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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Fire breaks out at Ukraine's most dangerous mine 21 miners hospitalized at Zasiadko mine in Donetsk region

by Ivan Poltavets

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — A series of accidents at the Zasiadko mine in the Donetsk region continued as a fire broke out at 8:50 a.m. on August 20 at the depth of 530 meters, when there were 1,680 miners underground. All of them were taken to the surface safely by 2:20 p.m., according to the Interfax news service.

"The fire was caused by the closure of the electric cable in the shaft. Electricity in the mine was shut down, ventilation was reversed and all of the miners were evacuated. Forty-five miners were blocked in the buckets, as it was the time of the shift change; 42 were blocked three meters below the surface, while three miners were blocked at the level of 817 meters below the surface," explained Gennadii Suslov, head of the Safety Monitoring Department for the Mining Industry, which is part of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

Twenty-one miners were hospitalized; five of them are undergoing treatment for suspected inhalation of combustion products.

The Zasiadko mine is considered to be

one of the most dangerous in Ukraine. Out of 187 miners who died in accidents this year, 22 died in the Zasiadko mine. The death toll in Ukrainian mines was: 316 in 2000 and 294 in 2001, added Mr. Suslov.

The cause of the Zasiadko fire is still being investigated by a commission formed by state officials and the mine's management. The senior management of the Zasiadko mine suspects that the fire could have been caused by sabotage, as there was evidence of tampering in the shaft. These claims will be checked during the investigation by the Donetsk Procurator's Office and the Donetsk Security Service Department.

"Sixty to 70 percent of miners' deaths are caused by violations of safety instructions," said Mr. Suslov in commenting on the incident. Three factors lead to increased danger in the mines: difficult geological conditions, worn equipment, as well as the low discipline of workers and a disregard of production procedures. While first two factors are difficult or expensive to quickly alter, the attention of the Ukrainian government and mine management should be focused on the enforcement

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Ukraine Without Kuchma movement announces plans for mass protests

by Ivan Poltavets

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — Leaders of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement, which organized mass protests throughout 2000-2001, announced plans for a mass demonstration to be held on the Kyiv's Independence Square on September 16 to commemorate the death of missing journalist Heorhii Gongadze to and demand the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma.

A statement of the movement's leaders also called on four opposition factions — Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialists and the Communists — to join in the protests.

"It's not just about changing one person for another. We want the situation in Ukraine and the destiny of the people not to depend on the character of the man who is president," said one of the leaders of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement, Volodymyr Chemerys, during a press conference on August 20.

The Ukraine Without Kuchma activists' statement calls for the dismissal of Mr. Kuchma and senior officials in

Ukraine, for transformation of Ukraine's presidential republic into a parliamentary one, and for full investigations into the deaths of Ukrainian journalists and politicians such as Mr. Gongadze, Ihor Aleksandrov, Vyacheslav Chornovil and Vadym Hetman.

The Ukraine Without Kuchma movement calls for a roundtable between the opposition and the government prior to the planned September demonstration to discuss, among other things, unconditional freedom for all political prisoners, pre-term presidential elections, and a coalition government composed of representatives of Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc, and the Communist and Socialist parties.

Activists of the movement say they realize, however, that the people currently in power in Ukraine use all the means possible to avoid dialogue with the opposition.

Ukraine Without Kuchma leaders also stressed the necessity to avoid violence during the forthcoming mass protests in order not to repeat the scenario of March 9, 2001, when demonstrations resulted in a violent clash between protesters and police. They noted that political activists, who purportedly took part in attacking police near the presidential administration building, were arrested and still are imprisoned while court hearings proceed slowly.

"Only Kuchma, [Rada Chairman Volodymyr] Lytvyn, [Head of the Presidential Administration Viktor] Medvedchuk, and other leaders of the bankrupt power today need blood on Kyiv's streets," the statement of the Ukraine Without Kuchma activists said.

Those in power also are preparing for the forthcoming opposition protests. News coverage of the opposition's plans was nothing but bleak. Only a few media outlets reported on the unification processes among the four factions.

Now that the protests seem imminent, however, it is much harder to ignore the opposition plans. Oleksander Hapon, state secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, said the militia is ready to protect public safety during the planned opposition demonstrations, adding that he hopes citizens of Ukraine will not allow for a repetition of the March 2001 clashes, when 36 militiamen were hospitalized.

Earlier in July, leaders and representatives of four parliamentary factions — Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialists and the Communists — announced advance plans for the mass protests scheduled for September 16. One of the leaders of the Socialist Party, Yosyp Vynskyi, speaking on public radio on July 25, broke the news on the signing of a protocol of intent among the

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Landmark church marks its 40th anniversary

by Andrew Nynka

JEWETT, N.Y. — When St. John the Baptist Church was first built, local newspapers recognized it as a unique and significant piece of wooden architecture. Even today town historians continue to comment that it stands out as a distinctive example of Ukrainian culture, a shrine to human rights and a symbol of Ukrainian freedom.

Over its 40-year existence the church complex has played host to concerts, art exhibits, an active Ukrainian community and curious tourists. It is, quite simply, a focal point of the community. But what makes the story of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church — which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary — more interesting is that, by the fate of a coin toss, it might never have been built.

From the time construction on the church began in the early 1960s to when it was completed in the 1980s the Ukrainian community around the church grew. Parishioners gathered at the 40th anniversary celebration on August 4 said Ukrainians had been drawn to the area for several reasons. And the church they built symbolizes a place from which Ukrainians emigrated and a land that many missed.

Immigrants who found work in New York City longed for their native home-

land and many, said historian Lubow Wolynetz, found something similar in New York's Catskill Mountains half a century ago, when the first Ukrainian families moved here.

But, Mrs. Wolynetz said, Ukrainians were also drawn to the area by Olha and Volodymyr Kobziar who, having purchased a house together with another Ukrainian family only several hundred

yards from the future site of the church began to persuade friends from New York City to visit. The Kobziars are widely recognized as the first Ukrainian family in the area.

According to Mrs. Kobziar, who recently spoke with The Weekly, the area had a very educational atmosphere and the family encouraged friends and chil-

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St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, a landmark in the Hunter area of New York state.

ANALYSIS

Warsaw obliges itself to build European Union's 'Berlin Wall'

by Jan Maksymiuk
RFE/RL Newsline

Poland has concluded the Administration of Justice and Internal Affairs Chapter in its European Union accession talks in Brussels. Warsaw pledged to beef up control of its 1,200-kilometer border with Russia's Kaliningrad Oblast, Belarus and Ukraine to prevent illegal migration, as well as smuggling of goods and trafficking of drugs and arms, after Poland joins the EU. Some Western media commented that Poland's obligations under this negotiation chapter – the country's 26th closed chapter – are tantamount to erecting a new "Berlin Wall" on the country's eastern and northern frontiers, which are expected to become the European Union's external frontiers as early as January 1, 2004.

Poland's obligations under this chapter involve a serious overhaul of its border guards and, understandably, mean making sizeable expenditures from the state budget. Interior Minister Krzysztof Janik said in a recent press interview that in order to qualify for joining the Schengen agreements, which may take place around 2007, Poland needs \$250 million euros (\$245 million U.S.) to refurbish its border guard force and infrastructure. Mr. Janik hopes that up to 75 percent of this sum may be covered by various EU funds and programs.

In early August Poland committed itself to increasing its current border-guard force

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus, Ukraine and Poland specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newsline.

of some 12,000 servicemen and civilians to 18,000. By 2006 the country will increase the force by 3,200, hiring 5,300 professional frontier guards and 1,000 more civil servants, while phasing out 3,100 army conscripts who are currently deployed.

The government plans to buy and equip seven helicopters and two light aircraft for the border guards, as well as night-vision surveillance devices and other necessary equipment. The number of frontier watchtowers will be increased in order to space them at a distance not exceeding 20 kilometers.

Poland's accession to the EU will, of course, mean tougher restrictions on travelers from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Warsaw will introduce visa requirements for them as of July 1, 2003. At present, nobody is able to imagine the scale of technical difficulties or the political and socio-economic consequences of this upcoming operation.

Chief EU negotiator Jan Truszczyński said last year in Brussels that in 2000 Poland was visited by 5.9 million Belarusians, 2.8 million Russians and 6.1 million Ukrainians. The same year, Mr. Truszczyński added, Polish consulates all over the world issued only 185,000 visas.

According to the Warsaw-based government-sponsored Center for Eastern Studies, 4.4 million individual trips across the Polish-Russian border were made by Poles and Russians in 2000. Some 90 percent of these visits, the center asserts, were made by people engaged in petty cross-border

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Putin offers Belarus a union on Russian Federation's terms

by Kathleen Knox

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

In mid-August Russian President Vladimir Putin achieved the near impossible. He got Belarus government and opposition to agree, albeit on only one issue, and for decidedly different reasons.

At a Kremlin press conference with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on August 14, Mr. Putin unveiled proposals to join their two countries into a union under a single president, a single constitution and a single currency – the Russian ruble. Hitherto lukewarm to the idea of closer Belarus-Russia ties, President Putin surprised observers by giving a detailed timetable for unification. As an alternate proposal he said the two countries could join together in a European Union-style arrangement.

In Moscow, Mr. Putin's abrupt about-face was seen as a sly move to outmaneuver, and ultimately sideline, his Belarusian counterpart by proposing unification on Russian terms.

President Lukashenka has pushed for unification, but not on terms that would see Belarus merely absorbed as "Russia's 90th region," as he put it, and that would herald the end of his political career. He wants a confederation that would preserve Belarusian sovereignty.

Upon his return to Miensk, Mr. Lukashenka rejected Mr. Putin's plan, saying Belarusians would voice "absolute rejection" of a referendum asking if they

wanted to be absorbed into Russia.

The pro-government daily *Sovietskaya Belorussiya* suggested that the Russian president cannot seriously expect "a leader of a sovereign state, which Mr. Lukashenka is, to approve a scheme that could lead to that sovereign state's crumbling. No world leader would support this kind of integration scheme."

Belarusian Foreign Ministry spokesman Pavel Latushka said: "Our two leaders support the premise that our countries already have experience in building a [Russia-Belarus] union and they have not yet utilized all the mechanisms of the Union Treaty [of 1999], on the basis of which future relations will continue to develop. The Foreign Ministry contends that the development of the union will be based on the conservation of sovereignty and the international rights of each country."

Belarusian Constitutional Court Chairman Ryhor Vasilevich told RFE/RL's Belarusian Service that the country's laws would not allow a referendum along the lines of Mr. Putin's proposal. "In the Belarusian Electoral Code, Article 112 stipulates that a republican referendum cannot have questions that could result in violations of Belarus' territorial integrity. This is the law. And at the same time, the Belarusian Constitution is the constitution of a sovereign state, of a legal, social, democratic state. Without doubt, in order to solve these issues, it's necessary to refer to the text of the Constitution, because the state is unitary, independent. Essentially, this question would be the first basis for the

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NEWSBRIEFS

Population shrinks by 200,000

KYIV – The population of Ukraine fell by nearly 200,000 people in January-June of this year, UNIAN reported on August 9, citing the State Statistics Committee. According to last year's census, there were 48.4 million people living in Ukraine as of December 5, 2001. (RFE/RL Newsline)

13 million live below poverty line

KYIV – The government on August 8 released a report stating that 13.1 million people in Ukraine – 27.2 percent of the population – live below the poverty line, which is officially set at a monthly income of 175 hrv (\$33) per person, UNIAN reported. Ukraine's worst poverty-stricken regions are the Zakarpattia Oblast (46.6 percent were below the poverty line in 2001), Crimea (38.4 percent), and Khmelnytskyi Oblast (36.8 percent). A recent World Bank report on the global economy in 2001 includes Ukraine in a group of the world's 65 poorest countries, where GDP per capita does not exceed \$745. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine not sure about protests

KYIV – Our Ukraine lawmaker Petro Poroshenko told UNIAN on August 14 that the Political Council of the Our Ukraine parliamentary caucus will gather next week to decide whether the bloc is to take part in protest actions planned by opposition parties for this fall. On July 22 Our Ukraine lawmaker Roman Bezsmertnyi had said that Our Ukraine was pondering whether to use "extreme measures" against the existing power system. Later the same month, Socialist Party lawmaker Yosyp Vynskyi said the opposition had agreed to hold a nationwide protest action on September 16 to demand early presidential elections. Mr. Vynskyi added that the protest will involve activists of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine. Mr. Vynskyi's announcement has not been officially confirmed by Our Ukraine. Meanwhile, Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko and four other legislators from Our Ukraine met on August 13 with President Leonid Kuchma. According to the Our Ukraine press service, the sides discussed "problematic issues" in Ukraine's development. The press service added that Mr. Kuchma's interlocutors "attracted the president's attention to a number of controversial administrative decisions and mistakes made by top authority bodies in governing the state." President Kuchma reportedly agreed to

consult with Our Ukraine on the adoption of "major state decisions." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russian and Ukrainian PMs hold talks

MOSCOW – Prime Minister Mikhail Kasianov met in Moscow on August 16 with Ukraine's Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh to discuss a number of bilateral issues, Russian and Western news agencies reported. Mr. Kasianov reportedly asked Mr. Kinakh to prepare Ukraine's conditions for joining the Eurasian Economic Commonwealth. He also presented the Ukrainian prime minister with Russia's vision for a joint natural-gas consortium that eventually will include Germany as well, the Associated Press reported. The two prime ministers expressed hope that the concept can be finalized in time for a Ukrainian-Russian summit scheduled for October 7 in Moldova on the sidelines of the CIS summit. Mr. Kasianov also urged Mr. Kinakh to adopt an agreement on Soviet-era property abroad. According to the AP, Mr. Kasianov said that Ukrainian ratification of the so-called "zero option" agreement is "fundamental" for Russia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Soviet property abroad topic of talks

MOSCOW – Deputy Foreign Minister Anatolii Potapov began talks in Kyiv with his Ukrainian counterpart Oleksander Motsyk about the fate of former Soviet assets abroad, RIA-Novosti reported on August 12. Ukraine is the only former Soviet republic that has not signed the so-called "zero variant" agreement, according to which Russia took upon itself both the foreign debts and assets of the former USSR. Instead, Kyiv asked Moscow to present a list showing the full value of Soviet gold and diamond reserves, the foreign assets of Russian banks, and Russian debts to Ukrainian organizations and citizens. Some observers in Moscow and Kyiv believe that some concessions on both sides might now be made because of the special relationship emerging between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Leonid Kuchma. Russia, in order to keep Ukraine in its orbit, might offer Ukraine 16 percent of former Soviet real estate abroad, the BBC commented on August 13. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine rejects asylum requests

KYIV – Ukrainian authorities have turned down the asylum requests of three Belarusian citizens – Uladzimir

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Landmark church...

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dren to vacation with them. Often, said Mrs. Kobziar, the family would entertain 30 people in their house. Their original home had five small bedrooms and no heat or electricity.

Talk of Hunter as a slice of the Carpathians in the Catskills began to spread in New York City's Ukrainian community, and more families began buying houses here.

