

INSIDE:

- U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual on 9/11 — page 3.
- Lviv choir performs at World Youth Day — page 5.
- Soyuzivka begins celebrations of its 50th anniversary — page 13.

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Mykola Melnychenko speaks out on his mission and the dangers involved

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — Mykola Melnychenko, the former major in Ukraine's security service who secretly recorded President Leonid Kuchma's conversations and fled with his recordings to the West, is a man caught between what is commonly described as a rock and a hard place.

He's a man with a mission — to topple what he claims is a corrupt and criminal head of state and his cronies — and he intends to do it with his own testimony and the approximately 1,000 hours of recordings that he claims demonstrate not only rampant corruption at the highest levels of government but complicity in murder and other serious crimes as well.

In Ukraine, the government has charged Mr. Melnychenko with passing state secrets — a charge he denies. In the United States, where he and his family received political asylum last year, the Justice Department, with the backing of a California judge, has demanded that he turn over his recordings, state secrets and all, for their ongoing investigations. So far, Mr. Melnychenko said, he and his lawyers have managed to hold back the ones with state secrets.

Mr. Melnychenko was in Washington for three days last week, and, with the help of an intermediary, he agreed to talk about himself and his mission in an interview with *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

He traveled to Washington along with Hryhorii Omelchenko, who chairs the Verkhovna Rada's interim committee charged with investigating the murder of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze and other crimes, and Oleksander Eliashkevych, a former national deputy who two years ago was attacked and severely beaten after he criticized the president publicly. Mr. Eliashkevych has been residing in the United States since April of this year. He applied for political asylum here in June, but his request has not yet been granted.

Mr. Melnychenko, 37, was dressed casually and appeared in good shape and at ease during the interview, which took place August 22 in a borrowed Capitol Hill office between his other scheduled appointments. But he may well have been concealing a concern for his own and his family's safety. The following day, his lawyer, Scott Horton, revealed to the media that a "senior law enforcement officer of the U.S. government" had alerted them a few days earlier that there was a credible threat against his life originating from Ukraine. It was the second such



Yaro Bihun

Mykola Melnychenko

threat alert received from the FBI this year, his lawyer said.

Asked about possible reprisal attacks from those he accuses, Mr. Melnychenko admits that the danger exists and that it is a matter of some concern.

"I worry about the safety of my family," he said. He and his wife, Lilia, whom he married in 1992, have a 5 1/2-year-old daughter, Lesia, who will be entering first grade this year. Since he cannot afford bodyguards and has no intention of getting into the U.S. witness protection program, where he would cease to exist as Mykola Melnychenko, they simply have to live with the danger. By the time this story is published, however, he will have moved his family from the New York City area, where they have been living, to another part of the country.

How do they manage? Mr. Melnychenko said that initially he received material support from Yurii Lytvynenko, a businessman member of the Socialist Party of Ukraine. More recently he has received assistance from a few American foundations and international human rights groups.

Mr. Melnychenko was born in 1966 in Vasylkiv, a city of 50,000 southwest of Kyiv. His father, he said, was a "common laborer," working at various jobs, from driving a truck to working in a factory. His mother put enough time in as a hospital technician to earn a pension, but, for the most part, she stayed at home, taking care of her two sons — Mykola and an older brother.

He grew up in Vasylkiv, where he graduated from the mathematics school "with pretty decent grades," he related.

(Continued on page 10)

Top prosecutor concludes Tarascha corpse is Gongadze Parliamentary committee seeks charges against Kuchma and associates

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun announced on September 3 that his office had conclusively determined that the still unburied corpse found in a forest outside the village of Tarascha nearly two years ago is indeed the remains of the journalist Heorhii Gongadze.

On a day the Gongadze affair returned to the center of public attention in Ukraine — and just days before the second anniversary of the young journalist's disappearance on September 16, 2000 — the head of the ad hoc parliamentary commission on the Gongadze affair further re-energized a story that had fallen off the political radar screen for the most part, when he told reporters he had filed documents with Mr. Piskun's office requesting that it charge President Leonid Kuchma and close political associates — many also holding high political office — on four criminal matters and begin a formal investigation. Hryhorii Omelchenko alleged several specific criminal actions in which the group had been involved, including the disappearance of the Ukrainian journalist.

