert Zabava	Cheres 8:30 PM Montage 10 PM
Saturday, July 13	Zabava	Vechirka 10 PM
Saturday, July 20	Zabava	Chemney Day Chornozem 10 PM
Saturday, July 27	Concert Zabava	Dumka 8:30 PM Svitanok 10 PM
Saturday, August 3	Exhibit Concert Zabava	Kozak Family - Paintings Caberet – celebrating the 50th anniversary 8:30 PM Vorony 10 PM
Sunday, August 4		UNWLA Day
Saturday, August 10	Exhibit Concert Zabava Crowning	Dycia Hanushevsky - Ceramics Lvivyany 8:30 PM Tempo 10 PM Miss Soyuzivka 11:45 PM
Saturday, August 17	Recital Zabava	Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Dance Camp Fata Morgana 10 PM
Saturday, August 24		Music in the Trembita Lounge
Friday, August 30	Zabava	Luna – 10 PM
Saturday, August 31	Concert Zabava	Syzokryli 8:30 PM Tempo 10 PM
Sunday, September 1	Zabava	Montage 10 PM

Wednesday evenings, from June 26 to August 28, enjoy the sounds of Hryts & Stepan at Hutsul Night.
Friday evenings, from July 5 to August 16, enjoy the Sounds of Vidlunnia.

U.S. agrees...

(Continued from page 1)

according to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, and ease pressure on Ukraine's budget, while allowing the country to tap more international capital and infrastructure investments. It will also make possible a stronger relationship with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Another initial benefit was immediately realized when U.S. Ambassador Pascual announced after the signing that the U.S. Export-Import Bank would reopen its operations in Ukraine and begin offering loans for small and medium-sized enterprises. The decision, made by the board of directors of the bank on June 6, will take effect on June 20. Mr. Pascual noted that these private sector loans will not be dependent on state guarantees but on the creditworthiness of the project and the borrowers. The structure

and size of the loans has yet to be determined and will depend to an extent on the demand for them.

"The key factor will be demand," said Mr. Pascual. "We are not putting a ceiling on the requirements. We are saying let's see what kind of demand there will be and then decide what the requirements will be."

The ambassador also said that by the end of August the United States would make a decision on granting Ukraine status as a country with a free market economy, which would give it certain trading privileges. He explained that Kyiv had submitted the required documentation, which is now being reviewed. Mr. Pascual underscored that the U.S. recognizes the improvements in Ukraine's economic situation in the last two and a half years, which includes budgetary reforms, the decline of barter operations and the restructuring of the energy sector. The U.S. recognized Russia as a market economy on June 10.

Ukrainian American Veterans remember fallen comrades on "Zeleni Sviata"

by Peter Polnyj

HAMPTONBURGH, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) is a patriotic organization, composed of honorably discharged veterans of the United States armed forces, who are of Ukrainian heritage or descent. This background identifies the UAV as serving a dual function in the public community: It is both an American veterans' organization and an ethnic Ukrainian organization.

Throughout its 55-year history the UAV has been involved in many community affairs revolving around patriotic functions. Its members not only have honorably served in the U.S. armed forces but continue to serve this country

as military advisors and translators for U.S.-Ukraine training missions in Ukraine. Some have served on presidential details, while others have been assigned to work in peacekeeping areas that are needed to help the United States in maintaining peace around the world.

Needless to say, many Ukrainian Americans have given their lives for their adopted country, the United States of America. It follows that, as America honors its heroes on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the Ukrainian American Veterans in the Metropolitan New York area hold their own Ukrainian Memorial Day.

Every second Sunday in June – commonly referred to as "Zeleni Sviata" – at the Holy Spirit Cemetery in

Hamptonburgh, N.Y., the UAV members gather together and visit the graves of their fallen comrades. An American flag is placed at the foot of each grave and the detail of UAV members renders a salute to the deceased. The Ukrainian American Veterans do not forget the fallen heroes who fought for Ukrainian independence and have come to America to educate their sons and daughters in the traditions and history of our homeland.

During the parastas services, the UAV colors are presented along with the colors of organizations such as the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army and the Brody-Lev Brotherhood.

All organizations then proceed to the Monument of Heroes, where a panakhy-

da service is conducted by Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy. At the conclusion of the services, taps are played, while all members of these organizations give a salute to the fallen Ukrainian heroes.

The UAV has participated in this annual event for the past six years and has received many heartfelt thank-yous from visitors to the cemetery when they observe the U.S. flag placed at their loved ones' gravesites. It is reassuring to these family members that deceased Ukrainian American veterans have been remembered by the Ukrainian American Veterans organization.

Peter Polnyj is national adjutant of the Ukrainian American Veterans.

UAV chapter in Florida expands its multi-faceted activity

by Dr. Karen Bapst

NORTH PORT, Fla. – The state of Florida acquired its first, and thus far only, Ukrainian American Veterans post in 1999, officially designated as the Cpl. Roman G. Lazor Post 40 of the UAV. The Florida post requested the designation as No. 40 as a way of honoring its home city of North Port, which celebrated its 40th birthday the same year the post was organized. The post's patron is one of its original members, Mr. Lazor, a highly decorated Army veteran of the Korean War who passed away on May 18, 2001, and who was given a military funeral by the post.

Post 40 owes its existence to the initiative of Atanas Kobryn. A past national commander of the UAV, Mr. Kobryn is a prominent activist in the North Port community, where he has recently served as president of the Friends of the North Port Area Library, president of the local chapter of Kiwanis, and public relations officer of the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida. Mr. Kobryn also writes a weekly column on Ukrainian matters which has appeared in the North Port Sun Herald since 1996, and in December 2001 was named North Port's Citizen of the Year. The first commander of UAV Post 40, Mr. Kobryn currently serves as its judge advocate.

Mr. Kobryn was succeeded as post commander in October 2000 by Jerry (Jaroslaw) Zynycz, an Air Force veteran who has continued to put the post on a more solid organizational foundation and



Some of the members of UAV Post 40 during a recent ceremony in memory of veterans.

under whose leadership the membership has grown to more than 30.

Since its inception, the post has regularly joined other local veterans' organizations in observing Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, when post members also place flags on the graves of veterans and participate in memorial services at local Ukrainian churches. The post joins the Ukrainian American Club each December for an annual holiday party; and on November 10, 2001, the post held its first annual Veterans' Day dinner-

dance, at which UAV National Adjutant Peter Polny presided over the installation of new officers and presented the post with its charter.

The Florida post has already made an impact on the UAV, which found it necessary to amend its National Constitution and By-Laws at the 2001 convention to provide for a "hot weather uniform."

Most recently Post 40 donated \$100 to The Ukrainian Weekly's "Copies for Congress" program, which provides free subscriptions to members of the U.S.

Congress. The post also issued a challenge to other UAV posts to do the same.

Honorably discharged veterans from all branches of the United States armed forces who are either of Ukrainian descent or married to someone of Ukrainian descent are eligible to join the UAV. For more information about UAV Post 40 contact: Jerry Zynycz, Commander; 598 Aston Woods Court, Venice, FL 34293-4194; telephone, (941)492-4860; e-mail, ojzin@prodigy.net.

Verkhovna Rada reaches...

(Continued from page 1)

(United) to cave. In the end the Parliamentary Four took 20 of the 25 committee chairs, while giving United Ukraine but five chairs along with 16 vice-chairs.

Mr. Yushchenko was successful in gathering support for an agreement on parliamentary cooperation, which was a primary part of the negotiations that took place between the two sides. The document sets out legislative goals that the Verkhovna Rada should pursue in its work, including many aspects of the reform program he jump-started as prime minister. It has received general acceptance from both sides, with only some minor observations from the Social Democrats (United). However, it has yet to reach the Parliament floor for a vote.