Ukrainians who vacationed in Hunter could stay at the "Kobziarivka" – a motel called Xenia which was opened by the Kobziar family directly across from their home. As the Ukrainian community grew, Mrs. Wolynetz said, so did the need for a church.

But much of this, said Mrs. Wolynetz – a curator and librarian/archivist at the Ukrainian Museum and Library at the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn., and curator of the folk art collection at The Ukrainian Museum in New York – might never have happened.

The Kobziars and the second family who together initially purchased a home came to loggerheads and had to decide who would stay and who would go. "We both wanted the home. It seemed reasonable to flip for it," Mrs. Kobziar said. So they did.

Forty years later, over 230 parishioners and guests, along with town representatives from Jewett, Lexington and Hunter, and Bishop Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, listened to statements read at the celebration of the founding of St. John the Baptist Church. Mrs. Wolynetz reminded them of the coin toss and how the church's construction was the logical result of a growing Ukrainian community.

As celebrations continued over lunch, speeches and music, a large turnout of children seemed content to play under the searing mid-day sun, while every so often the roar of passing motorcycle bands overpowered the celebrations and drew what seemed to be disapproving nods. The sight was a reminder of the area's cultural contrast – not quite the Carpathian Mountains of home.

But the celebration also noted the people instrumental in building the traditional timber block church structure. The church's design – a style of the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountain highlander Hutsul and Boyko regions – was an amalgam of several minds, Mrs. Wolynetz said.

Under the leadership and guidance of Dr. Ivan Makarevych, who donated the land for the church project, sculptor Jaroslaw Paladij built a preliminary scale model of the church, for which architect Ivan Zhukowsky drew up the necessary construction drawings. Master carpenter Jurij Kostiw, who in his early years was trained by experienced carpenters in his native Boyko region of Ukraine in the art of building blockwork churches, became the master builder of the church.

The church itself is a 61-foot-high three-frame structure, built of 7 1/2-by-12-inch cedar logs imported from British Columbia. The logs are laid horizontally one on top of the other and secured with wooden pegs.

Asked about the possibility of designating the church as a landmark building, Karen Deeter, town historian for Lexington, said: "If there's anything that could be and should, the church should. It is a precious piece of property and one which the community values."

When the church's foundation was laid in 1961, local papers recognized it as the only Ukrainian Greek-Catholic church of its kind in the United States.

The structures on St. John the Baptist Church grounds include a gate, grazhda (parish hall), parsonage and belfry, which houses a 2,000-pound bell from Italy and a second one from Holland. According to church officials, structures of the whole architectural complex were financed by Ukrainian immigrants.

Mrs. Wolynetz said the church, built completely of cedar logs, can last hundreds of years with renovations needed only to the roof. She added that "we know this because of the churches in Ukraine which have been around for many years."

During the 40th anniversary celebrations Bishop Losten called the church "a gem." He said it is "a beautiful Carpathian-style church here in the [Catskill] Mountains."

Ukraine Without Kuchma...

(Continued from page 1)

four factions concerning cooperation in the mass protests and demonstrations throughout Ukraine.

The Socialist Party has already adopted a decision to take part in the demonstrations on September 16. "We have the decision of the political council on that matter. We are going to take part in the activities within the framework of the four [factions]," said Mr. Vinskyi. However, the Socialist Party will make its final and official decision about participation in the protests after a meeting of leaders of the four opposition factions, which is to take place in the next few days, according to the press service of the Socialist Party.

The Communist Party of Ukraine also has confirmed its participation in the mass protests. "Civil protests all over Ukraine should put an end to the corrupted Kuchma monarchy and lead the Ukrainian people to the solution of the main question, the question of power [in the country]," said the official statement of the Communist Party disseminated on August 20. The press service of the Communist Party confirmed the official decision of the party to conduct rallies all over Ukraine and said that the final approval of the plan of protests will be adopted on August 31 by the plenum of its Central Committee.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, too, has confirmed its participation in the

September rallies. The confirmation came just prior to the Procurator General's request that the Verkhovna strip Ms. Tymoshenko of her deputy's immunity so that she could be arrested and brought to trial.

The Our Ukraine faction has decided to consider its participation in the mass protests in late August. "Our Ukraine will take part in the protests in some form for sure," said Mykola Tomenko, director of the Institute of Politics and a member of the Our Ukraine faction, according to the UNIAN news agency. The only issue, in Mr. Tomenko's opinion, is the form of the protests and the slogans under which the demonstrations are to take place.

The September 16 protests will mark two years since the disappearance of Mr. Gongadze. A headless corpse claimed to be that of Mr. Gongadze was found in the forest a month later. Later Oleksander Moroz, leader of the Socialist Party, publicized the recordings made by a presidential security service officer, Oleksander Melnychenko, which became the main basis for opposition claims concerning the president's key role in the disappearance and alleged murder of the journalist.

President Kuchma denied the opposition's allegations. An investigation of the journalist's death has stalled without reaching any conclusions. Lately the new procurator general, Sviatoslav Piskun, has appointed a new team of detectives to continue the Gongadze investigation, promising progress. So far there have been no new developments in the investigation.

FOR THE RECORD: Statement by UWC concerning Ukraine's voters abroad

Following is the statement of the Ukrainian World Congress concerning the participation of Ukrainian citizens abroad in Ukraine's parliamentary elections in March.

At the time of the declaration of independence of Ukraine, on August 24, 1991, the population of Ukraine was around 52 million persons. According to the census of December 2001, the population of Ukraine is currently 48.4 million persons. Part of this abnormal decrease is due to the unquestionable fact that the death rate exceeds the birth rate. However, more than half of the decrease is due to the departure of citizens of Ukraine for permanent residence abroad, largely for the purpose of earning money. For example, on the date of the independence declaration, only a few Ukrainians lived in Portugal, whereas today they number some 200,000 persons.

During the electoral process to the Supreme Council, or Parliament, of Ukraine in March of this year, the Ukrainian World Congress noted that it is stated in the electoral act of Ukraine that a citizen of Ukraine who is living or sojourning abroad on a legal basis during the period of the elections has the right to vote in the election of national deputies to the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Because such a statement may be variously understood, the Ukrainian World Congress wrote to the Central Election Commission of Ukraine pointing to the interpretation that a citizen of Ukraine, possessing a valid Ukrainian passport and living or sojourning abroad, has the right to vote irrespective of his legal status in a given country. The question of foreign legal or illegal status must be irrelevant to the issue. The Ukrainian World Congress requested confirmation of this interpretation from the Central Election Commission of Ukraine.

On March 23, the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, in a letter signed by Yu. Danylevskyi, replied that "only the Constitutional Court has the authority to interpret the laws of Ukraine regarding the election of national deputies of Ukraine ... the Central Election Commission of Ukraine has no such authority ... the question of the legal status of residency of a citizen of Ukraine in a foreign country during the election period is to be determined by the organs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in the country of residency." The Ukrainian World Congress, being gratified by the assurances of the

organs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in the United States and Canada that the Ukrainian World Congress interpretation of the law was correct, did not pursue the matter further.

However, the Ukrainian World Congress learned that in Portugal citizens of Ukraine with valid Ukrainian passports but who resided in the country illegally were not permitted to vote. In addition, a letter to the Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, O. Motsyk, came to light. Dated March 11, 2002, and signed by the same Yu. Danylevskyi, stipulates that "all other citizens of Ukraine, who live or reside beyond the borders of Ukraine not on a legal basis, cannot be included in the list of voters under any circumstances."

Thus, it seems that the Central Election Commission of Ukraine does have the authority to interpret the electoral law. What is worse, it seems that its interpretation may be in contradiction to the Constitution of Ukraine. We pointed to the case of Portugal only as a particular example. Of the 200,000 citizens of Ukraine in that country only a few hundred were permitted to vote. This matter should be understood in light of the experience of the 1999 elections, when an overwhelming majority of Ukrainian citizens abroad voted against the candidacy of Leonid Kuchma. Indeed, this "oversight" had serious consequences, since even some heads of Ukrainian diplomatic missions were subsequently removed.

This electoral episode also points to the fact that the March elections in Ukraine were characterized by serious transgressions, the responsibility for which must ultimately lie with the head of state and the guarantor of Ukraine's Constitution.

The Ukrainian World Congress does not plan to pursue further this question of the subversion of the voting rights of the large number of citizens of Ukraine who now make up its diaspora. We merely wish to inform Ukrainians everywhere about this dark aspect of so-called electoral technologies and "administrative resources," which are functioning. We are doing this in the belief that the Ukrainian nation will also overcome these difficulties also on its path of building its own national democratic state.

On behalf of the
Ukrainian World Congress:

Askold Lozynskyj, President
Victor Pedenko, Secretary General

Fire breaks out...

(Continued from page 1)

ment of safety instructions and improvement of work discipline, he added.

President Leonid Kuchma noted the poor safety record of the coal industry. "Safety procedures have always been financed on the what-is-left principle, and there was nothing at the end – so these are the results," Mr. Kuchma said according to Interfax.

Interestingly, a code of discipline for miners, which consisted of rules and punishments for their violation, was abolished in 1989 as a result of a miners' strike. Since the abolition of the code, the industry has seen nothing but deterioration of work safety. Earlier this year a new code of discipline was drafted and adopted in Ukraine, but it is less stringent than its Soviet-era predecessor.

"About 380,000 people in Ukraine are

miners who work underground, and 35,000 are senior and lower-rank management. Generally, the management to worker ratio is high enough to ensure safety regulation enforcement in the mines," said Mr. Suslov.

The cause of the most recent tragedy that took the lives of 20 miners at the Zasiadko mine on July 31 once again was disregard of safety regulations. As reported earlier in The Ukrainian Weekly, the Procurator General's Office charged a deputy director and a blasting foreman with criminal culpability for "violation of safety rules in an area of high danger."

Ukraine continues to suffer various mine-related problems. Miners' salary arrears as of August 1 amount to approximately \$223 million, according to the press service of the Ministry of Fuel and Energy. Thus, observers say, low motivation also may be partly to blame for the low discipline in the mines.

The Washington Group holds annual elections, re-elects Kotlarchuk

by Michael Drabyk

WASHINGTON – The Washington Group's annual meeting elected a slate of officers headed by Ihor Kotlarchuk, who became the second president in TWG history to be re-elected to a third term. George Masiuk was the first TWG president to serve three consecutive terms, from 1995 until 1998.

The slate also includes a new position, community liaison, to be held by TWG member and Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Irene Jarosewich. She will act as a contact between The Washington Group and other Ukrainian groups in the Northeastern United States and elsewhere.

President Kotlarchuk announced at the on June 14 annual meeting that TWG will hold a boat ride dinner/dance on the Potomac River this coming October. The event will be held in place of the 2002 TWG Leadership Conference; the next conference is scheduled for October 2003.

Officers' reports

Members heard a series of reports, starting with that of the president, describing activities of The Washington Group since the previous annual meeting in June 2001.

These included the TWG Leadership Conference held October 19-21, 2001, under the theme "Ukraine: Focus on the Future." President Kotlarchuk indicated that though it was held a month after the September 11 tragedy, the conference attracted many attendees from around the country. He pointed to a forum featuring ambassadors from four Eastern European countries as just one of the events that made the conference "both intellectually stimulating and socially enjoyable."

Referring to the upcoming boat ride, Mr. Kotlarchuk said it would be held aboard the Dandy on Saturday, October 26. Further details, he said, would be forthcoming.

He also encouraged members to visit



Members of the new TWG board (from left): Treasurer Steve Boyduy, Board Members Oleg Jerschowsky and Andrew Sorokowski, President Ihor Kotlarchuk, Events Chair Olena Gaponenko, Fellowship Fund Chair Michael Drabyk, Vice-President George Masiuk, Secretary Luba Cehelsky, Board Member Marta Zielyk, Auditing Committee Member Andrew Masiuk, Immediate Past President Orest Deychakiwsky, Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky and Board Member Oles Berezhny.

the TWG website maintained by Steve Boyduy (www.TheWashingtonGroup.org).

Outgoing TWG Treasurer Roman Stelmach reported assets at the time of the annual meeting of more than \$48,000. Membership Director Adrian Pidlusky reported that TWG membership stood at 328, down from last year's level of 449. Mr. Pidlusky attributed the drop to the fact that membership renewal letters had not been sent out prior to the

annual meeting. He expressed confidence that response to the letters would boost membership numbers.

The TWG Cultural Fund reported that it continued its music series during the year, with five concerts at the Lyceum in Old Towne Alexandria, Va. These included a performance by the winners of the Vladimir Horowitz International Competition for Young Pianists, along with a jazz concert by the Louisiana Swamp Romp that included Ukrainian folk songs performed with a New Orleans twist. Other events included entertainment for the 2001 TWG Leadership Conference Sunday Brunch, with performances by singer Marianna Vynnytsky accompanied by Braty Blooz member Andrij Vintsersky.

The TWG Fellowship Fund reported that the Embassy of Ukraine was screening candidates submitted by the fund for the annual Embassy student internship. It was reported that the Embassy wants to select two student interns for work during the summer.

List of nominees

The following slate of candidates was presented and approved: Mr. Kotlarchuk, president; George Masiuk, vice-president; Luba Cehelska, secretary; Mr. Boyduy, treasurer; Mr. Pidlusky, membership director; Andy C. Szul, public relations and TWG News editor; Laryssa Courtney, TWG Cultural Fund; Michael Drabyk, TWG Fellowship Fund; Andrew Bihun, Business Development Forum; Olena Gaponenko, events; Ms. Jarosewich, community liaison; and Orest Deychakiwsky, immediate past president.

Members at Large are: Nick Babiak, Arthur Belendiuk, Oles Berezhny, John Hewko, Oleg Jerschowsky, Jurij Mojsiak, Natalie Sluzar, Andrew Sorokowski, Volodymyr Yakymets and Marta Zielyk. Auditing Committee members are: Andrew Masiuk, Michael Kowalysko and Ihor Procinsky.

Other business

Mr. Kotlarchuk also commended four longtime TWG board members who were

leaving the board: Vice-President Anya Silecky Piazza, Treasurer Roman Stelmach, Fellowship Fund Chair Adrian Karmazyn and Member-at-Large Maria Kulczycky. He thanked them all for their hard work and dedication, and wished them well in their future pursuits.

Following the annual meeting, two TWG members recently discussed their experiences in Ukraine as OSCE observers of the parliamentary elections held there earlier this year. Ms. Zielyk and Mr. Deychakiwsky offered their observations during the special presentation.