Mr. Omelchenko returned from the

United States with notarized affidavits of testimony from the three, which were made part of the package submitted to the Procurator General's Office.

Mr. Gongadze was a vocal critic of the Kuchma administration prior to and right after the 1999 presidential elections, although not particularly well-known in political circles. Prior to his disappearance, the Internet journalist had run a series of stories charging President Kuchma and his political cronies with widespread corruption.

Mr. Piskun said that a panel of medical experts who had reviewed all the evidence gathered in regards to the corpse, which was discovered in a shallow grave on November 16, 2000, two months after Mr. Gongadze disappeared, had concluded that there is no question that it belongs to the late journalist.

"The General Procurator's Office received the conclusive medical examiner's report on the Tarascha body," explained Mr. Piskun. "The body belongs to Heorhii Gongadze, 100 percent."

He also noted that, contrary to earlier statements, the experts determined that the

(Continued on page 9)

Airshow disaster revisited: Sknyliv's heroes and victims

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV — Best friends Svitlana Bohach and Halyna Khmil died at the Sknyliv Airshow after they covered their children, Ihor, 6, and Ostap, 4, with their own bodies and were hit by razor-like debris when the Ukrainian air force SU-27 jet hurled down onto the crowd, crashed and rolled, disintegrating into thousands of pieces.

Their two older kids — Ms. Bohach's girl, Irena, and Ms. Khmil's boy, Oleh, both 10 — who had been watching the air show apart from their mothers further from the epicenter of the crash, rushed to their mothers' sides. Responding in a manner that belied their tender years, they quickly and determinedly pulled the dismembered remains of the two women off their younger brothers. Ihor and Ostap came out of the tragedy with nary a scratch.

After the great ball of fire that ensued had lifted and only hazy blue smoke remained, a woman who had been at the air base and had run to the scene discerned little Yurchyk Motyziuk, shocked, bewildered and all of 3 years old, standing amid the flames and human debris, covered in blood and human flesh. She took the just-orphaned child into her arms and carried him home, where she cared for him in the hours that passed before

relatives found him.

These acts of heroism, related to *The Weekly* by the next of kin of those who perished, are undoubtedly but two of many acts of compassion and ultimate sacrifice that have gone largely unheralded in the weeks after the catastrophe at the Sknyliv Aerodrome on July 27, when a Soviet-era SU-27 jet fighter aircraft failed to pull out of a vertical dive and plunged into the crowd, numbering some 8,000, scattered across the tarmac.

Much has been said and written about the circumstances leading to the crash and the government and military officials who should carry responsibility for not properly following procedures that might have prevented the events. Less attention has been paid to those who survived the smoke, the flames and the flying debris, as well as those who selflessly and bravely helped save many who might have otherwise perished — a list that includes doctors, nurses, emergency workers and state militia, as well as spectators.

Some, like Ms. Bohach, and Ms. Khmil, 32 years old and inseparable friends, gave their lives to save their kids when celebration turned to calamity. Others, like the woman who carried little Yurchyk Motyziuk to safety, have shunned the

(Continued on page 9)

ANALYSIS

Kuchma's pre-emptive strike is aimed against opposition

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

In a televised address to the nation to mark the 11th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on August 24, President Leonid Kuchma said the country needs to move to a different political system – a parliamentary-presidential republic.

"Ukraine has been formed as a presidential-parliamentary republic, with all the advantages and shortcomings of this system," he said. "Most likely, there was no other way. Under the circumstances of the lack of democratic tradition and of weak political parties, the president had to take upon himself the responsibility for adopting important decisions, including and first and foremost – on economic issues. ... But [now] I am convinced that for its further development, Ukraine needs to transfer to a different political system – a parliamentary-presidential republic."