Our Ukraine had also wanted the post of prime minister thrown in as part of the negotiations, which Mr. Yushchenko explained was necessary to properly align all aspects of political power within

the country. One of the goals of many members of the Our Ukraine faction is to see Mr. Yushchenko return to that position to continue the reforms he undertook during a 16-month stint that ended just over a year ago after the Parliament passed a no-confidence vote on his work as head of government. In the end that issue was left outside the discussions.

The protracted negotiations and the initial refusal of the two pro-presidential factions to give in on committee leadership posts even after winning outright the three presidium seats caused problems within the United Ukraine faction. Some leading figures in the caucus began to grumble after several days of negotiations led only to more stalemate that Volodymyr Lytvyn – the new Verkhovna Rada chairman and the leader of United Ukraine before he resigned after his election – was acting unethically in not speeding up the process and forcing the national deputies to find a compromise.

National Deputy Stepan Havrysh, a member of the United Ukraine faction who was elected as an independent in

district voting, said that Mr. Lytvyn was ignoring the demands of others like himself.

"Those who supported Mr. Lytvyn are overwhelmingly from majoritarian districts," explained Mr. Havrysh. "For us party interests are less important than to get working on our most important responsibility, passing legislation."

Mr. Havrysh's chosen faction did not have long to live, because within days party interests caused its break-up. Beginning on June 11 – only four days after parliamentary leadership positions were finally settled – the first of the five major parties that comprise the United Ukraine bloc announced it was pulling

out to form its own faction. National Deputy Mykhailo Hladii said that his Agrarian Party of Ukraine would register as a faction within a week with 23 or 24 lawmakers.

The same day Serhii Tyhytko told reporters that his Labor Ukraine, the largest and perhaps most influential party in United Ukraine, would form a separate faction as well. He said he expected that some 40 lawmakers would join him.

Finally, Mr. Havrysh said he also would split from United Ukraine to form a Democratic Initiative faction. He said 15 lawmakers thus far had expressed an interest in joining, including Ivan Pliusch, the former Rada chairman.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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Shevchenko Society lectures focus on Ukraine today

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – A capacity audience was treated to an unexpected double feature at the home of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) in New York on April 27, when in addition to the previously announced talk by Dr. Oleh Romaniv of Lviv the group was also able to enjoy a presentation by Dr. Natalia Yakovenko of Kyiv. Both lectures clarified different aspects of the ongoing process of building a Ukrainian national state.

The program was opened by the president of NTSh, Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, and emceed by Dr. Anna Procyk, a vice-president of NTSh, who organized the event.

First to speak was Dr. Yakovenko, a professor of history at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and presently a visiting scholar at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI). She painted a sharp contrast between the status of historiography in Ukraine before and after independence. Under the Soviet regime, said Dr. Yakovenko, Ukrainian historians fell hopelessly behind their Western colleagues as professionals for three main reasons: they were largely cut off from Western scholarly literature; important positions in the profession were often filled on the basis of party loyalty rather than merit; and scholarly research in the humanities was pretty much restricted to the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, while absent at the universities.

The last shortcoming served to divorce historical scholarship from education, which was controlled by Moscow, where all the graduate degrees were awarded. Finally, the interpretation of history in Soviet Ukraine was dictated by Communist ideology and guided by Russocentrism.

Following the declaration of independence in 1991, Ukrainian historians easily and quickly got rid of both the myths of Soviet scholarship and the Russocentric orientation. Instead they have been engaged in a free discussion on how best to write and teach history. Dr. Yakovenko said she sees two distinct genres in historiography, which require different emphases: school textbooks, which should educate students in Ukrainian national history, and scholarly works, which must deal with the anthropological, sociological and political aspects of history.

The professional level of Ukrainian historians has improved dramatically since independence, according to Dr. Yakovenko, as Western scholarly literature has become easily available – much of it in translation. Furthermore, the doors have been opened to Ukrainians for post-graduate studies abroad, aided by a variety of scholarships. Most popular with Ukrainian students have been the master's program at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, as well as institutions of higher learning in Poland, in particular the European University in Lublin, where doctoral studies can be pursued under joint Ukrainian-Polish mentorship. In Europe many of the scholarships are provided by the Soros Foundation. In North America they are funded by the HURI and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

In Ukraine, an exciting new program has developed, designed to demonopolize historical research. Called a "mega-project," it enables provincial universities to establish specialized research centers in collaboration with foreign universities. Funded by the Soros Foundation, the participating Ukrainian universities, which are chosen on the basis of competition, can pursue research projects without the usual administrative and budgetary restrictions imposed by Kyiv. "We view the future with measured optimism," concluded the



Dr. Natalia Yakovenko of Kyiv and Dr. Oleh Romaniv of Lviv prior to their lectures at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York.

professor from Kyiv.

Dr. Romaniv, a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the president of NTSh in Ukraine and secretary general of the society's World Council, spoke on the situation in Ukraine in light of the recent parliamentary elections. Much of the factual material which he related was already known to those who have followed the detailed and in-depth coverage of the elections on the pages of *The Ukrainian*

Weekly. Nevertheless, there is something to be said for the corroborating stories and insights of an eyewitness, spiced up with anecdotal tidbits.

Dr. Romaniv is an ardent supporter of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc and was one of the 126 scholars who signed a published declaration in support of it. He confirmed reports that in the pre-election campaign, the formidable forces of President Kuchma's administration did

everything in their power to impede Mr. Yushchenko's bloc and to promote the pro-presidential For a United Ukraine bloc.

Although European observers did monitor the elections, they were mostly deployed in major cities, said Dr. Romaniv, while provincial and rural areas were left exposed to voting irregularities and outright fraud. He mentioned some examples of rather creative vote-rigging: in some places non-residents would be bussed in to vote, after which they would be paid and feted; there were cases where voters were handed pre-marked ballots; votes were tallied for so-called "dead souls" – people who were either deceased or away from home on jobs abroad.

Dr. Romaniv said he believes that in a fair election the Our Ukraine bloc would have garnered up to 35 percent of the by-party vote, rather than the 23.6 percent that it did win. He summarized the present status and the imperatives of today's Ukraine as follows: the fundamental problem afflicting Ukraine is that it is governed by people with a Russian orientation. What we need is a Ukrainian majority in the Parliament and a government composed of patriotic Ukrainians, including people competent in economics. The speaker expressed the hope that Mr. Yushchenko would become the unifier of patriotic forces in Ukraine, thus bringing about the salutary changes.

International conference on Ukraine held in Switzerland

by Anne Cordey

FRIBOURG, Switzerland – An international conference titled "Ukraine: Challenges of a Country in Transformation" was held on April 19-20, at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

The organizers of the conference were: the Interfaculty Institute of East and Central Europe, Nicolas Hayoz, director; the Institute for Ecumenical Studies, Father Guido Vergauwen, director; and the Ukrainian Society of Switzerland, Andrej N. Lushnycky, president.

This was the second such symposium devoted exclusively to Ukrainian subjects. The first, in November 2001, was composed of many distinguished international guests, among them the former president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, and was dedicated to the celebration of 10 years of Ukrainian independence.

This year's conference featured 16 speakers from nine countries and was held in the context of the annual "European Days" at the University, a celebration of the establishment of the Council of Europe. The conference was divided into six sessions and a roundtable discussion dealing with the following topics:

- Political Changes – chaired by Prof. Hayoz and featuring Taras Kuzio's (University of Toronto) presentation "Between Totalitarianism and Democracy: Assessing Regime Type in Ukraine" and the discussant Rainer Lindner of the University of Constance;

- Media – chaired by A. N. Lushnycky centering on Marta Dyczok's (University of Western Ontario) paper "Does Ukraine have an Independent Media?" with Volodymyr Zabihajlo (Kyiv University) serving as discussant;

- Security – chaired by Jean-Francois Emmenegger, dealing with Bohdan Hawrylyshyn's (Center for Policy Studies, Kyiv) paper "Ukrainian National Security: Issues and Prospects" with Volodymyr Khangogiy, Ukraine's ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and

Anne Cordey is a freelance journalist.