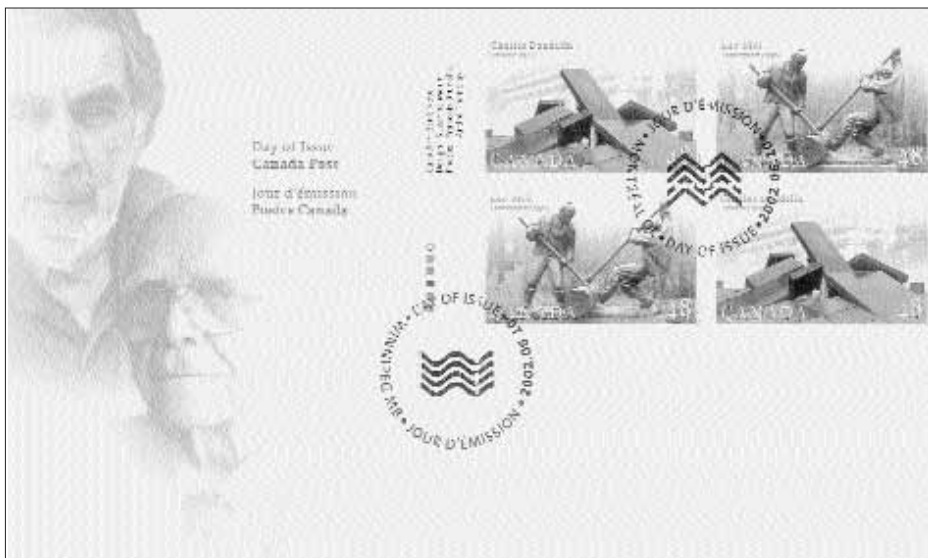
Ms. Zielyk was in Kyiv for a month preceding the elections. She was a long-term OSCE observer, preparing research for short-term poll-watchers who would be observing the actual balloting. Mr. Deychakiwsky was one of those, arriving in Ukraine in time for the voting.

As part of her job, Ms. Zielyk spoke with Ukrainian candidates and individuals, as well as the media and press. She was among those tasked with documenting cases of alleged election law violations. While open violations were reported in various regions around Ukraine, Ms. Zielyk termed election law violations in and around Kyiv as being more subtle. She recalled observing activities such as attempts to use legal technicalities to de-register and remove certain candidates from the ballot.

Mr. Deychakiwsky was in Ukraine as a short-term OSCE elections observer, visiting different polling places in the Lviv Oblast. Problems noted by the OSCE, he said, included the lack of a "level playing field" for all candidates and parties, interference in the election process by the authorities, media bias and compromised conditions hampering the voters' ability to cast a secret and confidential vote.

Mr. Deychakiwsky, who has been observing elections in Ukraine for more than 10 years, expressed some optimism, however. "A significant portion of the Ukrainian electorate showed that it has a mind of its own – and this, of course, is very encouraging and could bode well for the future," he underscored.

Leo Mol and his work featured on Canadian postal releases



OTTAWA – Renowned Ukrainian Canadian artist Leo Mol and his sculpture titled "Lumberjacks" is featured on a stamp and first day cover issued in June by Canada Post as part of its Artists of Canada Series. Mr. Mol is featured along with fellow sculptor Charles Daudelin (1920-2001), who is known for incorporating sculpture into communal spaces. The text about Mr. Mol that appears on the reverse of the day of issue envelope reads: "The monumental bronze sculpture, 'Lumberjacks' (1990), by Winnipeg sculptor Leo Mol, effectively captures the strength in motion which epitomizes his work. Born in Ukraine in 1915, the classically trained artist immigrated to Canada in 1948. He came to prominence in 1964, when his monument to Taras Shevchenko was unveiled in Washington by Dwight D. Eisenhower. His sculptures of Canadian themes, like the 'Lumberjacks,' have earned him a loyal following among collectors. A longtime member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, his artistic contributions have earned him numerous awards and honors, including the Order of Canada in 1989." The same text appears also in French.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA's Christmas card project seeks participation of artists

by Oksana Trytjak

UNA Special Projects
and Fraternal Activities Coordinator

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – It may seem too early to think about Christmas 2002, but the Ukrainian National Association is gearing up for its eighth annual Christmas Card Project. For several years the UNA has sponsored the Christmas Card project in hopes of promoting Ukrainian artists and their work, and supporting one of our greatest social and cultural resources, the Soyuzivka

resort.

Ukrainian artists are encouraged to contribute their artwork for reproduction in this collaborative not-for-profit project. Works created in a variety of media, be they in oil, watercolor, ceramic tile, woodcut, or other, as long as the theme is Christmas-related.

In the past, the UNA has been very fortunate to showcase the works of our community's favorite artists, including: Jaroslav Adamovych, Bohdan Borzemsky, Marta Cisyk, Mykhajlo Dmytrenko, Tatianna Gajecky, Maria Harasowska-Daczyszyn, Jacques Hniz-dovsky, Petro Holovatyj, Natalia Josypchuk, Oleksander Kaniuka, Andriy Khomyk, Moki Kokoris, Danylo Koshtyra, George Kozak, Yarema Kozak, Zenowia Kulynych, Vitaliy Lytvyn, Andriy Maday, Roman Markovych, Marta Anna, Luba Maksymchuk, Luba Leo Mol, Natalka, Lydia Palij, Aka Pereyma, Lidia Piaseckyj, Orest Poliszczuk, Myron Ryzhula, Christina Saj, Martha Savchak, Roman Smetaniuk, Jaroslav Stadnyk, Olena Stasiuk, Youlia Tkatchouk, Yurko Trytjak, Irene Twerdochlib, Halyna Tytla and Yuriy Viktiuk.

This year the UNA will publish approximately 120,000 cards. All proceeds will be donated to support Soyuzivka and to assist the Ukrainian National Foundation, a foundation created by the UNA in 1992 to help promote humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in Ukraine, the United States and Canada. The Ukrainian National Foundation maintains a 501 (c) (3) status, thus, all donations are tax-exempt.

The UNA welcomes any suggestions and ideas from the community. Artists may send original work, photos and/or slides of their work directly to the UNA Home Office address listed below by no later than September 30.

Artists are also encouraged to make inquiries early, by contacting Oksana Trytjak at: Ukrainian National Association, 2200 Route 10 W., P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; telephone, (973) 292-0900, ext. 3071; e-mail, okrys@yahoo.com.

Young UNA'er



Stefan Marko Mostovych, son of Dr. Marko and Rhonda Mostovych of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., is a new member of UNA Branch 417. He was enrolled by his grandparents Dr. Leonid and Oksana Mostovych.



**Insure and be sure.
Join the UNA!**

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

Chicago-based Selfreliance, TWG support "Copies for Congress"

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union based in Chicago – with offices in Palos Park, Palatine and Bloomingdale, Ill., Munster, Ind., and Jersey City, Newark and Parsippany, N.J. – is the latest supporter of The Ukrainian Weekly's "Copies for Congress" project, which provides subscriptions to the newspaper for all members of the U.S. Congress.

Received along with a letter from President and CEO Bohdan Watral and Executive Vice-President Ihor Laszok, was a donation for \$1,000.

"We feel it is very important that our elected officials, as well as the public at large be able to read about the everyday life and concerns of the Ukrainian American community, and our staunch support of the democracy and freedom of the United States," the two Selfreliance executives wrote.

Similarly, The Washington Group donated \$500 to the cause. President Ihor Kotlarchuk noted: "The Washington Group

fully appreciates the importance of educating and making United States politicians aware of the rich history, culture and traditions of the Ukrainian people, the significant achievements of Ukrainian Americans in American politics, the arts, sciences and business, the various educational, political and cultural activities of the Ukrainian American communities across the United States, and, finally, of the various important political and economic issues that concern and affect Ukrainians both here in the United States and in Ukraine."

Thus far, The Weekly has received \$12,600 in donations in response to its letter of November 16, 2001, soliciting support for "Copies for Congress." These donations – from Ukrainian credit unions, community organizations and individuals – offset the cost of annual subscriptions for U.S. senators and representatives that is borne by The Weekly.

Each donation of \$1,000 was acknowledged with a special sponsor's box that appears on page 3 of The Weekly.

The Ukrainian Weekly's "Copies for Congress" program during 2001-2002 was supported by eight credit unions, three professional organizations, three community organizations and four individual donors. Their contributions totaled \$12,600.

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JULY 2002

Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary

| | Juvenile | Adult | ADD | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|--------|
| Total Active Members – 6/2002 | 6,366 | 13,208 | 2,896 | 22,470 |
| Total Inactive Members – 6/2002 | 7,484 | 16,747 | 0 | 24,231 |
| Total Members – 6/2002 | 13,850 | 29,955 | 2,896 | 46,701 |

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

| Gains in 7/2002 | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| New members | 8 | 15 | 0 | 23 |
| New members UL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Reinstated | 5 | 9 | 1 | 15 |
| Total Gains: | 13 | 24 | 1 | 38 |

| Losses in 7/2002 | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Died | 0 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Cash surrender | 6 | 7 | 0 | 13 |
| Endowment matured | 26 | 11 | 0 | 37 |
| Fully paid-up | 14 | 19 | 0 | 33 |
| Reduced paid-up | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extended Insurance | 11 | 10 | 0 | 21 |
| Certificates lapsed (active) | 6 | 9 | 17 | 32 |
| Certificate terminated | 1 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| Total Losses | 64 | 75 | 17 | 156 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Total Active Members – 7/2002 | 6,315 | 13,157 | 2,880 | 22,352 |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

| Gains in 7/2002 | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Paid-up | 14 | 19 | 0 | 33 |
| Reduced paid up | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extended insurance | 11 | 10 | 0 | 21 |
| Total Gains | 25 | 29 | 0 | 54 |

| Losses in 7/2002 | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| * Died | 2 | 30 | 0 | 32 |
| * Cash surrender | 2 | 16 | 0 | 18 |
| Pure endowment matured | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Reinstated to active | 5 | 9 | 0 | 14 |
| Certificates lapsed (inactive) | 1 | 9 | 0 | 10 |
| Total Losses | 11 | 66 | 0 | 77 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---|--------|
| Total Inactive Members – 7/2002 | 7,498 | 16,710 | 0 | 24,208 |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---|--------|

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 7/2002 | 13,813 | 29,867 | 2,880 | 46,560 |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|

(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A tribute and a celebration

"Ukraine Lives!" was the title of The Ukrainian Weekly's editorial written on the occasion of last year's milestone 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. It is also the title we chose for our latest book, released in jubilant commemoration of the historic act of August 24, 1991, that once again placed the name "Ukraine" on the world map.

The book contains contemporaneous reports on events leading up to the re-establishment of Ukraine's independence, as well as news reports filed from the scene by our Kyiv Press Bureau on that momentous day in 1991 when the Parliament of the Ukrainian SSR, then still known as the Supreme Soviet ("soviet" is the Russian word for council), proclaimed the independence of Ukraine. Also included are reports on the often tense and exciting events that transpired soon thereafter, including the remarkable referendum of December 1, 1991, that affirmed the Ukrainian nation's overwhelming support for independent statehood.

Significantly, the 288-page book (which is similar in format to our earlier releases, the two-volumes of "The Ukrainian Weekly: 2000") also covers the compelling events that led up to independence in the recognition that independence – though it may have seemed sudden when it happened – certainly was not an overnight development. Thus, the book transports readers to Ukraine, then still part of the USSR, at the time of the newly proclaimed policies of glasnost, perestroika (or perebudova in Ukrainian) and demokratyzatsia. Articles about that period are augmented by a detailed timeline of events from December 1987 through December 1991.

In addition, the volume contains unique materials related to Ukraine's first decade of independence – encompassing the fields of politics, the arts, religious life, philately, etc. – along with special reports, commentaries by scholars, observations by foreign leaders, and reflections by youths of both Ukraine and the diaspora related to last year's celebrations of the 10th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. Perhaps most notable among the never-before-published materials is an account of Ukraine's participation in the Olympic Games.

Materials in the book are organized into chapters: "From Perebudova to Independence," "Independence: The Early Years," "The Tenth Anniversary," "Ukraine's Independence Day" (a collection of Weekly editorials published on each successive Ukrainian Independence Day, which gives a snapshot of both independent Ukraine's progress and the diaspora reaction) and "Attributes of Statehood." The epilogue to the book provides another perspective from which to consider the passage of 10 years since the re-establishment of Ukraine's statehood.

The dramatic full-color cover is the work of our colleague in Ukraine, the extremely talented photographer Efrem Lukatsky. We won't reveal what exactly is depicted on the cover, other than to say that it is a reflection of both the past and the present of Ukraine, its history, its culture, its religious heritage and its aspirations.

The Ukrainian Weekly's subscribers in North America, as well as all members of the U.S. Congress, will soon be receiving copies of "Ukraine Lives!" via the mail. (Readers from outside the United States and Canada who wish to receive a copy of the book must order it from our administration.)

We are sure that "Ukraine Lives!" will hold a special historical significance for Ukrainians around the world. It is meant to serve as a resource for researchers and a keepsake for readers.

But, most of all, "Ukraine Lives!" is a tribute to Ukraine and a celebration of the realization of its long-held dream of independence.

Aug.
26
2001

Turning the pages back...

Last year, from August 18 to 26, Ukraine celebrated the 10th anniversary of its independence. Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau covered the series of events marking that milestone. "For a 10th anniversary birthday bash, one day is not enough. Ukraine decided it needed a week to celebrate, and then did so with a flourish," wrote Mr. Woronowycz.

Following is information from his news story about the anniversary celebrations, which began August 18 with the opening of the Third World Forum of Ukrainians and ended on August 26 with a finale concert on Kyiv's European Square. The culmination of the celebrations, however, was on August 24 when nearly 50,000 residents of Kyiv came out onto the capital city's main thoroughfare, the Khreschatyk, to view the largest military parade in the country's decade of existence. At the anniversary parade, three foreign leaders – Russian President Vladimir Putin, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski – stood on the reviewing stand alongside Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and much of the country's government and legislative leadership. Also on hand were delegations from several other countries, including Canada, the United States, China and Chile.

Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk gave the single address of the celebration, which was followed by the national anthem, the religious hymn "Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi" and the release of hundreds of white doves into the bright blue sky. After that came more than 4,000 uniformed soldiers from the various branches of the armed forces, law enforcement agencies and many of the military academies and lyceums, followed by 300 pieces of military hardware, ranging from armored personnel carriers to Ukraine's state-of-the-art main battle tanks, T-84s, as well as thin-nosed Zenit series anti-ballistic missiles on carriers. A flyover of 42 various Ukrainian aircraft included MiG-29 fighter jets and the world's two largest airplanes, the AN-124 Ruslan and the AN-225 Mria. The finale included a daytime fireworks display, during which five Ukrainian blue-yellow standards appeared from a burst of pyrotechnics and floated downwards under miniature parachutes. Singers on parade floats, dancers, Olympic champions and young athletes, as well as representatives of Ukraine's many ethnic groups also were spotlighted in the parade.

Increasingly larger crowds, which reached more than 500,000, according to police esti-

FROM THE UNA PRESIDENT

Independent Ukraine's 11th anniversary

We mark the 11th anniversary of Ukraine's independence with prayer and hope. For many centuries we nurtured the inextinguishable hope that someday Ukraine would rise from its knees and our homeland would no longer be subject to the political and economic subjugation of Moscow, and repressions and limitations on the life of our enslaved but unbowed nation.