President Kuchma said he has already ordered that a working group be set up to prepare a draft of political reform, and he appealed to all political forces, including the opposition, to take part in this task. According to Mr. Kuchma, Ukraine may achieve this systemic shift by amending its Constitution and giving the right to form a government to a parliamentary majority. Mr. Kuchma called on the Verkhovna Rada to create such a majority in order to form a coalition Cabinet

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"in the near future" without waiting for relevant constitutional changes.

Mr. Kuchma also said the country's shift to a parliamentary-presidential republic would require changes to election legislation. "In other words, we need a proportional election system, but of a European type," he said. The president also noted that Ukraine urgently needs a reform of its territorial administration. "Shifting to a parliamentary-presidential model and strengthening the role of local self-governments, he said, will be indicative of Ukraine's "European choice."

What has pushed the Ukrainian president to make such a political about-face and offer more powers to the Parliament? It should be remembered that in April 2000 Mr. Kuchma organized a constitutional referendum intended to curb parliamentary powers rather than to expand them. And, quite recently, Mr. Kuchma has referred to the Verkhovna Rada as a "center of destabilization in the country."

"If it is a serious proposal ... then the Communist parliamentary caucus together with pro-presidential factions could muster 300 votes during the fall parliamentary session to make [relevant] changes in the Constitution," Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko commented after hearing of the president's proposal for political reform.

"But I am far from believing that the president's statement was motivated by his desire to improve the political system of the state, to expand democracy and accountability [of the authorities] for

(Continued on page 15)

Did death squads in Ukraine commit political murders?

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Newsline

The Kyiv newspaper Segodnia, owned by Tax Administration chief and Donbas clan head Mykola Azarov, published a sensational report on August 1 claiming that death squads have existed in Ukraine since 1996. The new Ukrainian procurator general, Sviatoslav Piskun, and Internal Affairs Ministry State Secretary Oleksandr Gapon subsequently confirmed that at least one such squad exists.

Mr. Gapon said the death squad is composed of nine members and includes the former head of Kyiv city's Internal Affairs Ministry directorate for the struggle against organized crime and another Internal Affairs Ministry colonel. The remaining members were former criminals. According to Mr. Gapon, all members of the squad are now in custody. The death squad is accused of undertaking 10 murders.

According to later official information, similar death squads also existed in Odesa and Lviv. Nine former Internal Affairs Ministry militiamen are soon to go on trial in Kharkiv; they are accused of belonging to a death squad that operated in that city and the Donbas region. The squad is accused of committing eight murders with its own service weapons. The Procurator General's Office is investigating another

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330 Internal Affairs Ministry personnel for a range of offenses.

According to Mr. Gapon, an investigation into the activities of death squads began in 2000, but the material that was collected was handed to the Procurator General's Office only this year. In 2000, the head of the Kyiv Internal Affairs Ministry department, Yuriy Smyrnov, hinted that one such death squad existed. In May 2001, then Procurator General Mykhaylo Potebenko claimed that a Kyiv organized-crime boss had told his office that two of his gang had taken a Georgian, who they said may have been Heorhii Gongadze, to a forest near Kyiv on September 16, 2000, because he owed them money.

There are two likely reasons that the existence of death squads is being revealed now. First, Procurator General Piskun may have been instructed to clean up President Leonid Kuchma's image at home and abroad by finding a scapegoat for Mr. Gongadze's murder. Pinning the blame for Mr. Gongadze's death on organized crime would deflect attention away from the more plausible culprits in the higher echelons of Ukrainian politics.

Second, when the Internal Affairs Ministry and procurator general initially claimed that organized crime was behind the death of Mr. Gongadze they were ridiculed, especially after the two gangsters ("Cyclops" and "Matros") who are supposed to have abducted Mr. Gongadze

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

Will Our Ukraine join protest?