Conference participants (from left) Profs. Hans Wolfgang Brachinger, Taras Kuzio, Nicolas Hayoz and Rainer Linder looking at the recent election results as depicted on a map of Ukraine.

NATO, serving as discussant;

- Economic Cooperation – featured Michel EvÈquoz of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Rudolph A. Müller of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, who discussed Ukraine-Swiss relations in the areas of finance and economics;

- Church and Religion – chaired by Barbara Hallensleben, featuring specialists Msgr. Ivan Dacko (responsible for foreign relations for the Ukrainian Catholic Church), Nikolaus Wyrwoll (Institute of Eastern Churches, Regensburg, Germany), Alexei Krindatch (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), Dietmar Schon (University of Augsburg, Germany);

- Literature and Culture – chaired by Rolf Fieguth, featuring Leonid Rudnytsky's (Ukrainian Free University, Munich) paper, "Quintessential Features of Ukrainian Literature," and Mykola Zhulynsky's (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) paper, "National Cultures and the Problems of Globalization."

While diverse problems and issues

were dealt with, much attention focused on the results of the Ukrainian parliamentary elections in Ukraine and their implications for the country's immediate future.

At the conclusion of the first day's program, Vincas Laurutis, rector of the University of Siauliai, Lithuania, was awarded the prestigious Swiss Baltic Net Prize. In the evening of that same day, the guests were entertained by the Zaspiv Bandurist Ensemble, from the Lviv Polytechnic University.

Over 100 people participated in the conference, among them such prominent personalities such as Ukraine's Ambassador to Switzerland Evhen Bersheda and Hans Wolfgang Brachinger, vice-rector of the University of Fribourg.

With regard to the unprecedented success of the two-day affair, Dr. Lushnycky said, "we can expect that the University of Fribourg is going to actively pursue its contacts with Ukraine and develop specific courses or programs dealing with Ukrainian subjects."

UNWLA holds its 26th Convention in Sarasota, re-elects Kurowyckyj president

by Tamara Stadnychenko

SARASOTA, Fla. — The 26th Convention of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), the first in the new millennium, was held from Friday, May 24, through Monday, May 27, at the Hyatt Hotel in sunny Sarasota, Fla.

As delegates arrived and registered, each was presented with a handsome canvas tote bag embossed with the UNWLA logo and a stylized scene representing Sarasota's sun, surf, flora and fauna. In their "goody bags," delegates found a copy of the convention book, a directory of Ukrainian organizations in Florida, information about the convention agenda, a pocket calendar, a "Vatra" tape cassette and a guidebook to Sarasota.

At a pre-convention meeting of the UNWLA national board held on Friday afternoon, President Iryna Kurowyckyj and other board members discussed the challenges and achievements of the three years leading up to the convention. The president thanked board members for their cooperation and assistance; as a gesture of their affection and appreciation, board members presented the president with a stunning cluster of orchids and an elegant brooch.

A pre-convention seminar on "Various Aspects of U.S.-Ukrainian Relations" followed. Chaired by UNWLA Vice-President Motria Voyevodka-Slonievsky, the seminar featured two distinguished speakers, both intimately involved in efforts to promote and enhance understanding and cooperation between Ukraine and the United States. David Kramer, senior policy advisor to the U.S. undersecretary of State, spoke about changes in world politics that might soon lead to Ukraine's entry into NATO. He also addressed the legal complexities that make it difficult for law enforcement officials to deal effectively with criminal elements trafficking in women. Dr. Yaroslav Voitko, chief of the Trade and Economic Mission of the Embassy of Ukraine, spoke about the economic challenges facing Ukraine in the new millennium. He concluded his segment of the presentation by presenting an overview of the steps that Ukraine would need to take to ensure economic stability.

A wine and cheese reception followed the presentations.

At the suggesting of the convention committee, delegates and guests gathered for Saturday morning's breakfast attired in beautifully embroidered blouses, dresses and suits representing all regions of Ukraine.

After breakfast, the convention was formally opened with a ceremonial procession of the UNWLA executive board, national board, and regional councils into



The opening ceremonies at the 26th Convention of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

the meeting hall. To celebrate the unity and the diversity of the UNWLA, candles on a stately wooden candelabra were lit by President Kurowyckyj, Honorary President Anna Krawczuk and each regional council president. Two special guests — Oksana Sokolyk, president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, and Svitlana Kocherha, representing Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine — were invited to light the remaining candles.

Vice-President Maria Tomorug then led those assembled in prayer and in singing the American national anthem, the Ukrainian national anthem and the UNWLA hymn. Convention Committee Chair Tetiana Silecky officially greeted guests and delegates, and requested that a moment of silence be observed to honor the victims of September 11. In a touching moment, a large American flag was carried into the hall and everyone began to sing the hauntingly beautiful "God Bless America."

Following the opening ceremonies, President Kurowyckyj reviewed the convention agenda, which was then formally approved by the delegates. Vice-President Tomorug presented a checklist spelling out the rights and responsibilities of delegates during deliberations and during voting. President Kurowyckyj then invited Honorary President Krawczuk, WFUWO President Sokolyk, Ms. Kocherha, Prof. Valentyna Borysenko, and Honorary UNWLA Members Mary Beck, Lidia Krushelnycky, and Irene Kashubynska to join her at the presidium table.

An acting presidium for the convention, chaired by Marta Danyluk, was appointed. The two alternate chairs were Nionilia Lechman and Iwanna Martynetz; Prof. Vira Bodnaruk, Ulana Sos and Iwanna Holowata were appointed as convention secretaries.

Mrs. Danyluk initiated the formal business of the morning session by calling for the report of the Resolutions Committee. A moment of silence in honor of Honorary President Iwanna Rozankowskyi and other UNWLA members who had recently passed away was observed.

Mrs. Danyluk then called for the report of President Kurowyckyj, who reiterated her vision for the future of the UNWLA and highlighted UNWLA achievements during her three year tenure as president, thanking all of those who had assisted her in carrying out her responsibilities. Among the personal highlights of her tenure as president, Ms. Kurowyckyj cited the numerous happy events that marked the UNWLA's 75th anniversary celebration year, the success of

the Milk and Roll program for schoolchildren in Ukraine, the creation of new UNWLA branches and the influx of young women into the organization.

A financial report was presented by

Treasurer Nadia Cwiach, who noted that a particular area of concern was the Our Life Press Fund. The reports of all members of the national board had been sent to dele-

(Continued on page 16)

FOR THE RECORD: UWC's statement on Akcja Wisla

Following is the text of a declaration issued by the Ukrainian World Congress on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of Akcja Wisla in Poland.

In 1947 the government of Poland forcibly deported over 140,000 Ukrainian men, women, children and the elderly, from the indigenous Ukrainian territories of eastern and southeastern Poland. Code-named the "Operation Vistula" (Akcja Wisla), the deportation was carried out without warning or consent of the victims, often in a brutal fashion, by Polish army and security units. The deportations were carried out without regard for the rights of the deported population as citizens of Poland, whose Constitution guaranteed their right of property and choice of place of residence. Many Ukrainians, particularly leading members of the community, priests of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic and Orthodox Churches, and even women and children, were imprisoned in the Jaworzno concentration camp (formerly a Nazi concentration camp of the Auschwitz complex). Many died there as a result of intolerable conditions and ill treatment.