It is not easy to achieve state sovereignty: the best sons and daughters of our nation made huge sacrifices for the freedom and independence of their homeland. But, with God's help, the struggle culminated in victory. Again and again, Ukraine demonstrated to the world that there is a great nation in the center of Europe, that Ukrainians were ready and able to fight for their independence and the re-establishment of their statehood. After centuries of domination, first by tsarist Russia and then by the renewed empire known as the USSR, after decades of battle by Ukrainian patriots, among them the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, the Ukrainian Galician Army, the army of the Ukrainian National Republic, the Galicia Division and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, freedom was won. The world witnessed the realization of an age-old dream: independent Ukraine.

The August 24, 1991, declaration of the independence of Ukraine was followed by a nationwide referendum conducted on December 1, 1991, that yielded another great victory: more than 90 percent of the people of Ukraine voted for their country's independence.

Unfortunately, the years since the proclamation of independence were not always triumphant ones, as Ukraine faced discord and difficulty, and made mistakes. Nonetheless, this period was marked by significant achievements: a new currency was introduced, a new Constitution was adopted, the young Ukrainian state earned respect around the globe. Last year, for the first time ever, Ukraine experienced economic growth.

The Ukrainian community is concerned, however, about the decrease in Ukraine's population, the emigration of specialists in various fields beyond the borders of Ukraine. At the same time, wives, mothers and girls seek to make a living abroad; and youths have no prospects for professional careers.

The 108-year-old Ukrainian National Association, the oldest and largest Ukrainian organization outside of Ukraine, greets the Ukrainian nation on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of Ukraine's independence and extends its best wishes for success in surmounting economic and social obstacles, as well as further progress in building a strong democratic state governed by rule of law.

We greet the hierarchs of Ukrainian Churches, the president and government of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada and all those who honestly and earnestly work for the benefit of their nation and their country.

We call on the membership of the Ukrainian National Association to assist our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who are working toward the spiritual and physical rebirth that will ensure a brighter future for Ukraine.

Слава Україні! – Glory to Ukraine!

Stefan Kaczaraj
President



mates, filled the city center as the day continued, culminating in a series of rock and pop concerts throughout the city in the early evening hours and a huge fireworks salute to end the day's events.

A day earlier, Kyivans and visitors to the capital city witnessed the opening of the city's revamped Independence Square and the introduction of a new 62-meter column, atop which stands what state officials hope will be Ukraine's lady liberty. President Kuchma said in a short speech that he hoped that 10, 20 and even 100 years from now the statue would come to symbolize Ukrainian independence, democracy and liberty.

August 23 was an event-filled day for the president, beginning with a moleben at St. Sophia Sobor in the heart of Kyiv, and then followed by a prayer service at the St. Volodymyr the Great Monument overlooking the Dnipro River, and the placing of wreaths at memorials to Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's bard, and Mykhailo Hrushevsky, the president of its first republic, as well as at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Next came a jubilee concert at the Ukraina Palace of Culture (Palats Ukrainy) concert hall. Mr. Kuchma gave a lengthy 50-minute discourse on Ukraine's accomplishments of the last 10 years and a delineation of what still needs to be done. He said that, in terms of its importance to the Ukrainian nation, the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine passed on August 24, 1991, could be compared to the christening of Kyivan Rus' in 988. He said that Ukrainian independence is "irreversible" and called the 10th anniversary "the end of the first and most difficult stage."

In another highlight of the week's commemorations, the same members of the Verkhovna Rada who had carried the large Ukrainian flag into the session hall 10 years ago when the Parliament voted to proclaim Ukraine's independence and to leave the Soviet Union re-enacted the historic event to mighty applause during a ceremonial session of the Verkhovna Rada.

A large portion of the Kyiv diplomatic corps, along with most of the past and present members of the Parliament, President Kuchma, Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh and his Cabinet, and Supreme Court and Constitutional Court judges were on hand to view the proceedings, which included an address by Rada Chairman Ivan Pliusch. The session also included the reading of a proclamation by National Deputy Ihor Yukhnovsky from the Verkhovna Rada to the parliaments of the world in which the Ukrainian legislature pledged to continue the development of parliamentarism and democracy in the country.

Source: "Ukraine celebrates 10th anniversary of its independence," by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 2, 2001, Vol. LXIX, No. 35.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ukraine needs Truth Commission

Dear Editor:

Almost as disturbing as the discovery of human remains at the Basilian monastery in Zhovkva is the report that the archival documents that might shed light on this atrocity remain inaccessible. (The Weekly, July 28). If Ukraine and Russia wish to be treated as post-Soviet states, they should show that the Soviet era is closed by making its documentation available to scholars.

Opening up the archives, however, would only be the first step. It is generally acknowledged that a psychically healthy society, like a psychically healthy individual, must come to terms with its past. The first step in this process is to discover what in fact happened. Some two dozen countries with a history of massive human-rights violations, mostly in the Third World, have established Truth (or Truth and Reconciliation) Commissions. Sponsored by international organizations, governments or both, these commissions enable victims to tell their stories. They reconstruct the history of state crimes against humanity and help clear the national conscience.

A Truth Commission would make it possible for Ukraine to understand its Soviet past, to come to terms with it and to transcend it. Indeed, it is possible that much of Ukraine's current malaise stems from an inability to confront what happened under Soviet rule.

Unfortunately, the objections of various constituencies make such a project impossible. The perpetrators of such atrocities as those of Bykivnia, Demianiv Laz and Zhovkva, and their descendants, would block any such exposure in order to avoid criminal prosecution or public shame. Communists would seek to avoid negative publicity for their party. Understandably, many ordinary Ukrainians instinctively distrust the notion of retribution, knowing that it only perpetuates conflict and suffering. They might consider a Truth Commission socially and politically divisive. Christians in particular seek forgiveness and abhor vengeance.

These objections miss the mark. A Truth Commission would not be in the business of criminal prosecution. True, the evidence it gathered could be used by Ukrainian courts, or even an international criminal court, in prosecuting suspected perpetrators of crimes against humanity, and U.S. federal courts might take jurisdiction over suits for civil damages brought by victims against persecutors present in the United States. But the brief of a Truth Commission would be limited to uncovering the facts. Communists would be free to interpret or dispute those facts – a skill they surely have not lost. Any social or political divisions resulting from the revelation of unpleasant historical data would be outweighed by the healing power of truth. Since the commission would not be empowered to seek individual or collective justice – much less retri-

bution – the people would retain the right to decide between forgiveness and punishment.

A more difficult objection would be that, by focusing on the Soviet past, a Truth Commission might draw attention away from more recent human rights abuses. The possibility that justice might not be achieved in one area, however, is hardly a convincing argument for not pursuing it in another. On the contrary, a public investigation of Soviet crimes against humanity might set the stage for an inquest into post-Soviet violations of human rights.

Non-governmental organizations like Smoloskyp and Memorial have done important work in researching, documenting and publicizing Soviet crimes against humanity. Unfortunately, their findings lack the perceived authority of a national or international inquiry. The socio-psychological benefits of a Truth Commission with broad investigative powers and full access to Ukrainian and Russian police and Communist Party archives would be immense.

Only the light of exposure can dispel the spectres that haunt our collective memory. But for the time being, Ukraine, like one unwilling or unable to acknowledge and confess grave sin, cannot shake the moral paralysis of a bad conscience.

Andrew Sorokowski
Rockville, Md.

Thanks on behalf of the Rotarians

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank The Ukrainian Weekly for publishing an article about Rotary International in the June 16 issue. Rotary International now has 35 clubs in major cities of Ukraine, which provide very significant assistance to Ukraine in terms of medical supplies, student exchanges, professional exchanges, business contacts, medical missions, book shipments, aid to orphanages and hospital equipment shipments, as well as other humanitarian assistance.

By publishing this article, your paper has not only informed its readers of the huge, private Rotary assistance effort benefiting the needy Ukrainian populace, but you have also rendered great encouragement to Rotarians both in Ukraine and abroad by recognizing their significant yet often unnoticed efforts.

Please convey my sincerest appreciation to Roman Woronowycz for writing this article. I was very much impressed with the journalistic quality of his report and his keen grasp of the Rotary International spirit permeating the organization's humanitarian endeavors. I often marvel at his prolific and informative coverage of the political and economic scene in Ukraine, and his stories, which are always written in an interesting, insightful and clear way.

Lubomyr O. Hewko
Clarkston, Mich.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Our community's four "aces"

We all know and enjoy the three tenors. Their singing is unsurpassed.

Some of you may know and enjoy the three black tenors. They, too, are outstanding.

But did you know that our community has four aces, not professional singers, mind you, but academics who have made outstanding contributions to our community and who, unlike the community-subsidized prima donnas at Harvard are willing to mix with and address us common folk? They attend academic conferences, of course, but they also inform non-academics. All four gentlemen fall under the rubric of "ace," defined by The American Heritage Dictionary as "an expert in a given field."

On Sunday, July 21, our four aces participated in a roundtable discussion in Chicago sponsored by the Foundation for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Illinois. Moderated by Julian Kulas, the panel's topic was: "The Political and Economic Situation in Ukraine in the Wake of the Recent Parliamentary Elections."

The first ace to speak was Dr. Taras Hunczak, a professor of history at Rutgers University, editor of *Suchasnist*, and editor or co-editor of numerous multi-volume historical document collections related to Symon Petliura, Ukraine and Poland, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and other topics referencing Ukraine's freedom crusade. Considered a bon-vivant by some, Prof. Hunczak can also hold his own as a singer, especially when the appropriate social occasion presents itself.

Prof. Hunczak was relatively optimistic about the outcome of the elections, reminding us that the Communist Party lost two-thirds of its parliamentarians. This is a very encouraging development, he emphasized. Also positive is the fact that some elected officials changed their allegiance after the election. "People now know who they really are," commented Prof. Hunczak. They misrepresented themselves and voters will remember that the next time. "They won't get re-elected." Although there is growing disappointment in Viktor Yushchenko, Yulia Tymoshenko's stock seems to be rising in Ukraine.

It is worth noting in this regard that, according to a recent sociological survey conducted among prominent journalists in Ukraine by Democratic Initiatives, Leonid Kuchma, Viktor Medvedchuk and Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn are gaining in popularity since the election.

The second ace to speak was Dr. Vasyl Markus, a local academic celebrity who, along with his lovely wife Dr. Daria Markus, is the current editor of the *Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora*. A political science professor at Loyola University for many years until his retirement in 1988, Dr. Markus was an editor of Volume 2 of *Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia*, and the associate editor of the first two volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*. Actively involved in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, he is also an authority on Subcarpathian Ukraine.

Dr. Markus commented on the tightrope that Mr. Yushchenko must walk if he expects to be elected president. Mr. Yushchenko opposes impeaching President Kuchma because such a move would dangerously destabilize the government. At the same time, however, he needs to maintain his momentum and to weaken Mr. Kuchma's base without openly criticizing the president. If Mr. Yushchenko works with

the grassroots and courts the rising young elite, he has a chance to win in 2004, Dr. Markus believes. The diaspora should be less critical and work with the U.S. government in its efforts to improve the situation in Ukraine.

Dr. Peter Potichnyj, a professor of political science at McMaster University, was the third speaker. Co-author of the groundbreaking study "Two Solitudes: Jewish-Ukrainian Relations," as well as "Soviet Agricultural Trade Unions, 1917-1920," Dr. Potichnyj left Ukraine after World War II with a westward-bound company of the UPA. He is a co-editor of the multi-volume *Litopys Ukrainskoyi Povstanskoyi Armii* (Chronicle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army) and "Political Thought of the Ukrainian Underground, 1943-1951." Amazingly, he is also a consultant to Heilongjiang University in Harbin, China.

In his remarks Dr. Potichnyj focused on Ukraine's political culture which, he argued, is a work in progress. With no strong political culture to provide balance, Ukrainian politicians still have not understood the limits of their political power. The emphasis is on personal aggrandizement, not the commonweal. Moreover, political parties in Ukraine lack vision and have not defined their goals well. Because they tend to waffle, they don't engender trust, and this lack of trust leads to disenchantment within the electorate. Although there are many positive changes in Ukraine, a democratic political culture will be long in coming. It's easier to establish a nation-state than to nurture it.

The fourth speaker, also from Canada, was Dr. Jaroslav Rozumnyj, former chairman of the Slavic studies department at the University of Manitoba and one-time president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in Canada. His articles on Ukrainian literature and culture have appeared in numerous Ukrainian émigré and Canadian scholarly publications.

Dr. Rozumnyj believes Ukraine has three major problems: the Russian language, still the language of prestige; Russian elitism, which dominates the mass media; and a loss of population. Ukrainian national pride is on the rise and this has frightened Russia. This has produced the kind of backlash we see in moves to celebrate the Pereiaslav Treaty, growing demands to harmonize Ukrainian and Russian history, and plans for a nationwide celebration to commemorate the 85th birthday of Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, former first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukrainian SSR. It was Mr. Shcherbytsky who, following Moscow's dictates, reversed the moderate Ukrainianization efforts of his predecessor, Petro Shelest. Under Comrade Shcherbytsky, Russification was intensified along with increased repression of Ukraine's dissident movement. Following re-unification, Germany eliminated Soviet-style professors from universities in East Germany, Dr. Rozumnyj pointed out. Ukraine must do the same. The Soviet ballast that is still dragging Ukraine down needs to be dumped. The Ukrainian diaspora, meanwhile, should continue to criticize Ukraine and to support academic life based on a Ukrainian national model.

Like many of us, the four aces are a bit long in tooth. They have lost none of their powers of discernment, however. They are superb educators who have much to say and love to travel. Invite them to your next community forum and let them sing.

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

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

Harvard hosts U.S. premiere of long-awaited Ukrainian film about Mazepa

by Yuri Shevchuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – “A major achievement of the world-class level!” “Preachy, irritating, too long, unfinished ...” These two opinions sum up the Harvard audience’s reception of the long-awaited and much-talked-about film “A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa” (Molytva za Hetmana Mazepu). On August 1, the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI) staged what amounted to the North American premiere of Yuri Illienko’s latest film.

Students, professors and the community invited for the occasion to Jefferson Hall at Harvard University had a unique opportunity to view the first big-budget (almost \$2.5 million U.S.) picture made in Ukraine since independence before “Prayer” is even released for the general viewer in Ukraine in September.

Despite the very short notice and the relative quiet of the end of summer, more than 100 viewers showed up for the screening. They were Harvard Summer School students, university instructors and academics, intellectuals and representatives of the Ukrainian American community of Greater Boston; some even drove from as far as Connecticut. The cultural background of the audience was also varied – besides Americans there were viewers from Ukraine, Canada, Poland, Italy, Belarus and Egypt.

From its very inception the film was to be a kind of cinematographic match to the emergence of independent Ukraine, the beginning of its long-awaited cultural and spiritual revival. The high stakes were matched not only by its unprecedented budget – the project was singled out for special funding by the Viktor Yushchenko government – but also by its film crew composed arguably of some of the very best Ukraine’s cinema has to offer. The director-cum-cameraman Mr. Illienko is world-renowned for camerawork in “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors” and his direction of “Swan Lake: The Zone,” “Well for the Thirsty,” “Straw Bells.”