KYIV – "I support the protest actions [planned by the opposition to start on September 16] because they are an adequate reaction to activities of the authorities who do not see or hear anything," UNIAN quoted Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko as saying on September 3. Asked why Our Ukraine, has not announced that it will join the "Rise Up, Ukraine!" protest campaign Mr. Yushchenko gave a vague answer. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian National Rukh, a member of the Our Ukraine bloc, has reportedly decided to join the September 16 protest. Hennadii Udovenko, the leader of the National Rukh of Ukraine (another constituent of Our Ukraine), told UNIAN that Our Ukraine regional branches have been given the right to decide on their own whether to join the protest campaign. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Opposition calls for Kuchma's ouster

KYIV – At a joint news conference in Kyiv on September 2, the leaders of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Communist Party and the Socialist Party appealed to Ukrainians to take part on a massive scale in the open-ended nationwide protest campaign that is planned to begin on September 16, the second anniversary of the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Ukrainian media reported. Ms. Tymoshenko, Petro Symonenko and Oleksander Moroz told journalists that the protest campaign will be continued until President Leonid Kuchma and "other representatives of Ukraine's top authorities" resign their posts, the UNIAN news service reported. The three leaders also called for an early presidential election. "We cannot wait for another two and a half years [for the regular presidential election in 2004] because then we will get Kuchma or his successor," Reuters quoted Ms. Tymoshenko as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma continues to urge reform

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has addressed a letter to the Verkhovna Rada, which opened its autumn session on September 3, asking the Parliament to back his proposal last month to introduce constitutional amendments in order to move Ukraine toward a parliamentary-presidential republic. "My proposal is not a joke or a test of loyalty, but a considered choice. I hope that, after the initial shock, political leaders will understand the seriousness of the president's intention and start work on changing the

Constitution," Reuters quoted from Mr. Kuchma's letter. Meanwhile, Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn in his opening address to the session warned deputies against "drawing the Parliament into debates on early presidential and parliamentary elections," UNIAN reported. "A dynamic transformation of the feeble Ukrainian political process into an outburst of political emotions, multiplied by the president's political initiatives and innovations, is fraud, apart from everything else, with pushing to the background all the remaining urgent problems connected with the country's vital functions," Mr. Lytvyn said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko wants coalition government

KYIV – Addressing the parliamentary session on September 3, Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko called on deputies not to yield to pressure from the presidential administration while constructing a democratic parliamentary majority, UNIAN reported. According to Mr. Yushchenko, the most urgent tasks facing the Verkhovna Rada are forming a coalition government and signing a political accord on harmonious cooperation between the prime minister, the president and the Verkhovna Rada. "There is no other way all the rest is fuss," Mr. Yushchenko stressed. Leonid Kravchuk from the Social Democratic Party-United responded to Mr. Yushchenko by saying that a coalition Cabinet cannot be formed without introducing relevant amendments to the Constitution. Meanwhile, Yulia Tymoshenko, Petro Symonenko and Oleksander Moroz appealed to national deputies to take part in the opposition protest campaign scheduled to begin on September 16. According to Messrs. Symonenko and Moroz, the primary task of the current parliamentary session is to adopt a fully proportional election law. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Current line-up in Verkhovna Rada

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Lytvyn told national deputies that the current numerical strength of caucuses and groups in the 449-member Verkhovna Rada is as follows: Our Ukraine (109 deputies), Communists (63), Party of Entrepreneurs-Labor Ukraine (40), Ukraine's Regions (37), Social Democratic Party-United (35), Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (23), Socialists (21), European Choice (18), Democratic Initiatives (18), Popular Democratic Party (17), Power of the People (17),

(Continued on page 17)

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As September 16 mass protests approach, Kuchma continues to push political reform plan

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – While President Leonid Kuchma continued to push forward a plan to change Ukraine's political system so that it gives responsibility to the Verkhovna Rada for forming a government, the parliamentary opposition announced on September 2 that it would organize nationwide demonstrations against Ukraine's head of state.

Mr. Kuchma sent a message of greeting to the opening of the new parliamentary session on September 3, which was read by National Deputy Oleksander Zadorozhnyi, his representative in the Verkhovna Rada. The president told lawmakers they should immediately begin work to amend the Constitution of Ukraine to give the Parliament constitutional authority to appoint the government. Currently that power lies with the president.

Mr. Kuchma called on lawmakers to form a parliamentary majority and have it submit proposals on the composition of a new government immediately afterward.