According to Polish government documents from the period, the purpose of this ethnic cleansing was "to solve the Ukrainian problem once and for all." The intent was to destroy the indigenous Ukrainian community in Poland by dispersing it throughout the newly acquired northern and western territories of Poland, resulting in its total assimilation. Ukrainians in Poland lost not only their individual property, their land and buildings, but also their communal property, including schools and churches. Ukrainians also lost all practical means for normal social and cultural development and political representation in the Polish Sejm (Parliament).

The Ukrainian community was deeply traumatized by this forcible deportation and dispersal within the generally hostile Polish population. Nevertheless, over the

years, it appealed many times to the government of Poland for redress. All appeals were ignored. With the emergence of newly democratic Poland, Ukrainians hoped that the new Polish society, its Sejm and government would finally begin to rectify the injustice of Akcja Wisla by returning confiscated property, compensating the victims and their descendants for their losses and suffering, and enabling the Ukrainian community's political representation in the Polish Parliament and government. Sadly, despite expressions of regret by Poland's President Kwasniewski, the government of democratic Poland has thus far done very little for its Ukrainian citizens.

Nevertheless, the victims of Akcja Wisla and their descendants, and indeed Ukrainians throughout the world, have not lost hope that Polish society and its influential Roman Catholic Church, will impress upon the Polish Sejm and the government of Poland the need to condemn Akcja Wisla, redress the injustices, and prosecute those responsible for perpetrating this atrocity. This would, finally, bring the "Ukrainian problem" in Poland to a just conclusion.

There is a large body of documentation, including scholarly publications, monographs, books and memoirs, which detail the events of the Akcja Wisla. See, for example, the collection of Polish government documents, Akcja Wisla, compiled by E. Misilo (Archiwum Ukrainske, Warsaw, 1993, in Polish; also in Ukrainian translation, published by the Naukove Товариство ім. Шевченка, Lviv, 1997). The fate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Poland is documented in "Martyrology of the Ukrainian Churches," Vol. II The Ukrainian Catholic Church, O. Zinkevych and T. R. Lonchyna, Eds. (Smoloskyp Publishers, Toronto 1985; in Ukrainian) and "Church in Ruin" by O. Iwanusiw (Shevchenko Scientific Society, Ukrainian Studies, Vol. 56, 1987; Ukrainian and English).



Iryna Kurowyckyj, newly re-elected president of the UNWLA.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

of state assets and paying bribes to former
Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko while she
was head of Unified Energy Systems of
Ukraine. A Kyiv court dismissed the
charges against Ms. Tymoshenko on April
30. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turkey arrests former UES executives

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the
eponymous opposition bloc in the Ukraine
Parliament, asked Turkish authorities on
June 3 to grant political asylum to four
former executives in the Ukrainian power
monopoly Unified Energy Systems of
Ukraine (UES), including her father-in-law
Hennadii Tymoshenko, ITAR-TASS report-
ed the same day. Turkish police detained
UES General Director Hennadii
Tymoshenko, along with Chief Executive
Officer Yevhen Shaho, former Chief
Financial Officer Lydia Sokolchenko and
current Chief Financial Officer Antonia
Paliura in the Turkish resort of Antalya late
last week. The four were on an Interpol list
of wanted criminals in connection with a
case in the United States against former
Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko.
Ukrainian Deputy Procurator General
Mykola Obikhod said in January that a dis-
trict court in Kyiv had issued a warrant for
the arrest of the four in connection with the
concealment of \$181.54 million of the
company's hard-currency earnings in 1996
and 1997, as well as for large-scale misap-
propriation of government funds from 1997
through 1999. The four have also been
accused of forging documents and of sell-
ing contraband natural gas with a value of
\$2.25 billion. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv wants former UES execs

KYIV – Ukraine is seeking to extradite
four former executives of Unified Energy
Systems of Ukraine (UES) who were
arrested in the Turkish resort town of
Antalya last week, Reuters reported on
June 4. The four – Hennadii Tymoshenko,
the former general director of the compa-
ny and father-in-law of Ukrainian opposi-
tion politician Yulia Tymoshenko; former
Chief Executive Officer Yevhen Shaho;
and two former financial officers, Lydia
Sokolchenko and Antonia Paliura – are
accused by Ukrainian prosecutors of hid-
ing hard-currency profits and stealing
state assets. Yulia Tymoshenko said on
June 3 that the extradition efforts are a
politically motivated attack against her
opposition activities. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko denies asylum request

KYIV – Ukrainian opposition politician
Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the epony-
mous parliamentary faction, said on June 5
that the former Unified Energy Systems of
Ukraine (UES) executives recently arrested
in Turkey asked for political asylum of
their own accord, adding that she does not
know how their case is progressing as she
has not had regular contact with them,
Interfax reported. Ms. Tymoshenko added
that media reports that she has been seek-
ing political asylum for the four former
executives, including her father-in-law,
Hennadii Tymoshenko, cannot be true
since no one has the right to request asy-
lum for someone else. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turkmenistan, Ukraine agree on debt

KYIV – Agreement has been reached on
a schedule for repayment of Ukraine's \$46
million debt to Turkmenistan for supplies
of natural gas received in 2002, Naftohaz
Ukrainy President Yurii Boiko told journal-
ists in Kyiv on June 8, according to ITAR-
TASS. A protocol has also been signed on
the repayment schedule for an outstanding
\$65 million debt for Turkmen gas supplied
in 1999. (RFE/RL Newsline)

SPORTSLINE

Ice Hockey

• The Ukrainian men's team took ninth place at the 2002 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championships in Sweden behind World Champion Slovakia, silver medalist Russia and bronze medalist Sweden. Ukraine upended Poland 3-0 on April 30 and Austria in its last game 3-2 on May 6. Ukraine's three losses came against teams ranked among the top four in the world.

Ukraine dropped its first game of the tournament to fourth-ranked Finland 3-0 on April 27. Two days later Ukraine nearly missed tying the eventual gold medalists when Slovakia scored with only 3:10 remaining in the game to pull out a 5-4 victory. Before being handily beaten 7-0 by No. 3 ranked Sweden on May 4, Ukraine played silver medalist Russia to a 3-3 tie a day earlier. Ukraine finished the 16-team tournament on May 11 with a 2-3-1 overall record.

• Tammy Lee Shewchuk, a member of the 2002 Canadian women's Olympic gold medal ice hockey team, met with over 150 students of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Ukrainian Saturday School in Montreal on April 6. According to the newspaper Ukrainian News, Ms. Shewchuk "explained to her audience how her grandparents played an important role in her upbringing and [in] teaching her to speak Ukrainian ... and talked about how proud she was of her Ukrainian heritage."

The newspaper added that "Tammy Lee was extremely happy about her encounter with the young Ukrainian schoolchildren and took time to meet with the young audience individually and to pose for photographs with her gold medal."

"My grandparents had such a great influence upon me when I was growing up," the Ukrainian News quoted the 24-year-old Shewchuk as saying. "We spoke Ukrainian at home and we used to go to [St. Sophia's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Montreal] every weekend."

Boxing

• Volodymyr Klychko defeated South African Frans Botha in the eighth round of their March 16 bout with a technical knockout in front of over 10,000 fans at the Hann-Martin-Schleyer-Halle in Stuttgart, Germany. The win marked Klychko's third successful defense of the World Boxing Organization (WBO) heavyweight title and improved the 26-year-old Ukrainian's record to 38-1 with 35 knockouts. Klychko's next title defense comes on June 29 in Atlantic City, N.J., against 10th ranked WBO contender Ray Mercer. Experts believe a win against Mercer should set the stage for a possible bout with current World Boxing Council (WBC) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion Lennox Lewis. Lewis is coming off of a successful June 8 title defense over Mike Tyson. The potential of a Lewis-Klychko bout would leave the winner with the three major boxing belts: WBO, IBF and WBC.