Bohdan Stupka, the principal interpreter of the role of Hetman Mazepa is a world-class actor. Other members of the cast are: Liudmyla Yefymenko (Liuba Kochubei), Mykyta Dzhyhurda (King Charles XII), Viacheslav Dovzhenko (Tsar Peter I), Viktor Demertas (Kochubei), Kateryna Lisovenko (Motria Kochubei), Pylyp Illienko (young Mazepa), Serhii Marchenko (older Mazepa).

The HUSI invited the composer of the score, Virko Baley of Las Vegas, to present the film. Mr. Baley, as if trying to pre-empt the main line of criticism and arguing with as-yet-invisible critics, warned viewers that what they were about to see was neither a historical epic nor an illustration to a history book, and not a narrative in the usual sense of the word. He could not be more right. For better or for worse, “Prayer” is like nothing else Ukrainian cinema has ever produced.

The subject Mr. Illienko has chosen concerns one of the most fascinating periods of Ukrainian and East European history, and the drama of a man of truly epic proportions. Hetman Mazepa, a man of dazzling acumen, polyglot, statesman, military leader, lover, has captured the imagination of such writers as Lord Byron, Alexander Pushkin, Victor Hugo, Juliusz Slowacki, Rainer Maria Rilke, Bertolt Brecht, to name just a few. His ill-fated attempt to exploit the opportunity of the war between Muscovy of Peter I and Sweden of Charles XII and regain the independence of Ukraine inspired generations of Ukrainian freedom fighters.

The film is based on some known historical facts: Mazepa’s decision to side with the King of Sweden against Peter I, Charles and Mazepa’s defeat in the Battle of



Scenes from Yuri Illienko’s new film, “A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa.”

Poltava, the bloody massacre of Baturyn, Mazepa’s capital, by the Muscovites. Dramatic as they are, these and other events assume in Mr. Illienko’s film the larger philosophical dimensions of the general Ukrainian condition. In Mr. Baley’s words, they are “stations of the cross” on the way to Ukraine’s crucifixion and its hoped-for resurrection. In this struggle, Mazepa becomes for Ukrainians the messenger of liberation, the promise of a regained national and human dignity. For Muscovites he is the devil incarnate, the despicable traitor.

The relations between Mazepa and Peter I are an thematic and emotional pivot of “Prayer.” They go well beyond the political; the two statesmen are deeply involved emotionally. This is a particularly riveting and for some a shocking aspect of Mr. Illienko’s interpretation. This emotional aspect is the key to understanding the centuries-old relationship between Ukraine and Russia. Not incidentally, love and passion in Mr. Illienko’s film go together with death and decay, domination and control, humiliation and murderous insanity.

The film is construed and shot in such a way as to avoid even a hint of gratuitous entertainment. The set is deliberately made to look artificial, the costumes fake and often

out of period, the blood is really paint. Its esthetic technique, its visual and acoustic arsenals are designed to shock, to antagonize, to revolt, to make the viewer not just register the action on the silver screen but literally to suffer it, to experience every moment of the at times seemingly endless 152 minutes of the footage. Small wonder that those who expected to be entertained were in for a cruel disappointment. Yet one can argue that for the Ukrainian viewers the desperate need to escape from the grim everyday reality into Hollywood-style pure entertainment does not override the desire to understand exactly why Ukrainians seem so doomed to relive the same national failure over and over again.

Obviously Mr. Illienko could not care less about pure entertainment. Hence the accusation of the “almost amateurish disregard for audience sensibilities” leveled against the director by the magazine *Variety*, the influential U.S. film-industry mouthpiece. It seems as if the director seeks to employ every means at his disposal in order to antagonize and provoke his viewer into major soul-searching; not to offer him the shallow satisfaction of a proverbial happy ending, but to leave him perturbed, revolted even disgusted. Has Mr. Illienko succeeded in this?

Reactions from the audience

Led by the old maxim “Vox populi, vox Dei,” selected viewers were polled after the screening. They were asked four questions.

In your opinion, what is the film about?

• **Roman Szporluk**, Mykhailo Hrushevskyy Professor of Ukrainian History, Harvard: “The message of the film is in the reflection that it provokes about certain permanent themes and issues of Ukrainian history, namely the problem of national solidarity, of loyalty to the cause. Here we get the critical message of Mazepa who mentions with sadness, but little surprise, the Kozak units that never arrived to the battle or sided with the enemy. In a more dramatic and explicit form, the same message is reiterated in Charles’ monologue, when he explains that he is the king of Swedes and not mercenaries without a national identity.

• **Wawa Baczynskij**, a viewer from Boston: “I am quite unsure of what the film is about. On the one hand it seems to have a description of a series of historical events, and on the other hand it is incredibly preachy. It was very clear to me that great parallels were being made between the past and the present. It was trying to teach the whole Ukrainian nation what it was supposed to be doing to be on its feet.

• **Lubomyr Hajda**, associate director of Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute: The film seems to me to be an interpretation of Hetman Ivan Mazepa and Ukrainian history of his time as seen in a phantasmagoric dream in the mind of the director, Illienko. For me the main message of the film concerning the figure of Mazepa is that he was neither an unequivocal hero, nor an unequivocal villain as, depending on one’s point of view, he tends to be portrayed in literature and scholarship. The director exhibits certain ambivalences in his attitudes toward Mazepa, though less so toward the historical situation and the difficulties that Mazepa found himself in. According to the film, no choice that Mazepa faced could yield the optimal result, though his devotion to Ukraine was true.

The other is the image of Ukraine which is represented in many ways – in the women that populate the screen, or the map of Europe with Ukraine as a woman that gets raped by the powerful men around her, and other symbols. I think that the combination of this image of Ukraine as a victim of violence represented by sexual abuse and the image of Mazepa who attempted to do something for this country that was probably doomed to failure are the main messages that I got from the film.

• **Michael Flier**, Oleksander Potebnia Professor of

Ukrainian Philology, Harvard: The director is providing a meditation in dream-like sequences on a number of major themes, all important to Ukrainian history and Ukrainian identity, themes of power – Who truly has it? Who freely uses it? Who is destroyed by it? – and its corollaries of dominance and submission, of self-absorption, of lust and jealousy, of love and hatred. Using the conceit of the Mazepa-Peter dynamic, Illienko sees them as reflections of each other, both narcissistic, intent on control and independence, driven to sweeping theatrical gestures, and acts of dominance and humiliation. The homo-erotic leitmotif provides a vehicle to comment on the attraction between powerful men and the need for physical domination and humiliation to prove their vitality and roles as leaders.

“Ukraine as a woman becomes the object of lust in this contest, one in which she is both defenseless victim and controlling dominatrix. In the last analysis, the director maybe commenting on Tolstoy’s notions about the ineffectuality of “great leaders” in the grand scheme of history. A naked Peter riding off on a wild horse, his hands tied behind him, is matched by a similar scene with Mazepa later in the film.

• **Anna Müller**, Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute student, Poland: The movie was definitely overwhelming, and I should watch it at least three or four more times in order to grasp the main points. I think it is very healthy that Ukraine is presented in the film with a good dose of irony and sarcasm – always as a woman, sometimes raped, sometimes insane, at times as Mazepa’s lover, at times his god-child who becomes his lover. There is always, though, this strange sort of sexual relationship – someone always has to seduce and betray. This sort of martyrology proves particularly appealing to East-European artists.

Another image that really appealed to me was the metaphor of history: an old woman with very big motherly breasts, even though it has not always been a good mother for Ukraine, with insane eyes and incessant curses flowing from her mouth until the director covers it, saying – OK, that’s enough. History talks to us through different people: Voltaire, Tolstoy, common people, legends handed down from generation to generation. Every generation creates its own history, and every generation has its own dimension of objectivity. It the end does it really matter whether or not Peter the Great was insane? Not really. What matters is how his image affects us and what is the purpose we need it for.

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Virko Baley, the composer of the score for “A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa,” introduces the film to Harvard viewers on August 1.

Ukraine's cinema industry faces its moment of truth

by **Conor Humphries**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – After over a decade in the doldrums, the Ukrainian cinema industry is facing its moment of truth as a domestically financed film is being prepared for widespread domestic distribution for the first time in a decade.

“A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa,” a surrealistic historical epic by the well-regarded Ukrainian director Yuriy Illienko has already sparked controversy – and more seems inevitable – as the world gets its first real glimpse at a post-Soviet Ukrainian cinematic product and taxpayers get a chance to see what their \$2 million have been spent on.

“It’s a film of genius,” stated Mykola Mashenko, director of Kyiv’s Dovzhenko Studio, describing the legendary film factory’s latest and most expensive production. “Of course, some people will like it and others won’t. But I’m delighted that a paper like Moscow’s *Izvestia* said that it was a picture of genius.”

Speaking in his enormous office in the administrative building of the studio, Mr. Mashenko has no shortage of superlatives to describe Mr. Illienko’s historical epic, whose budget of 12 million hryv (almost \$2.1 million U.S.) represents the government’s biggest investment in Ukraine’s crumbling film infrastructure since independence. Placing it on par with undisputed classics such as Dovzhenko’s “Earth” and Paradjanov’s “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors,” he included it on his list of the 20 films in the studio’s 75-year history that have reached the level of high art.

Russian cinema critics, however, have been less generous with their superlatives. Aside from the above-mentioned *Izvestia* critic, the reactions from Moscow following a showing of the film at the recent Kinotavr festival in Sochi were negative, to put it politely. Objecting in equal measure to its surrealist style and its negative portrayal of Peter the Great – shown at one point raping a soldier – the Russian critics dismissed it as

incomprehensible.

“The ‘Prayer’ presents itself as a particular type of masterpiece of provincial surrealism, and there is nothing even almost understandable in it,” wrote Moscow’s *Novaya Gazeta*, while the *Vremya* television program noted that the majority of the audience at Sochi left well before the end of the film.

On the other hand, a Polish film festival held near Szczecin awarded the Ukrainian film its grand prize, picking it over 26 other international entries.

However biased the Russian reaction, the success or failure of the film when it is finally released in September will act as a litmus test for the state of the Ukrainian film industry. Few of the six or seven feature films produced in Ukraine annually are seen by more than a handful of insiders and, if widely distributed as planned, “Mazepa” will be the first glimpse by many into Ukraine’s cinema industry in over a decade.

One Kyiv native who sees the film’s shortcomings as typical of the problems in the industry is Andrei Levchenko, artistic director of the 1999 foreign-financed, Oscar-nominated production “East-West” – one of the most widely distributed films made in Ukraine in the last decade. Mr. Levchenko sees the surrealist style as self-indulgent.

“What they are calling new – it’s not new, it’s just a lack of responsibility in relation to representation,” he stated, before apologizing for his negative attitude. “I look on it with an ironic smile, not because I’m indifferent, but because I’m not indifferent at all.”

For Mr. Levchenko, the general lack of resources is the obvious problem faced by Ukrainian cinema, a situation that is accentuated by the control that the government continues to have over the industry because it remains the only real source of financial resource for the money-strapped industry.

“If you want the level of cinema to rise there needs to be investment, so the government loses its aesthetic control,” explained Mr. Levchenko.

Volodymyr Votenko, editor of *Kino-*

Kolo, a quarterly Ukrainian film magazine, agreed and claimed that government control is holding back new talent with its insistence on big-budget historical epics.

“The government only gives these large amounts of money to directors who have proven themselves, and they are inevitably from the older generation,” he noted, “and for the most part they are working with the same bureaucrats they were working with during the Soviet Union.”

For Mr. Mashenko, it is the lack of government control that is having the more negative effect on the industry, which has not yet become acclimatized to the post-censorship world in which it is operating.

“We have had 10 years of an uncensored, free creative process, with nobody controlling it – not the studio director, not the ministry, no one,” remarked Mr. Mashenko. “Occasionally, however, we confuse creative freedom with an absence of responsibility for what we do. We need to be able to decide whether or not our audience needs something without the aid of censorship.”

Government control remains because there is an almost total lack of investment in the industry from other sources, with an array of problems holding back potential investors from putting in their money. Enormous taxes, for example, mean that as much as 50 percent of an investment goes to the state budget.

There is also no provision for private distribution of films made in the big studios, which would allow private enterprises to invest money in marketing films. Although the market has shrunk enormously since the days when cinema receipts were second only to vodka as money generators for the Soviet government, the video market still holds large potential for distributors.

In Russia, where the industry has faced similar problems to its Ukrainian counterpart in acclimatizing to the market economy, government changes in taxation and distribution have led to significant growth. This year as many as 50 feature films will

be produced in Russia – 20 of them by first-time directors.

One thing that Ukrainian cinema has undoubtedly gained, however, is freedom, and Mr. Mashenko is determined to take full advantage of it to tell the stories that the Soviets wouldn’t stand for. Currently, he is personally directing the first segment of a new film about Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, the leader of the Ukrainian Kozak state in the 17th century, to be shown at this year’s Molodist film festival in Kyiv to complement Ihor Sovchenko’s 1941 Soviet film on the same subject.

In addition to finding a director for a production of *Taras Bulba*, his main ambition is to shoot a great film about World War II from the Ukrainian point of view, to counter the endless productions about the struggle from the Soviet angle.

“Ukraine lost more than any others in the war, and no film has yet been made about its war,” pointed out Mr. Mashenko. “After all, what is a country without its history? It’s nothing!”



Mykola Mashenko of the Dovzhenko Studio in Kyiv.

Reactions...

(Continued from page 8)

What really matters is the narrative and the way it influences us and not the historical truth. That is the post-modern dimension of the movie.

Did you like the film?

• **Dr. Szporluk:** “I am speaking only as a movie-goer, a non-specialist, as someone who sometimes, not too often, goes to the movies and sometimes likes what he sees and sometimes does not. “I found the film interesting and indeed fascinating. I really feel it to be a major achievement of the world-class level. This is not an illustration to a history book, it’s a work of art, a post-modernist work of creative imagination.

• **Ms. Baczynskyj:** I found Mr. Illienko’s film very irritating. It needs a good amount of editing. It is unfinished and much too long. I do not think the creator has given his audience one ounce of credit for intelligence. I felt like I was hit over the head 25 times by the same message. In my opinion the film is very moralistic. I feel bad that it is going out as the big Ukrainian movie.

• **Dr. Hajda:** There is much in the film that I liked and much that I admired without necessarily liking it. Much of the cinematography was very effective, some of the symbolism, many images, the occasional humor. There were many very striking parts, in particular the vertep sequence, the devastation of Baturyn, the representation of Peter I. Despite the certain hyperbole inherent in this kind of surreal film, I think the picture of Peter is a powerful corrective to

the hagiographic treatment of him in Russian scholarship, fiction and cinema. He was a very complex and psychologically probably a very sick man.