As photographers were taking pictures of Mercer and Klychko at a press conference on June 1 at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, the fighters were asked to look each other in the eyes. The second time Mercer was asked he replied: "... why don't you go up here and look him [pointing at Volodymyr] in the eyes ... and I'll stand back there and take as many pictures as you want with your camera, from a safe distance," Mercer said according to a fan at the press con-

ference.

Brother Vitalii Klychko (32-1, 30 knockouts), the World Boxing Association (WBA) international champion, is currently the No. 2 ranked WBO heavyweight behind his brother, Volodymyr, and No. 1 ranked WBO contender Jameel Ben McCline of the United States. Vitalii is scheduled to defend his WBA title against 35-year-old Larry Donald (39-2-2, 23 knockouts) on July 20 in Dortmund, Germany.

Chess

• International Chess Federation FIDE champion Ruslan Ponomarev of Ukraine took second place at the Linares 2002 chess tournament behind Grand Master Garry Kasparov. Countryman Vasyl Ivanchuk came in last place among the seven invited competitors at the tournament that concluded on March 10.

• Ponomarev lost in the first round of the FIDE Grand Prix event in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, to women's world champion Zhu Chen of China on April 4, according to The Associated Press. Ivanchuk suffered an upset defeat at the hands of 15-year-old Teimour Radjabov of Azerbaijan in the second round of the same tournament.

• The New York Times later reported that Ivanchuk beat longtime chess wizard Garry Kasparov at the Eurotel Trophy Knockout Tournament in Prague on May 25. "It was not a fluke," The Times reported. "[Ivanchuk] presented a stone wall to Kasparov ... and when he got his chance in the final game, he came through with flying colors."

Diving

• Ukraine won three medals at a Federation Internationale de Natiation (FINA) Grand Prix diving competition held in Rostock, Germany, on March 1-2. Hanna Sorokina won the silver medal in the women's 3-meter springboard with 301.53 points while Ditte Kotzian of Germany won the gold with a score of 308.01 and Jane Smith of Great Britain took the bronze with 295.47.

Sorokina's teammate Olena Zhupina was fifth with 291.84 points. Zhupina won a bronze medal in the women's 10-meter platform with 325.38 points. Na Li of China won the gold with 342.33, and Emilie Heymans of Canada took the silver with 330.84.

Roman Volodkov and Anton Zakharov won silver in the men's 10-meter synchronized event, finishing behind gold medalists Peter Waterfield and Leon Taylor of Great Britain, but ahead of Jan Hempel and Heiko Meyer of Germany, who took the bronze.

Swimming

• Yana Klochkova and Oleh Lysohor took five of Ukraine's seven total medals at the 6th FINA World Swimming Championships held in Moscow on April 3-7. Klochkova took the 400-meter freestyle and 200- and 400-meter individual medleys, while Lysohor took two gold medals and set championship records in the 50- and 100-meter backstroke events.

Klochkova's 4:30.63 in the 400-meter individual medley beat Slovenian silver medalist Alenka Kejzar and bronze medalist Georgina Bardach of Argentina, who finished with times of 4:35.44 and 4:36.36, respectively. Klochkova then went on to beat China's Hua Chen and American Rachel Komisarz in the 400-meter freestyle with a time of 4:01.26, while Chen finished in 4:03.01 and Komisarz in 4:06.30. In the 200-meter

individual medley, Klochkova's time of 2:08.82 gave the 19-year-old her third gold medal. She finished ahead of America's Gabrielle Rose, who finished in 2:09.77, and Russia's Oxana Verevka, who finished with a time of 2:11.25.

Lysohor started his first day of competition with a gold medal in the 100-meter breaststroke by beating Japan's silver medalist Kosuke Kitajima and Finland's bronze medalist Jarno Pihlava. Lysohor clocked a championship record time of 58.33, while Kitajima and Pihlava swam the 100-meter event in 59.10 and 59.22, respectively. Lysohor took his second gold medal of the competition in the 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 26.86 by beating Brazilian Eduardo Fischer and Remo Luetolf of Switzerland who finished in 27.23 and 27.44, respectively.

In the women's 200-meter backstroke Ukraine's Iryna Amshennikova won her first ever world championship medal by taking the bronze behind American gold medalist Lindsay Benko and silver medalist Reiko Nakamura of Japan. The 16-year-old Ukrainian swam the 200 meters in 2:07.71, Nakamura in 2:07.30. Benko's time of 2:04.97 was good enough for a new championship record.

Ukraine rounded out its medal count in the men's 50-meter freestyle when Oleksander Volynets tied Russia's Alexander Popov for the bronze medal with a time of 21.55. Jose Martin Meolans of Argentina took the gold in 21.36, and Great Britain's Mark Foster took the silver with a time of 21.44.

Drag racing

• Self-described Ukrainian Mark "Cowboy" Pawuk made his National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) drag racing debut in 1987 as a pro stock driver. Since that time he's posted 11 career top-10 points finishes on the professional circuit and won the 2001 AC Delco Nationals. The 45-year-old native of Bath, Ohio, and his wife, Bonnie, have two children, Cassandra and Kyle. "Cowboy" has six career pro stock wins with a fastest quarter-mile speed of just over 200 mph.

Track and field

• Zhanna Pintusevich-Block became the first female track and field athlete to be awarded Ukraine's Sports Person of the Year award. According to Pintusevich-Block's sports management agency, FSM, the Ukrainian, who turned 30 on June 7, was honored because of her win in the 100-meter sprint at the Track and Field World Championships in Edmonton, where she ran the world's fastest time for 2001 and defeated

American Marion Jones twice in one day. • Ukraine's Vita Pavlysh won the gold medal in women's shot put at the 27th European Indoor Athletics Championships by throwing a distance of 19.76 meters in Vienna on March 2. She beat Italian silver medalist Assunta Legnante, who threw 18.60 meters and bronze medalist Lieja Koeman of the Netherlands, who threw 18.53 meters.

• Ukraine's Anatolii Dovhal took the bronze medal in the men's 60-meter sprint with a time of 6.62 seconds while British teammates Jason Gardener and Mark Lewis-Francis took the gold and silver medals with times of 6.49 and 6.55, respectively.

Marathon

• Tatyana Pozdnyakova was the second woman across the line at the Los Angeles Marathon on March 5, finishing in 2:30:26. The 46-year-old Ukrainian was followed by Anna Pichrtova of the Czech Republic who took third place with a time of 2:33:25. Russia's Lyubov Denisova won the women's division with a personal best time of 2:28:49.

Gymnastics

• Ukraine's Olena Kvasha won the floor exercise at the senior women's European Championships in Patras, Greece, on April 21, topping Russia's Natalia Ziganshina. Kvasha took third place in the all-around competition, while teammates Iryna Yarotskaya and Tatiana Yarosh placed eighth in uneven bars and floor exercise, respectively.

In the women's junior competition Ukraine took two golds with Mirabella Akhunu and Alina Kozich winning the floor exercise and uneven bars, respectively.

Soccer

• Dynamo Kyiv Vice-President Ihor Surkis announced on May 22 that Oleksii Mykhailychenko will serve as acting head coach of the club soccer team following the May 13 death of head coach Valerii Lobanovskiy, the team's official website reported. The 39-year-old Mykhailychenko was Lobanovskiy's assistant. Surkis added that Mykhailychenko will lead Dynamo Kyiv until the present season ends, at which point club management will decide whether to extend his contract or find another coach.

• Ukrainian national team and AC Milan forward Andriy Shevchenko was pictured in a New York Times fashion

(Continued on page 23)

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UNWLA holds...

(Continued from page 13)

gates for review prior to the convention, and delegates were invited to ask questions on any matters that needed further clarification. Most questions from the delegates focused on financial matters and membership issues.

Following the discussion, President Kurowycyk requested that everyone take a moment to view a magnificent quilt that had been created by members of Branch 118 from Houston. In many ways the quilt is a symbol of the UNWLA's diversity — a composite of individually embroidered pieces that have been stitched together to produce a whole. The end result reflects the individual tastes of those who created it, but also reflects what is possible when a united group of women work together. Each branch member had embroidered a section of the quilt with traditional designs representing various regions of Ukraine. The quilt, which had been a featured display in the Governor's Mansion in the State of Texas had been brought to the convention by Branch President Martha Noukas. Branch members had also compiled an album, which included information about each member as well as information about the design each member had contributed to the quilt.

Because the morning session ended ahead of schedule, Vice-President Sophia Hewryk moved that the free hour before the scheduled luncheon be used by delegates to discuss issues of concern not related to the reports already discussed. The delegates agreed to this suggestion, and several spirited discussions ensued. Of particular note was a proposal from Julia Kokorudz, president of UNWLA Branch 29 of Chicago, who suggested that the UNWLA consider starting a foster parent program in Ukraine.

A delicious luncheon was enhanced by the decision of the convention committee to have guests and delegates pick their table numbers from a box, ensuring an interesting mix of ages and regions at every table. Everyone enjoyed the meal and a fashion show featuring antique Ukrainian cutwork and embroidery in contemporary fashion, designed and created by Irena Radzykewycz.

The afternoon work sessions began with a report from Vice-President Hewryk on branch reports submitted to UNWLA headquarters and on donations collected by branches for The Ukrainian Museum, for social welfare programs, and for the Scholarship Fund.

Next on the agenda was a report on a special UNWLA literary project, a book based on 16 boxes of letters written by Lesia Ukrainka to family and friends. Hidden for 50 years, the letters were recently found in a library in Prague. Dr. Joanna Ratych, who learned of their existence from library workers, reviewed the materials and proposed to the UNWLA executive board that they be compiled in an annotated scholarly work. The idea was approved and Dr. Ratych donated \$10,000 toward the project.

A committee was formed to find a suitable scholar who would undertake writing the book and complete it as quickly as possible. In due time, the materials were entrusted to the capable hands of Ms. Kocherha, who worked tirelessly to accomplish this monumental task. The book, "Lysty Tak Dovho Idut," was recently published — copies available for purchase at the convention were sold out almost immediately. Everyone listened in rapt attention as Ms. Kocherha described her joy at being chosen to write a book on a personage with whom she was already intimately acquainted.

As curator of the Lesia Ukrainka

(Continued on page 17)

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UNWLA holds...

(Continued from page 16)

Museum in Yalta, Ms. Kocherha commented that her work was filled with enchanting thoughts of the poetess who spent 1,000 days and nights in this Crimean city. "When the request came to work on the letters and create a book," she said, "I thought I was dreaming. But in every letter, I felt a heartbeat – the pulse of the author. It unfolded before me and it will remain with me forever."

Next on the program was the conferring of the title honorary member on the following UNWLA members in recognition of long and exemplary service to the organization: Lesia Goy, Lidia Magun, Nadia Sawczuk, Lidia Hladkyj, Iwanna Szkarupa and Teodosia Kushnir. The title honorary member was also bestowed upon WFUWO President Sokolyk "for her visible and multi-faceted work on behalf of Ukrainian women everywhere."

Elections for the next three-year term followed. Mrs. Kurowyckyj was elected to a second term as president. She will be assisted in her work by four vice-presidents, Ms. Tomorrow, Ms. Hewryk, Oxana Farion and Ms. Voyevodka-Slonievsky. The new administration of the UNWLA also includes the following: Recording Secretary Marta Danyluk, Correspondence Secretaries Iwanna Hankevych (Ukrainian) and Christina Yarema (English), Financial Secretary Cwiah, Treasurer Melanie Hrybovych, Press Chair Kateryna Nemyra, Members at Large Martha Bohachevsky Chomiak and Iryna Stecki, Scholarship Fund Chair Maria Polanska, Social Welfare Chair Barbara Bachynsky, Education Chair Kateryna Iwasyszyn, Archives Chair Olha Trytyak, Culture/Museum Chair Maria Pazuniak and Ecology Chair Marta Jarosewich. The new Auditing Committee includes Joanna Ratych, Nadia Shmigel, Renata Zajac, Lida Zakrevska and Chrystyna Melnyk.

During the banquet that evening, Honorary President Krawczuk officially recognized the new national board and administered the oath of office; she also led the assembly in toasting the 75th anniversary of the UNWLA and the 26th UNWLA Convention.

Congratulatory letters from dignitaries across the country and around the world were read, including letters from President Leonid Kuchma, President George W. Bush, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Patriarch Lubomyr Husar and Ukrainian Orthodox Patriarch Filaret. A congratulatory statement from the WFUWO was personally delivered by Mrs. Sokolyk and Ms. Kocherha read a warm message from Ukraine's former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko.

Next came the presentation of the Petro and Lesia Kovaliw Prize for Literature to author Dr. Valentyna Borysenko for her book "Tradysii i Zhyttyedialnist' Etnosu." The award recipient, a professor at Kyiv University, commented on the students she works with, "They have a cultural vacuum – it is frightening – my book is something that I hope will fill that vacuum and help them know who they are."

A musical program, featuring mezzo soprano Kalyna Cholhan-Boyчук and the UNWLA Branch 56 Choir of North Port, Fla., followed.

Divine liturgy was celebrated on Sunday in separate facilities for Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox faithful. Guests and delegates then filed into the conference room to continue with scheduled meetings. At the beginning of the session, UNWLA President Kurowyckyj was presented with an engraved crystal gavel – a gift from members of the convention committee.

Once procedural formalities were completed, delegates were requested to discuss several proposed changes to the UNWLA

by-laws. Most of the proposed changes were strongly opposed by the majority of delegates and were voted down. A number of "cosmetic" changes, dealing primarily with legal or financial language, were voted upon and passed.

A panel on organizational matters, chaired by Vice-President Hewryk, followed. Roma Hayda spoke about the need to review the organization's vision and goals as a step toward understanding what changes should be implemented to best serve the needs of UNWLA members and the community they serve.

Ms. Zajac reported on Summit 2002, a meeting recently held by Ukrainian American community leaders for the purpose of addressing the pandemic crisis of dwindling membership. Christine Izhak focused on the Philadelphia Regional Council's recent successes in attracting new members to the UNWLA.

The last morning session was a presentation by Dr. Christina Durbak on air pollutants and their harmful effects, particularly on children and the elderly. Dr. Durbak's disconcerting statistics showed that we have become complacent about this issue and that we need to act quickly if air quality in our environment is to improve.

During lunch, UNWLA members who had served the organization for 25 years or more were awarded special certificates of recognition. Branches with outstanding records of service and branches whose contributions to social welfare projects, educational endeavors and the scholarship program were also honored.

The highlight of the luncheon was a speech by UNWLA founding member Mary Beck, who saluted the Ukrainian woman as the undervalued and unappreciated warrior with the wisdom and the strength to be mother, teacher, and organizer, capable of overcoming any obstacles. At the end of her speech, guests and delegates saluted the organization's grand dame with a heartfelt "Mnohaya Lita."

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Dr. Borysenko, who spoke on "Knowledge of Ukrainian Culture – National Self-Preservation." Dr. Borysenko reported that 10 years after gaining independence, Ukraine continues to suffer from an insidious Russification process. She noted, however, that she has recently seen changes that allow for some optimism.

Concurrent seminars and presentations by the chairs of the Social Welfare Committee, the Scholarship Committee, the Culture/Museum Committee and the editors of Our Life followed.