On the other hand, the film is simply too long. It would benefit from editing and pruning, which could enhance its effectiveness both as a piece of art and as a medium to convey its message. It lacked a certain sense of economy, particularly in the last half-hour. Although the historical context seems well enough realized and film – like historical fiction – allows great leeway for the imagination, I was not persuaded that making Liubov Kochubei the central female figure and Mazepa’s love/sex object is an improvement on his real interest in her daughter, Motria. Some of the sexual and scatological imagery (especially that involving Peter) seems to me artistically valid and effective, but some seems gratuitous and by its overuse weakens the point it tries to make.

• **Dr. Flier:** The film had some very strong points and is obviously provocative. I was impressed by wonderful allusions to the great East Slavic cinema tradition (especially Dovzhenko, Eisenstein and Tarkovsky, for example, the importance of landscape and the interaction with nature – especially water with its ability to destroy and generate, and the references to medieval orthodoxy and paganism – the effective use of the blessing of the waters ritual, the funereal rafts let loose on the river. Peter I is right out of the great Surikov painting when he presides over the execution of the rebellious striltsi (riflemen). And the humor throughout animated the characters and the narra-

tive in striking ways. It is important that a nation such as Ukraine is able to produce such a work of art at this point in its development. But the film is much too long and repetitive. It needs major editing.

• **Ms. Müller:** I enjoyed it a lot. I wish movies like this were made in my country. We need to stop treating ourselves so dead seriously, as we do right now. Poland cannot be the “Christ of Nations” any longer, there is too much competition in this field.

Do you think the film is anti-Russian?

• **Ms. Baczynskyj:** The film is not anti-Russian or anti-Ukrainian, it is more anti-power. When people are in power, they make deals, they do things that in some ways have very little connection to what the people whom they represent really need.

• **Dr. Flier:** No. The cynical view of history and its characters is cast on all characters and events.

• **Dr. Hajda:** The film obviously presents certain figures and events of Russian history, in a light the Russians might not like. That however, does not make the film anti-Russian. Some Ukrainians may not like the representation of Ukraine and Ukrainians in the film either, but that does not make it anti-Ukrainian.

Is the Ukrainian audience ready for such a film?

• **Dr. Szporluk:** Watching this film I began to imagine what reactions it will generate – we already know the official Russian circles hate it – but I am sure we may expect almost equally negative reactions, although for different reasons, from some traditionalist Ukrainian patriots. To them I would say:

Let’s face it. Do we want to forbid Ukrainian artists to do what artists in France and Britain, Italy and Germany are free to do and actually do? Have we not answered yet the question Khvylioviy asked 80 years ago? Do we still think that for the Ukrainians *Prosvita* is enough, and that for “Europe” they are not ready even today? To me, the film proves that at least the Ukrainian cultural elite is safely in “Europe.” I suspect that more regular viewers in Ukraine than we think are also comfortably in “Europe.”

I would not worry whether or not the film is a commercial success. One should not forget that one of the most popular operas of all times, “Carmen,” was a total fiasco when it was first performed in Paris, and the composer Georges Bizet died before learning that his opera was not that bad. The proof of the success of this film, and I agree here with what Mr. Baley said in his introductory remarks, is that it does not leave you indifferent in terms of ideology, that it excites you as a work of art, it makes you mad, excited, but you nevertheless want to watch it to the end. If you can get people to watch your film for two and half hours – even if at the end they say it was terrible – you have already won.

The screening of “A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa” at Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute was made possible thanks to the assistance of Mr. Baley, composer of its score, and the cooperation of Ihor Didkovsky, the film’s producer.

– Yuri Shevchuk

The Ukrainian diaspora, East and West: an analysis

by Askold Lozynskyj

CONCLUSION

The Eastern diaspora's freedom of religion as a human right and an element of cultural development suffers as well. Religious persecution is so apparent in Russia's law on religion that it has been criticized widely by the world community. The Russian Federation's law on religion in theory recognizes four denominations: Russian Orthodoxy, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. In practice, regional administrations register other denominations such as Protestant, Roman Catholic, etc. However, Ukrainian Orthodoxy or Ukrainian Catholicism is not tolerated. In certain instances Ukrainians worship as Russian Orthodox or Roman Catholics.

An attempt to register a Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate in Noginsk, Russia, was met by violent repression from the Russian Orthodox Church. Russian government officials refused to intervene, disingenuously explaining their restraint by citing Church-state separation arguments. Ukrainian Catholics in Omsk Oblast are registered as a German Roman Catholic church.

Less egregious, but still persecutory, are Poland and

Askold Lozynskyj, a New York attorney, has been president of the Ukrainian World Congress since 1998. Prior to that he was president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Slovakia. Both try to "Latinize" Ukrainian Catholicism. Restitution of community and church property to Ukrainians is a laborious and often abortive process. Compare that with Ukraine, where some 8,500 parishes of the Moscow Patriarchate operate freely with government sanction and support.

Finally, assimilation is a problem in the United States, Canada, Western Europe and Australia. Demographic studies have shown that in these countries less than 20 percent of the Ukrainian population speaks Ukrainian fluently. This has been ameliorated somewhat by a tremendous influx of new immigrants from Ukraine at the expense of Ukraine itself, where the population has fallen below 49 million. This influx, however, has not resulted in an appreciable increase in activity by the Western diaspora, since the "old guard" is in decline and its children are nowhere. Baby boomers in the West have distinguished themselves with little except self-gratification.

Perhaps, the problem stems from relevance – to what degree is being Ukrainian relevant to one's existence, and, in addition, how important is it to speak and write Ukrainian. The establishment of an independent Ukraine – even with all its deficiencies, but with geostrategic importance – has done much to foster a national awareness within the Western diaspora. Ukraine's future as either a significant democratic market or a "banana republic without bananas" will determine the level of enthusiasm within its Western diaspora.

The Ukrainian diaspora indeed stretches across the

globe. Ukrainians reside from Anchorage, Alaska to Vladivostok the Russian Federation or Melbourne, Australia. Locations previously unknown as Ukrainian enclaves, albeit small ones, such as Zurich, Tokyo, Beijing, have sprouted. To date, these enclaves lack structures. Nevertheless, representatives of these communities participate often in all-Ukrainian events such as the most recent Third World Forum of Ukrainians held in Kyiv in August 2001. The significance of this phenomenon is that demographics are dynamic and require constant attention.

Unfortunately, Ukraine's relationship with its diaspora has been erratic at best. With independence, the government of Ukraine initiated the formation of a hybrid governmental/non-governmental organization, the World Ukrainian Coordinating Council (WUCC). The WUCC has been ineffective. One theory suggests that this structure was instituted in order to provide the government with some measure of control over the diaspora. The leadership put in place was chosen for its malleability, rather than competency. Others have suggested that the WUCC was instituted strictly to create a perception of concern with no regard as to efficacy.

Equally disappointing has been Ukraine's juggling of ministries, state committees and now the Foreign Affairs Ministry in order to deal with the diaspora. A program for the diaspora ending in 2000 was never implemented. So, in September 2001 a more ambitious new program earmarked until 2005 was introduced – bereft, however, of budgetary allocations. A bill on the rights and privileges of Ukrainians residing outside Ukraine has been introduced in the Verkhovna Rada and has stalled there.

The most significant deficiency has been Ukraine's apparent lack of concern for the diaspora – particularly the Eastern segment. The Western diaspora has offered a measure of financial and political support to the government of Ukraine, and the government upon occasion has availed itself of that support. It is important to note that, even in efforts of mutual concern and cooperation, the respective representatives of Ukraine and the Western diaspora proceed most gingerly, not trusting the other side fully.

The Eastern diaspora offers Ukraine neither political clout nor financial resources. Altruism or national awareness and concern are not the mantra of today's leadership in Ukraine. Ukraine shies away from intervention with other governments on behalf of its diaspora, e.g., those in the Russian Federation, Belarus, Poland or Slovakia, citing "internal affairs," "good neighbor diplomacy" and even ignorance. Ironically, both Russian presidents to date have been significantly less squeamish, diplomatic or ignorant when speaking out for their diaspora. This example is not a result simply of Russian arrogance. The Bulgarian government, for example, voices its concern about some 250,000 Bulgarians residing in Ukraine. Germany and Poland offer assistance to its brethren residing in foreign countries. Ukraine's leadership simply fails to recognize one of its roles as a Ukrainian government.

In 1967 Ukrainians from the United States, Canada, South America, Western Europe and Australia established a global Ukrainian coordinating body, naming it the World Congress of Free Ukrainians. With the fall of the Iron Curtain and the demise of the USSR, that world body, now known as the Ukrainian World Congress, has expanded its role to reach out to less fortunate Ukrainians in the East. The support offered by the UWC has been mostly contact and intervention.

In addition to existing Western communities, UWC representatives have visited Ukrainian communities in Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Belarus (Minsk and Brest), Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Kazakstan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation (Moscow, Bashkortostan, Tyumen, Omsk, Tomsk, Novosibirsk), Armenia and Georgia.

The UWC has communicated with the Slovak government regarding its policy of dividing Ukrainians and Rusyns; the Polish government regarding compensation of concentration camp inmates, condemnation of "Akcja Wisla," and community property restitution; the Belarusian government regarding registration of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations; and the Russian government regarding Ukrainian religious freedom and Ukrainian language schools.

Some minimal humanitarian aid, as well as other financial support, has been given, for example, to flood victims in Romania, support for the elderly, construction of a school and a church in Kazakstan, and support for Ukrainian-language publications in Belarus and Russia.

Most significant, however, has been the inclusion of the Eastern diaspora within the membership roll of the



During an April visit to the capital of Armenia, Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj lays a wreath at the memorial in Yerevan to the victims of the 1915 Genocide.



The UWC president at the Ukrainian lyceum in Astana, Kazakstan, with administrative and educational personnel, and several schoolchildren in August 1999.

(Continued on page 21)

DATELINE NEW YORK: Catching up with arts/entertainment

by Helen Smindak

Ballet and folk dance

American Ballet Theater opened its spring season at the Metropolitan Opera with a gala benefit performance that featured only one of its three Ukrainian principals – Vladimir Malakhov. Maxim Belotserkovsky, who was ill at the time, went on as scheduled for the rest of the eight-week season. His wife, dancer Irina Dvorenko, was out for the whole season due to a foot injury that required surgery; it's expected she will rejoin the company for the fall season at City Center.

The New York Times' Anna Kisselgoff, reviewing the performance of Act I from John Cranko's "Onegin," pointed to "the breathtaking pure line" that Mr. Malakhov lent to the role of Lensky. His airy leaps and skimming traveling brisees in "Giselle," a work crammed with dramatic detail, were noted by Jennifer Dunning in her review of the ballet in The Times. Mr. Malakhov also performed the role of a slave trader in a Turkish bazaar in the season's memorable "Le Corsaire," appeared as von Rothbart in "Swan Lake," and danced in the Tchaikovsky "Pas de Deux," the "Nutcracker Pas de Deux" and "Symphony in C."

Born in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, Mr. Malakhov joined ABT as a principal dancer in 1995. He was named "best male dancer" in the world by Japan's Dance Magazine for three consecutive years, 1992-1994, and is the subject of three films: "Bravo Malakhov" (1991), "The Dancer Malakhov" (1993) and "The True Prince" (1996).

Writing about Mr. Belotserkovsky as Albrecht in the eloquent cast of "Giselle," Ms. Kisselgoff said the dancer portrayed an impulsive young man whose "body soared, while at the same time his spirit seemed weighted down." The Times' Jack Anderson, reviewing "Swan Lake," noted that Mr. Belotserkovsky, as Prince Siegfried, was "a hero with a sunny disposition." Mr. Anderson went on to appraise the Black Swan pas de deux danced later that evening by Mr. Belotserkovsky and Nina Ananiashvili as "grand in scale, yet free of affectation." The handsome Kyiv-born dancer, also seen during the spring season in "Theme and Variations," "Symphony in C," "The Dream," "Onegin" and "La Fille Mal Gardee," is scheduled to travel to Japan in September for the company's two-week tour in that country. He has been with ABT since 1994 and was promoted to soloist the following year. Both he and his wife, who joined ABT in 1996, were promoted to principal dancers in August 2000.

Ms. Kisselgoff, bless her heart, knows the difference between Ukrainians and Russians. She showed that in her review of the Moiseyev Dance Company when it appeared at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in nearby Newark during its recent U.S. tour. (The company also performed on Long Island at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, but did not make a stop in New York City.) Regarding old Moiseyev favorites inspired by the multi-ethnic population of the former Soviet Union, the reviewer pointed to "Gopak" – "Hopak to Ukrainians," explained Ms. Kisselgoff – which still sends a male dancer flying in a split over the ensemble. She was highly impressed by the amazing lightness of "the low-slung crouching dances of the men" that contrasted with "the flashing color of the women's dances."

Drama and street theater

Lydia Krushelnitsky's Ukrainian Stage Ensemble took well-deserved bows at two outstanding spring presentations: one a production based on the works of poet Taras Shevchenko at the Consulate-General of Ukraine in New York, the other a Sunday afternoon overview of the works of the late humorist Edward Kozak, known as "Eko" through his column in Svoboda and public appearances.

At the Shevchenko evening, the Stage Ensemble was joined by tenor Roman Tsybala, a performer of leading roles with the Lviv Opera Theater who made his debut in the United States in 1992, acclaimed pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky of New York, and stage/screen star Ivan Bernatsky, who has given excellent portrayals of Shevchenko in numerous productions and was named a National Artist of Ukraine in 1991. Mr. Bernatsky has been active with the Stage Ensemble as actor, choreographer and stage manager since 1999.

Ms. Krushelnitsky, accepting a floral tribute and acknowledging applause from an audience that included Consul General Serhiy Pohoreltzev and his wife, Svitlana, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations Valeriy Kuchynsky and his wife, Alla, and Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskij, pointed



Maxim Belotserkovsky with the American Ballet Theater.

proudly to her ensemble and exulted: "engineers, management associates, students, all of them professionals, all born in America, some of them third- and fourth-generation Ukrainian Americans!"

For the Kozak remembrance, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of his birth and the 10th anniversary of his death, veteran actor Volodymyr Kurylo and members of the ensemble brought to the stage some of Mr. Kozak's unforgettable humoresques – witty, comical views of Ukrainian American life. Especially enjoyable for the audience were Ms. Krushelnitsky's reading of Kozak's "Hryts Zozulia" and Lesyk Kmeta's humorous interpretation of the song "Hutsulka Ksenia."

Canadian-born actress Tannis Kowalchuk and her husband, Brad Krumholz, founders of NaCl (North American Cultural Laboratory), spent an extremely busy spring/summer season with their company in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The company recently took part in the 10-day Catskill Festival of New Theatre 2002 in Highland Lake, N.Y., and is presently appearing at folk festivals in Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. During a benefit variety show at St. Clements Church Theatre in Manhattan, Ms. Kowalchuk performed in the featured event "10 Brecht Poems," which she helped to create, and in "Invisible Neighborhood," an NaCl street theater work-in-progress. Company presentations of "Invisible Neighborhood," an epic outdoor extravaganza with acrobatic stilt dancing, live music, a capella song and physical theater, took place in Manhattan, Brooklyn and in city parks (The Village Voice said the production "conjures a magical world ... the visual effects mesmerize.")