On Sunday evening, delegates and guests were invited to visit the Ukrainian Village in North Port, home of UNWLA Branch 56, whose members were this year's convention committee. There was a brief visit to St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church for light refreshments; the bus caravan then proceeded to St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church for dinner and an artistic program.

On Monday morning, delegates were given the opportunity to attend seminars presented by Mrs. Trytyak, archives chair, and Ms. Iwasyszyn, education chair. A panel on "Why the UNWLA Must Adhere to IRS Laws" was presented by Ms. Cwiah and Oksana Xenos.

An acceptance speech from newly re-elected President Kurowyckyj followed, with the president vowing to continue serving the UNWLA with passion and integrity. Afterwards, delegates addressed miscellaneous matters and questions and the 26th UNWLA Convention was formally adjourned.

The weekend ended with a farewell luncheon during which the convention committee was saluted for its magnificent work in organizing the convention in such pleasant and hospitable surroundings.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

High school senior receives state award

HOLMDEL, N.J. – Roman Stephan Roik, son of Paul and Anita Roik of Holmdel, N.J., has been named an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar. The award recognizes those New Jersey students in the top 10 percent of their senior class with exceptional performance on their SATs.

Mr. Roik attends Holmdel High School, where he was elected a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. In addition, he has also been named a National Merit Commended Scholar.

During his sophomore year, Mr. Roik lived with his father in Indonesia and attended the Jakarta International School. There he was awarded a Gold Medal in the International School Mathematics competition.

Upon returning to the United States, Mr. Roik followed up on his keen interest in international affairs by helping establish the first Model United Nations team at his high school and being selected a finalist in the New Jersey Governors School for International Studies. Along with being a member of his school's Math League and Debate Society, he has successfully competed in various New Jersey Mock Trial Competitions.

While in high school he participated in his school's soccer and wrestling programs, and was a member of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. He is



Roman Roik

also a onetime member of the Ukrainian folk dance troupe in Whippany, N.J.

Mr. Roik will be attending the University of Virginia this fall. He plans to enroll in the MacIntire School of Business with a concentration in international business.

Mr. Roik loves Soyuzivka and visits there often. He is a member of UNA Branch 170, having been enrolled by his grandfather Stephen Ostrowsky, the former financial secretary of the branch. His siblings, Roksana and Oles, also are members of the UNA.



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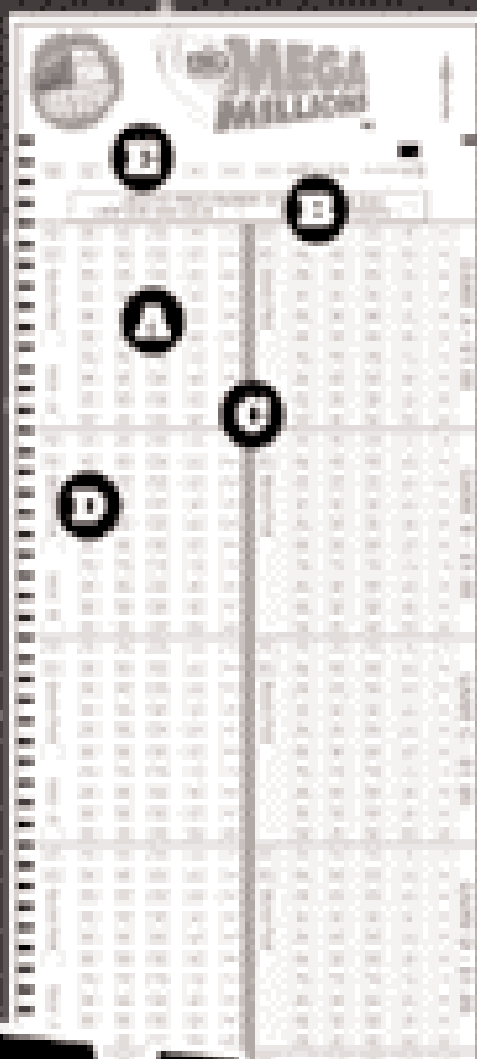
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Loser takes all...

(Continued from page 2)

Rada.

The hundreds of hours of tapes illicitly made in President Kuchma's office by his security guard, Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, reveal how the tactics used to secure Mr. Lytvyn's election as Rada chairman have been a consistent feature in what has been defined as a "blackmail state."

In a recent study in the East European Constitutional Review, Prof. Keith Darden of Yale University concludes that blackmail is used to secure political control. This is undertaken by tolerating "pervasive corruption" as "an essential element in an informal technique of presidential control" through the collection of evidence of corruption by the Security Service of Ukraine and the Internal Affairs Ministry.

This system is especially effective in ensuring compliance by businessmen who tend to be elected in majoritarian districts as "independents." In a taped conversation between oligarch Oleksander Volkov and Mr. Kuchma in July 2000, Mr. Volkov was asked why he was in favor of lifting deputies' immunity. He reasoned that "there is only one immunity for deputies and that is you. Everything else is crap."

Since the elections, many independent deputies have been invited to the Procurator General's Office and warned that it possesses files on them. Leonid Hadiatskyi admitted that he had left the Socialist faction to join United Ukraine "in order to save himself and his family."

Prof. Darden concluded that "corruption and illegality" in Ukraine are "accepted, condoned, and even encouraged by the top leadership." Mr. Volkov, for example, was given a state medal for his services to the Ukrainian economy by President Kuchma in February 2001, even though he is wanted by Belgian police on money-laundering charges and his trial in absentia is to open next month in Brussels.

As long as businessmen continue to remain loyal to President Kuchma, the files collected by the Security Service and Internal Affairs Ministry will not be used by the Procurator General's Office or the Tax Administration to destroy their business.

One month after the elections, all criminal charges of "corruption" were dropped against Yulia Tymoshenko and her husband. Volodymyr Scherban, one of the seven deputies expelled from Our Ukraine for voting for Mr. Lytvyn as Rada chairman, said after the vote that, "I did not come here today to Parliament to fight with the authorities for two years." Mr. Scherban is the leader of the Liberals, the former Donetsk "party of power," and a wealthy businessman.

The "blackmail state" places the Our Ukraine bloc in a predicament. Mr. Volkov has pointed out that it cannot join the opposition because this would lead its businessmen and bankers to be subjected to pressure from the enforcers of the "blackmail state." Although Mr. Yushchenko has deliberately never criticized President Kuchma and has refrained from calling Our Ukraine an "opposition" bloc, his ability to maneuver between the pro-presidential/oligarchic and opposition forces may be coming to an end.

Earlier this month, Mr. Yushchenko warned that if Mr. Lytvyn, as leader of a defeated bloc, were to be elected Rada chairman he would take Our Ukraine into opposition. That warning was prompted by President Kuchma's rejection of a compromise proposal whereby Mr. Yushchenko would become prime minister and Mr. Lytvyn Rada chairman – an arrangement that would have given Mr. Yushchenko an excellent base from which to be elected president in 2004.

Mr. Yushchenko had already concluded

prior to the May 28 vote that "the political crisis in Ukraine has turned out to be much deeper than I had imagined." In a statement after Mr. Lytvyn's election, Our Ukraine said that he was "appointed" Rada chairman, not voted in, and that the entire process showed a lack of respect for national deputies and voters. The "administrative resources" that were used so heavily by President Kuchma in the elections to secure votes for the For a United Ukraine bloc, were again used inside the Rada, the statement continued. Our Ukraine believes that the Rada has "in effect turned into a subsection of the presidential administration."

If Our Ukraine does go into opposition, Ukraine would have a Parliament dominated by two eastern Ukrainian pro-Kuchma and oligarchic groups that lost the elections, while western-central Ukraine would be in opposition to the executive. SDPU Chairman Viktor Medvedchuk is unconcerned by this possible turn of events because he is convinced that a new Rada majority will be created on the basis of the United Ukraine-SDPU alliance to implement the president's wishes.

These steps by Messrs. Kuchma and Lytvyn will only serve to make the outcome of the 2004 presidential ballot – in which Mr. Kuchma may not seek a further term – even more unpredictable and Ukrainians more angry. Our Ukraine's proposals for cooperation on deep political, social and economic reforms were turned down by Mr. Kuchma's United Ukraine. These latest developments also give the European Union Council of Europe delegation in Kyiv last week further grounds to again turn down President Kuchma's request for an association agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

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Why Kyiv chose...

(Continued from page 2)

George W. Bush, who has forged a close relationship with President Putin.

Mr. Komisarenko observed that the timing of Ukraine's announcement about its desire to join NATO tells much about Mr. Kuchma's motives: "Just prior to this [announcement], Bush agreed with President Putin about Russia's special status in NATO, and Ukraine was seemingly left nowhere," he noted.

Oleh Soskin, the director of the Institute of Society Transformation, another Kyiv-based think-tank, agreed that Ukraine's decision was prompted by Russia's actions. He said Ukraine's previous position of indefinite neutrality meant Kyiv had to wait for rapprochement between Russia and NATO.

Mr. Komisarenko believes Ukraine consulted with Russia before declaring its desire to join the alliance. He does not think President Kuchma would have risked taking a step so potentially damaging to Ukrainian-Russian relations without first seeking approval of the Russian president. "Mr. Putin agreed with Kuchma that he should make this announcement," he said. "Well, not actually Kuchma, but the Defense and Security Council. But [Kuchma] is its head."

President Putin's response to Ukraine's decision has been muted. However, some senior Russian politicians have criticized Ukraine. The head of the Russian State Duma's Defense Committee, Andrei Nikolaev, said Ukrainian officials were naive for not seeing what he called the potential threat from NATO.

Mr. Komisarenko noted that he expects there will be more objections from Russia if Ukraine really moves toward NATO membership. "Russia is not homogenous, there is not a convergence of ideas within the Parliament or society," Mr. Komisarenko explained. "There are different views, which are

advocated by various powerful groups. Russia still regards Ukraine as a necessary satellite and, therefore, I think there are certain forces in Russia that are against Ukraine joining NATO."

The NATO representative in Ukraine, Michel Duray, said there is no contradiction between the mutual desire of Ukraine and Russia to move closer to NATO. "There is no opposition between a good relationship between NATO and Russia, and NATO and Ukraine," Mr. Duray noted. "To the contrary, this reinforces the need for a more stable Europe and I understand that the relationship between NATO and Russia, and NATO and Ukraine, is itself a good paradigm for better relations between Ukraine and Russia."

Ukraine has not officially communicated to NATO its desire to join the organization, but the deputy secretary of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ihor Kharchenko, said it will do so soon.

Mr. Duray said deepening ties with Ukraine was already on the NATO agenda. Ukrainian officials expect to discuss the terms of Ukraine's entry at the NATO summit in Prague later this year. "When we talk about deepening the relationship, it is, of course, a way to deepen security within the Euro-Atlantic zone as a whole," Mr. Duray noted. "As you must understand, NATO – now preparing for the Prague summit – is preparing some decisions for its own future, and of course the future security in Europe encompasses Ukraine's security as well."

Mr. Komisarenko agreed with the Ukrainian government view that actually joining NATO will be a long process involving not only a big military overhaul but reforms to match NATO standards for democracy and the economy.

He said the government may even have to hold a referendum on the issue. Previously the issue of membership has been divisive, but Mr. Komisarenko said he believes the attitude of ordinary people in Ukraine toward NATO has changed for the positive.

bench for three years and then only play for one year. A lot of colleges fell under that category and I had a lot of options, including Tufts, Trinity and Johns Hopkins," added Solchanyk, who started the past three years for his California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division 10 championship team.

(Dan is the son of Roman Solchanyk, whose byline is familiar to Weekly readers who read his analyses of Ukraine and

SPORTSLINE

(Continued from page 15)

article dated May 21. The headlined read, "Want to be a male model? Wear a real face." The article featured professional athletes who modeled for various fashion magazines or made runway modeling appearances. Shevchenko's undated picture was, according to The New York Times, from an Armani runway fashion show.

Volleyball

• India upset Ukraine in the men's semifinal of the 7th Rashid International Volleyball Tournament in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, on March 18. Ukraine, the defending champion, took the first game 25-23 and then lost the next three 25-23, 25-20 and 25-21.

Football

• Santa Monica High School lineman and co-captain Dan Solchanyk was recently the subject of an article in the local newspaper, The News. The April 18 piece featured Solchanyk who decided against attending a Division One school after attending a White House and ESPN seminar on drugs and sports. Solchanyk chose instead to attend the University of California at Davis where, "after considering all the options, I will get a quality education and play championship football," Solchanyk, who was heavily recruited by colleges, was quoted by The News as saying.

"My college choice was very dependent upon the academic level of the university. I didn't want to be riding the



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The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announce

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For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by June 25.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

We hope you will announce your wedding in The Ukrainian Weekly, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

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Visit www.ukrweekly.com to view a wedding announcement sample page.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Ongoing through Sunday, September 15 Sunday, June 23

DETROIT: The Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit invites the public to view the exhibit titled "The 'Tree of Life' Motif in Embroidered Ritual Cloths (Rushnyky) of Central Ukraine." The exhibition, which will include original antique ritual cloths from the Kyiv, Poltava and Chernihiv regions dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, will be on view at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum, 11756 Charest St., Hamtramck, Mich., through Sunday, September 15. Exhibit tours: Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission: adults, \$3; students and seniors, \$2; children age 12-18, \$1; and museum members, no charge. For information call (313) 366-9764.

GLEN COVE, N.Y.: The Long Island branches of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine are sponsoring a picnic to be held on Sunday, June 23, at the Basilian Fathers Monastery property on Lattingtown Road in Glen Cove, N.Y. Take the L.I.E. (495) to Exit 39 North (Glen Cove Road) to Glen Cove to Lattingtown Road. The picnic will begin at noon with a liturgy followed by food, games, humor, music and singing. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission: advance sale tickets, \$15; at the gate, \$20; children age 7-16, \$7; under age 7, free. For tickets call Maria Kopystianska, (631) 462-5812, or Taras Pyszczymuka, (516) 781-8072.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

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

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At Soyuzivka: June 29-30

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The unique artworks of Rem Bahautdin will be exhibited at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort on June 29-30.

Mr. Bahautdin was born in 1927 in Kazan, the capital of the Tatar autonomous republic. When he was 10 years old, his father was sentenced to death and his mother was sent into exile. Rem (as he is known in the art world) and his brother grew up in foster homes.

Mr. Bahautdin lived and studied in Kyiv, where he graduated from the Academy of Arts in 1957. While in Ukraine, he participated in numerous exhibits. He worked especially on monumental mosaics and reliefs in concrete and metal.

In the early 1970s he escaped to Vienna through Bulgaria, and reached the

United States in 1973. The following year he began exhibiting his works and displayed his art in New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, Ottawa, Toronto, Chicago, Rochester, Hartford and Binghamton.

Mr. Bahautdin's newest works are compositions in metal, focusing on historical and religious themes. His figures are elongated, always subjected to a rhythmic play of forms, with a marked symbolic character. His symbolism is profound, concerned with man's fundamental problems and deeply rooted in the art and traditions of Ukraine.

Mr. Bahautdin's works will be on display in the library of Soyuzivka's Main House.

For information on events and accommodations at Soyuzivka call (845) 626-5641.



Rem Bahautdin during an earlier exhibit of his works at Soyuzivka.