Films and filmmakers

In a springtime salute to the Ukrainian filmmaker Alexander Dovzhenko (1894-1956), a great screen pioneer during the 1920s, the Lincoln Film Society presented a two-week retrospective of Dovzhenko films at the Walter Reade Theater.

While his contemporaries were influenced by the Constructivist movement of the time, Dovzhenko drew his inspiration from Ukrainian folk culture and celebrated his native land and the people who worked it, using visual metaphor and complex imagery in his work. These elements were highly evident in 14 Dovzhenko films that were screened, among them his debut film "Love Berry"; "Zvenyhora," steeped in gentle Ukrainian lore that invites comparisons to Mykola Hohol; "Ivan," Dovzhenko's first experience with sound cinema; and "Earth," a rumination on nature's cycle of death and rebirth that critics indisputably consider his masterpiece. Also shown were "Diplomatic Pouch," a spy thriller; "Battle for Soviet Ukraine," the first of Dovzhenko's wartime documentaries; and "Farewell, America," his unfinished final film, completed in 1995 by Mosfilm and Gosfilmofond Rossii. Silent films had live piano accompaniment by Donald Sosin, while the first two showings of "Earth" were accompanied with live music by the Alloy Orchestra.

The festival included a symposium on Dovzhenko's

art and legacy, featuring scholars from Ukraine and the United States, and a gallery exhibition curated by the Dovzhenko Museum in Kyiv of posters and Dovzhenko self-portraits and drawings. Supported by the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York, the retrospective was organized by Seagull Films, Ukraine's Ministry of Art and Culture, and the Oleksander Dovzhenko Ukrainian National Center.

New York native Roman Paul Boychuk, a filmmaker currently living in Los Angeles, has informed us that his first feature film, "Glass, Necktie," has been released on video and DVD and received strong reviews from the LA Weekly, the Los Angeles Times and Film Threat. The film is available in New York at Kim's Video on East Sixth Street in the East Village.

New York film writer/director Lisa Cholodenko has just completed her second movie, "Laurel Canyon," starring Frances McDormand, according to a New York Times story by Dana Kennedy focusing on the difficult path faced by women who want to both write and direct films. Ms. Cholodenko, 37, who wrote and directed the low-budget film "High Art" starring Ally Sheedy in 1987, thought a second film would be easy, "but nobody put up the money." Her new movie, costing only \$5 million, about a freewheeling mother and her conservative son (Christian Bale), will be released by Sony Classics next year.

Would you like to have a look at New York's Ukrainian Institute of America in a full-length Hollywood movie? Watch for a soon-to-be released film called "A Smack in the Face," starring the famous Kirk Douglas and his equally famous son, Michael Douglas. A scene in the movie shows the two men gazing from a taxi window at a glittering ball in progress on the second floor of the institute.

Honorees

At a reception held at St. Stanislaus Hall on East Seventh Street in Manhattan, the Slavic Heritage Council of America honored four persons from the Ukrainian community for their commitment to the Ukrainian community in Greater New York. A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Slavic culture, the council is well-known to the general public for its annual presentation of the European Folk Festival at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall.

The honorees were Vasyl Sosiak of Ozone Park, Queens, Lydia Krushelnitsky of Manhattan, and John and Wanda Senko of Hempstead, Long Island. Mr. Sosiak was cited for 25 years of service; he was head of the parents' committee at the Ozone Park Ukrainian Saturday School, worked with the Moloda Dumka children's chorus in Manhattan, and is currently the auditor for an umbrella organization that includes the Dumka Chorus, Promin vocal ensemble, the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers of New York and the Mriya Dancers of Hempstead. Ms. Krushelnitsky, an actress and opera singer in western Ukraine and Austria before com-

(Continued on page 23)



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— The editorial and productions staffs of The Ukrainian Weekly

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Bukhanau, Svyataslau Shapavalau and Syarhey Korneu – who claimed they were persecuted in Belarus for opposition views and activities, the UNIAN news service reported on August 15. The Kyiv city administration's Department for Nationalities and Migration Issues said the three missed the deadline for requesting political asylum and refused to accept their application. (RFE/RL Newline)

Marchuk: pilots lacked instructions

KYIV – National Security and Defense Council Secretary Yevhen Marchuk, who heads the commission investigating the jet crash in Lviv on July 27, told journalists on August 13 that flight commanders did not give pilots adequate instructions for maneuvers that led to the deaths of 85 spectators, the Associated Press reported. Mr. Marchuk said the two pilots trained for three days prior to the show, but flight commanders and the show's organizers did not conduct a rehearsal of the event. He added that commanders failed to call off the performance after the pilots deviated from the flight plan on their first pass. Mr. Marchuk also rejected pilot Volodymyr Toponar's claim that technical failures caused him to lose control of the SU-27 jet seconds before the crash. (RFE/RL Newline)

Crimeans sue regional newspaper

SYMFEROPOL – Three residents of Crimea filed a lawsuit against the newspaper Krymskaya Pravda and the newspaper's editor-in-chief, Mykhailo Bakhariev, at the city court of Symferopol, announced the Crimean branch of Rukh on July 15. The claimants want the court to protect their honor and national dignity, and order

the newspaper to compensate them for moral damages. They say they were offended by an article that Mr. Bakhariev published in Krymskaya Pravda in October 2001, in which the author wrote that there is no such thing as a Ukrainian nation or a Ukrainian language and that "Ukrainians are part of the Russian nation, speaking one of the Russian dialects." One of the claimants, Oleh Fomushkin, chairman of the Crimean Union of Landowners and also the leader of the Crimean branch of Rukh, argued that Mr. Bakhariev's statements are dangerous because the newspaper and the author have been able to mislead a large readership inasmuch as Krymskaya Pravda is the most popular newspaper in the Crimea. Mr. Fomushkin also alleged that the article "incites ethnic hatred between the Ukrainian and Russian sister-nations." The claimants said that a number of other "xenophobic and intolerant statements" were also published in the newspaper. They want the newspaper publish a refutation of Mr. Bakhariev's statements and pay compensation for moral damages in the amount of 1 million hrv (about \$200,000 U.S.) from the newspaper and 200,000 hrv (about \$40,000) from the author of the disputed article. (Ukrainian Media Bulletin, European Institute for the Media)

Our Ukraine businessmen targeted?

KYIV – Our Ukraine lawmaker Oleh Riabchuk told the UNIAN news service on August 8 that within the past week Ukrainian law enforcement bodies have launched 20 criminal investigations against companies founded by national deputies belonging to the Our Ukraine bloc or those in which Our Ukraine lawmakers had stakes. Mr. Riabchuk said representatives of the Directorate for Combating Organized Crime "openly demand [that Our Ukraine lawmakers

involved in those companies] leave Our Ukraine" since, Mr. Riabchuk added, "a head-on onslaught on the part of the Directorate is under way." (RFE/RL Newline)

Prisoners end hunger strike in Prague

PRAGUE – Several dozen Ukrainian citizens serving their terms at the Pankrac prison in Prague, the Czech Republic, ended a one-week hunger strike on August 5, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. "They protested the conditions in which they are kept, [they protested] the level of health care, they complained that it takes a long time for Czech authorities to review their cases, or they protested their imprisonment since they consider themselves innocent," an official from the Embassy of Ukraine in Prague told RFE/RL in commenting on the reasons for the strike. More than 500 Ukrainians are incarcerated in Czech prisons. (RFE/RL Newline)

Court reopens Aleksandrov case

KYIV – The Supreme Court on July 25 upheld the acquittal of Yuriy Verediuk – who was accused of killing television journalist Ihor Aleksandrov in Slaviansk (eastern Ukraine) in July 2001 – and called for a new investigation into the slaying, the Associated Press reported. Mr. Verediuk was convicted last year for beating Mr. Aleksandrov to death, but an appeals court overturned the conviction in May after the judge said the evidence presented was groundless. Mr. Verediuk died from heart failure last week. His death is seen as a major setback for Mr. Aleksandrov's family and for the Institute for Mass Information, which in Ukraine represents the international human rights group Reporters Without Borders. They believe Mr. Verediuk was bribed to take responsibility for the killing and hoped that he would provide evidence incrimi-

nating someone else. (RFE/RL Newline)

Lukashenka cites 'reciprocal measures'

MIENSK – "European Union or U.S. discriminating measures against our exports are explainable even if unpardonable. They do not treat us, mildly speaking, as their equals," Belarusian television quoted President Alyaksandr Lukashenka as saying on July 24. "But if similar things are done with regard to us by Ukraine ... then your inaction, esteemed comrades in the government, cannot be explained. Ukraine has categorized Belarus as a country with a non-market economy. You see, they consider themselves to be a market-economy country. And on this basis, they are trying to dictate their own conditions of economic cooperation by introducing limitations on Belarusian exports. I have said many times that it is necessary to opportunely take reciprocal measures against the countries that apply discriminating measures with regard to Belarusian commodities." (RFE/RL Newline)

Rivne wants veteran status for UPA

RIVNE – The Rivne Oblast Council has appealed to the Ukrainian president, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Verkhovna Rada to adopt legislation declaring the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) a belligerent side in World War II and giving veteran status to former UPA combatants. The UPA, created by the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), fought German troops and Soviet and Polish forces in Nazi-occupied Ukraine and continued its military operations against the Soviets and the Poles after World War II. The government recently announced that it has prepared a draft bill on honoring the UPA as "fighters for freedom and independence of Ukraine." (RFE/RL Newline)



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Warsaw obliges...

(Continued from page 2)

trade, which primarily means smuggling of alcohol, cigarettes and other goods.

Such cross-border business is the main source of livelihood for hundreds of thousands, if not for millions, of people in both Poland and the three above-mentioned post-Soviet countries. When Poland tightens its eastern and northern borders, there will unavoidably occur "local economic disasters" in the border regions of the four countries. As for Poland's eastern and northern regions, they still may hope for some assistance from Brussels under various development and restructuring programs. But who will help people living under the penury of the Lukashenka and Kuchma economies? And what about the Kaliningrad region with its highest rates of criminality and HIV infection in all of Russia?

Poland officially advertises its role as a promoter of European integration values on post-Soviet territory - particularly in Ukraine and Belarus - but it is hardly believable that it will be able to perform this role seriously after the line of European prosperity and affluence moves some 600 kilometers eastward and becomes a new "Berlin Wall" for Belarusians and Ukrainians for a decade or longer.

It is clear even today that not only Poland but the entire EU will not be able to influence transformation processes in the "forgotten Europe" - Belarus and Ukraine - if Brussels focuses on tightening Poland's frontiers and fails to draw up attractive and comprehensive programs to make Belarusians and Ukrainians maintain their hope that some day they also will find themselves in Europe, not only geographically, but also politically and economically.

Putin offers...

(Continued from page 2)

state to stop existing," Mr. Vasilevich said.

The opposition in Belarus has consistently opposed closer union with Russia. Zyanon Paznyak, an exiled nationalist politician, has condemned the plans as "a policy of bold occupation threats and intimidation," and called on Belarusians to fight for their independence.

Stanislau Shushkevich, the first head of state of an independent Belarus and an impassioned Mr. Lukashenka critic, told RFE/RL's Bulgarian Service that President Putin's proposals smacked of imperialism.

"These proposals from Putin are reminiscent of what took place in Austria in 1937, when people there were saying, 'One nation, one language, why two governments?' But just as Germany in the end was unable to swallow up Austria, Russia will also be unable to absorb Belarus. I think this proposal is demeaning to the freedom-loving Belarusian people, to a nation that is friendly to the Russian nation," Mr. Shushkevich said.

Analysts agree that Mr. Putin has called Mr. Lukashenka's bluff by presenting him with a unification offer he cannot accept. What this all means now for President Lukashenka is unclear, as Belarus expert Jim Dingley of London University noted. "It's possible that Mr. Lukashenka will become a [model] Belarusian, even a nationalist, because he has no other options now. He doesn't want to become a governor of a Russian province," said Mr. Dingley. "What other options are open to him?"

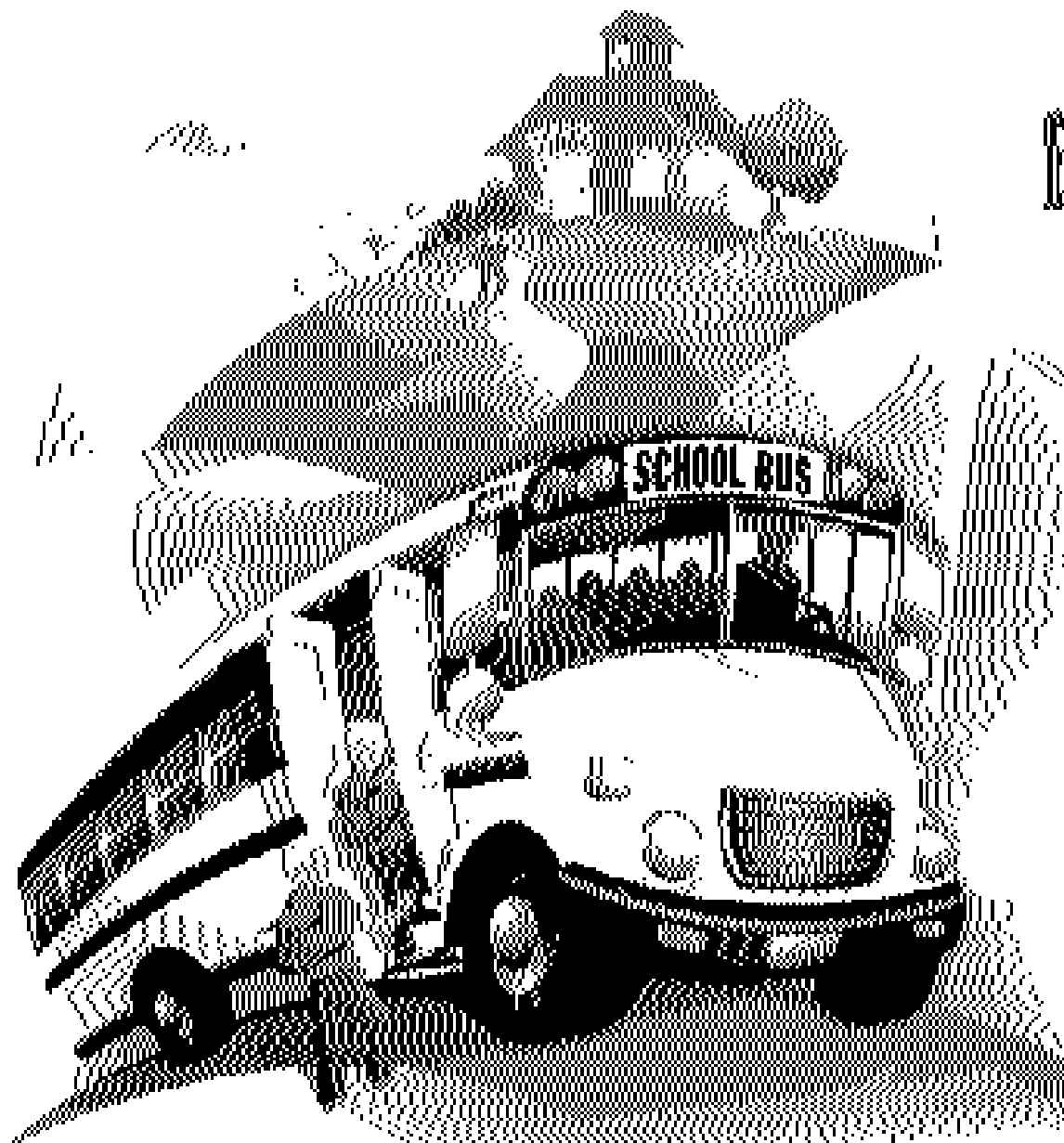
But, in the end, rejecting President Putin's proposals may leave President Lukashenka, a leader already shunned by most of the West, even more isolated from the rest of the world.

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Marika Kuzma returns to conduct at University of California – Berkeley

by Ksenia Kyzik

BERKELEY, Calif. – On May 4 at Hertz Hall on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, conductor Marika Kuzma directed a performance of Paul Hindemith's "Requiem: For Those We Love," a musical setting of Walt Whitman's "When lilacs last in the doorway bloomed." While this powerful work has been performed numerous times on the East Coast and in Europe, Ms. Kuzma's performance in Berkeley marked the California premiere of the requiem.

"A few mornings after September 11, I woke to hear the words of Whitman and Hindemith in my mind – "Lo! body and soul this land! Mighty Manhattan with spires..." – and couldn't put those words out of my mind for months. And so beginning in January, the chorus and I began the process of learning this poem and this piece of music together she wrote in her program notes.

"In the midst of heightened uncertainty, it has given us strength to intone Whitman's words. Despite the carnage he witnessed as a journalist during the Civil War and the grief he felt at the death of Abraham Lincoln, he continued to sing the praises of the American landscape and the good in its people," Ms. Kuzma explained. "It gives us strength to course through the richly complex harmonies of Hindemith. Despite the atrocities he witnessed in Nazi Germany and the grief he felt at the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he wrote the Requiem, Hindemith composed a piece of fierce energy and exuberance."

The University Chorus, an ensemble of 120 students and community members, was joined by a professional orchestra comprising musicians from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. One of the soloists was mezzo-soprano Jennifer Lane, a faculty member at Stanford University who has also performed with the Metropolitan Opera and New York City Opera and under such conductors as Mstislav Rostropovich, Michael Tilson, Thomas, William Christie, Helmut Rilling and Robert Shaw.

The baritone soloist, Christopheren Nomura, was recently hailed as one of classical music's "rising stars" by the Wall Street Journal and has performed internationally with such conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, Sergiu Comissiona, Christopher Hogwood, and Ton Koopman.

"Chris Nomura was ideal for this piece" commented Ms. Kuzma. "Aside from having a beautiful and powerful voice, he has a very open heart and has a great love of artsong. He studied with the greatest interpreters: Fischer-Dieskau, Gerard Souzay. So his delivery of

Whitman's poetry was so full of nuance and it was so genuine. I have never heard a longer silence at the end of any performance."

This year marked Ms. Kuzma's return to California after a year of teaching at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, where she was invited to join its tenured music faculty. While at UVA, she directed its University Singers in a sold-out performance of Handel's "Messiah." Their spring concert, titled "Liturgies and Lovesongs," featured the Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes, selections by Bortniansky, Rakhmaninov and Lesia Dychko, and closed with Stravinsky's "Symphony of Psalms." Last May, she was an invited speaker at an international conference on the composer Dmitry Bortniansky at the Moscow Conservatory. "I was honored to represent America and the Ukrainian diaspora at the conference. The Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian musicologists there received me and my research with great warmth and respect," said Ms. Kuzma.

Ms. Kuzma returned to the University of California at Berkeley to accept a newly endowed chair: the Virginia Lew Chair of Music Performance. Her first engagement with her choirs last fall was a collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group and the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra under Nicholas McGegan in performances of Rameau's opera "Platee." The UC Chamber Chorus received praise in the Bay Area press for lending its "professional sound" and "handsome, full-voiced textures" to that production. Later, in March, the Chamber Chorus performed the world premiere of a work by the Argentine composer Jorge Liderman, a setting of the "Song of Songs." Critic Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote "The most stirring contribution of the evening was the beautifully nuanced singing of Marika Kuzma's UC Chamber Chorus."

For its final concert of the season on June 6, the Chamber Chorus performed a concert titled "Voices of Byzantium: from Mt. Athos to Kiev to Moscow" as part of the prestigious Berkeley Early Music Festival. Ms. Kuzma chose a program including ancient Greek chant, Kyivan and Znamenny chant, selections by Titov, Bortniansky and Berezovsky, because she felt that this repertoire – along with the repertoire spanning Gregorian chant to Monteverdi to Mozart – needed to be represented at a major international Early Music Festival.

Reflecting on her return to Berkeley, Ms. Kuzma states that "while I loved living on the East Coast last year and still think of it as home, I am happy to have returned to California for now. It has been a very full and gratifying year."

The Ukrainian diaspora...

(Continued from page 10)

UWC. The UWC has established systematic communication via newsletters and bulletins, telephone and e-mail, as well as visits. Belonging to the UWC has strengthened the psychological make-up and political position of the Eastern diaspora communities. UWC representatives have made a point of meeting with government officials during their visits to the Eastern diaspora, underlining their concern with the Ukrainian community's well-being.

Remaining communities on the

UWC's Eastern diaspora agenda include Azerbaijan and the Kuban and Vladivostok regions of the Russian Federation. Additionally, the UWC is reaching out to sprouting Ukrainian diaspora communities in Europe, most recently in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany and Greece, and communities of some duration in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. Finally, the UWC has established communications with Ukrainian communities in Israel and New Zealand. What lies ahead is difficult to foretell since the globalization process affects the Ukrainian people as it does other nations worldwide.



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Dateline...

(Continued from page 11)

ing to the United States in 1949, took over the drama school established by renowned Ukrainian actress/director Olympia Dobrovolsky and eventually formed the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble. Mr. Senko, chairman of the Civil Service Commission for Nassau County and a director of Holy Spirit Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y., has been active in charitable work such as the Ukrainian Gift of Life committee at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hempstead and, with his Polish American wife, assists Ukrainian émigrés in any way he can.

In the news

The five Hewko brothers of Northampton, a Pennsylvania town that's known for its production of cement, may not be celebrities per se, but they recently received the same recognition as movie idols or singing stars. Around Memorial Day, the five sons of Ukrainian-born Aksenty and Anna Hewko were saluted by Peter Jennings on ABC's 6:30 p.m. news broadcast and were honored with a front-page photo and story in USA Today. The five brothers went off to war between 1941 and 1944. Three nearly died; two won Purple Hearts.

John Hewko, 78, and brother Wass, 79, who did push-ups with the cadets at an Army-Notre Dame football game two years ago to entertain the crowd, marched down Main Street in the local Memorial Day parade in their Navy blues. Their brothers are Ben, 81, who spent two hours floating in 54-degree water off the D-Day beaches when his destroyer was sunk, and received a Purple Heart; Peter, 82, the only Hewko who did not join the Navy (he went into the Marine Corps); and Alex, 83, the fighter pilot, who never told his brothers about his Purple Heart (they learned about it from USA Today reporter Gregg Zoroya). Although John remained a lifelong bachelor, the other four married and had eight children among them. Count in sisters Pauline Woyewoda, 84, Stephanie Naderostek, 70, and Mary Lorenz (a fourth sister, Olga Sokalsky, died in 1992), and their families, and you have a large crowd for family reunions – and Memorial Day celebrations.

According to a story by Paul Tharp in The New York Post, Zenia Mucha, 45, who gave up work as adviser and press officer for former Sen. Al D'Amato and Gov. George Pataki at the start of 2001 in favor of working as a \$400,000-a-year senior publicist for Disney in Los Angeles, is now in charge of everything at Disney, including ABC – from being chief spokesperson to all corporate positioning and global strategy. Ms. Mucha faced Hollywood TV critics for the first time when ABC unveiled its new fall line-up, with Susan Lynn making the presentations and taking questions with Ms. Mucha's help.

New York Post columnist Cindy Adams noted on June 25 that Regis Philbin (star of ABC's "Live with Regis and Kelly" show) chatted at length with Ms. Mucha when he was introduced to her at the Madison Avenue restaurant Fresco. On his show the next day, Ms. Adams wrote, he "mangled her Ukrainian name and strangled her affiliation, saying she previously worked for (New York Mayor Rudolph) Guiliani." Mr. Philbin seems to have a knack for making mistakes about Ukrainians; on a recent show, he referred to champion heavyweight boxer Volodymyr Klychko as "Russian."

Ukrainian-born actress Milla Jovovich received attention on TV's "ET" (Entertainment Tonight) show, sang and played a guitar on the Carson Daly show and was praised by Libby Callaway in

The New York Post for the pretty dresses and lovely jewelry she wore at the Cannes Film Festival.

Olympic figure-skating champion Oksana Baiul, paired for a New York Post snapshot with man-about-town Tyson Beckford at Conde Nast's Ford Thunderbird 2002 launch, was described in the caption as "former ice skater/bad girl Oksana Baiul." Some weeks later, The New York Times spotted the Ukraine-born skater as she "went slinking through the lobby of the W Hotel in Times Square in a short black dress and a pearl necklace."

Coats richly embroidered with a rainbow of needlework and braid, now being worn in New York and Paris and pictured in The New York Times in an array of photographs by Bill Cunningham, were described in the accompanying story as "colorful as Ukrainian Easter eggs." The Times said the prized coats, which often come from Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Far East, are a new discovery for women seeking an alternative to commercial plainness, just as the hippies and flower children of the 1960s rediscovered folkloric clothes from Romania, Hungary and Ukraine. From New York's Fashion Avenue comes word that this summer's Bohemian and peasant influence in women's wear, particularly in blouses and tops, is going to continue through next summer, so Ukrainian blouses like the embroidered fine cotton beauty may have purchased at Surma's Ukrainian shop in lower Manhattan are still very much in vogue for street wear, cocktail wear and just about anywhere.

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is HaliaSmindak@aol.com.

Correction

The Development Office of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great has asked that The Weekly print a correction relating to the history of the order published in this newspaper. The photograph on page 5 of the August 4 issue was taken in Philadelphia, not Jenkintown. On page 17 of the same issue, the author gives 1947 as the year the orphanage and printing press were moved to Lindley Avenue in Philadelphia. The correct date is 1954.



Labor Day weekend at Verkhovyna
Beer - Pong Tournaments and Zabava's
Friday, Aug. 30 at 9:00 p.m. with live band "Chornozem"
Saturday, Aug. 31 at 9:00 p.m. with DJ "Pylyp z Konopel"
Sunday, Sept. 1 at 9:00 p.m. with live band "Chornozem"

Sunday, Sept. 1 at 12:00 noon Ivan Franko Commemoration
Sunday, Sept. 8 at 12:00 noon Peczena Barabolya Feast

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 1

KERHONKSON, N.Y.: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 211 Foordmore Road, welcomes the visiting choir of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Parish of Olyphant, Pa. Pastor and celebrant the Rev. Iura Godeniuc welcomes all to the 10 a.m. divine liturgy. The choir, under the direction of Patrick Marcinko II, will sing responsorials in Old Church Slavonic, in keeping with the goal of heritage preservation. This 114-year-old choir is acclaimed as the longest running Ukrainian Catholic choral ensemble in the Americas to adhere to Old Slavonic.

Wednesday, September 4

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John's Preschool will re-open with Ukrainian-language Montessori sessions each weekday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. Extended hours, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. are available to serve working parents. Minimum age of preschoolers is 2 years, six months. The program emphasizes respect for the child, individualized learning and promotion of the child's independence. For more information call Olenka Makarushka-Kolodiy, (973) 763-1797.

Sunday, September 8

MINNEAPOLIS: The second annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival will take place at the Ukrainian Center, 301 Main St. NE, beginning at 11 a.m. with performances featuring the Cheremosh Ukrainian dance ensemble with dances and costumes from every part of Ukraine. Joining them on the outdoor stage under the big tent erected in the parking lot will be local and international performers and bands playing both traditional and contemporary music. Foods, including Ukrainian favorites such as varenyky and borsch, and drinks will be

available for purchase. At 5 p.m. the program moves indoors for a concert of dance, songs and music. The renowned fiddler Peter Ostroushko has been invited to perform. There will also be raffles, children's activities, a varenyky-eating contest, a costume fashion show, arts and crafts vendors, and folk arts demonstrations. For information call (612) 379-1956.

Friday, September 13

EDMONTON: Dr. Hansjürgen Doss, member of the German Parliament and the German-Ukrainian Parliamentary Group, will speak on "German-Ukrainian Business Contacts" at 4-6 p.m. at the University of Toronto, North Building - Room 198, Munk Center for International Studies, located at 1 Devonshire Place. The event is co-sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Toronto Office, and the Petro Jacyk Program for the Studies of Ukraine, Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto. For information call (416) 978-6934.

Ongoing through Sunday, September 15

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 includes original antique ritual cloths from the Kyiv, Poltava and Chernihiv regions dating from the 19th and early 20th centuries, is on view at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit, 11756 Charest St., Hamtramck, Mich. Exhibit hours: 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; museum members, no charge. For more information call (313) 366-9764.



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REMINDER REGARDING 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, per weekly listing**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received **prior** to publication.

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

Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. All submissions are subject to editing.

At Soyuzivka: Labor Day weekend

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Soyuzivka is ready, as it is every year at the end of the summer season, to host thousands of guests — including a vast number of students who arrive for one last get-together before they head off for school — over the Labor Day holiday weekend, which this year falls on August 30-September 2.

The schedule of events for the extended weekend begins, as is traditional, with dancing and music on Friday evening, August 30. The Luna band will provide music for the Friday night dance at the Veselka Pavilion. Meanwhile, inside the Trembita Lounge, the Saints of Swing, a seven-piece band featuring vocalist Rene Bailey, will perform selections of sizzling swing, spicy New Orleans-style Dixieland, down-and-dirty blues and even foot-stomping Gospel. Both the dance and the performance begin at 10 p.m.

Saturday evening's program will spotlight the renowned Syzokryli Ukrainian

Dance Ensemble directed by Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. The performance begins at 8:30 p.m. in the Veselka auditorium. Afterwards, guests can enjoy a dance featuring two bands: Tempo and Fata Morgana.

The dancing continues on Sunday night to the music of the Montage band beginning at 10 p.m.

As usual during the Labor Day weekend, Soyuzivka will also host the national tennis championships and swim meet held under the aegis of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (known by its Ukrainian acronym, USCAK). The sports competitions are for athletes of all age groups.

For information about events at Soyuzivka, the upstate New York resort owned by the Ukrainian National Association, or to make reservations for a getaway in the beautiful Shawangunk Mountains of the Catskill region, call (845) 626-5641.