"This is not a joke or a loyalty test, this is an initiative of the president made after considered thought," explained Mr. Kuchma through his representative.

Mr. Kuchma unexpectedly announced on Ukraine's Independence Day that, contrary to his earlier stand, he would now support a change in favor of a parliamentary-presidential political system, which would allow the Verkhovna Rada to appoint a government to run the country. But he laid down a prerequisite: lawmakers would have to be able to form a workable and sustainable majority coalition.

For years Mr. Kuchma has had problems with Verkhovna Rada cooperation in implementing his policy initiatives. Now he seems to believe that – with his former chief of staff as the new chairman of the Rada and a good portion of the lawmakers pro-presidential – he may finally get the majority coalition he wants.

He criticized lawmakers who said the timing was not right for such a change or that the process could not be successfully completed. Two of those doing the criticizing, however, were very influential members within the pro-presidential ranks.

National Deputy Leonid Kravchuk, the ex-president, and his colleague in Parliament, National Deputy Oleksander Volkov, one of Mr. Kuchma's closest confidantes, suggested in televised interviews that no coalition government could retain authority until constitutional changes were in place, which would take considerable time, with no assurance that the effort would succeed.

"The president does not have a constitutional majority," explained Mr. Volkov, while Mr. Kravchuk added that, "the effort would involve tens of changes to Ukraine's fundamental law, and the process would take a very long time to complete."

The three parties that have announced outright opposition to the policies and the authority of President Kuchma were not considering the presidential initiatives announced on Independence Day, except to say that he had usurped the ideas from them. The day before the opening of the fall session of Parliament, the Socialist, Communist and Tymoshenko parliamentary faction leaders announced they would organize mass nationwide demonstrations against the "regime of President Kuchma," with the first round of protests to be held on September 16, the second anniversary of the disappearance of the Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze.

Calling the movement they had formed

"Rise Up Ukraine," the three leaders, Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous faction, Socialist Oleksander Moroz and Communist Petro Symonenko, said they were not advocating violence, only constitutionally allowable actions. They said they believed the nation must rise up to oust Mr. Kuchma, whom they accused of murder, corruption and dictatorial rule.

"When the people come out on to the streets, dictators do not last," said Mrs. Tymoshenko. "There are many such examples in history."

She said the goal of the mass protests would be to achieve pre-term presidential elections and to make sure they would be honest and transparent.

"We who sit here have stopped being scared," added Mrs. Tymoshenko, who is again being investigated on charges of state theft, bribery and embezzlement by the Procurator General's Office. Ukraine's Supreme Court threw out similar, earlier charges.

The founder and ex-chairman of United Energy Systems, which today is run by her husband, said that only one obstacle separates the anti-Kuchma movement from guaranteed victory. "If [people] sit at home and watch on their television sets to determine whether the opposition is being effective, then nothing will come of this," said Ms. Tymoshenko.

However, Ms. Tymoshenko has failed to fully draw in a key component required for the success of her plan: National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, the most popular politician in Ukraine, and his parliamentary faction, Our Ukraine. If she could do so, then the effort would have much more chance for success.

Although some had said Mr. Yushchenko would make an appearance with the three oppositionist leaders, he did not show. Our Ukraine's chief political officer, National Deputy Roman Bezsmertnyi, who was the presidential representative in the previous Verkhovna Rada, attended the press conference and sat with the three-some, albeit uncomfortably, after answering questions from reporters. He expressed support for the movement and suggested that Our Ukraine would soon join the anti-Kuchma movement.

"Each person must decide inside where they stand. I am here, I have made my decision," said Mr. Bezsmertnyi.

He said that Our Ukraine would wait to see how President Kuchma would respond to the open letter it submitted to him on August 28, in which the bloc calls for a democratic forum to resolve the impasse in the Verkhovna Rada over what Our Ukraine believes was political influence stolen from it by pro-presidential forces. Our Ukraine maintains that the now-disbanded United Ukraine faction obtained a fraudulent voting plurality and stole the parliamentary chairmanship in the days after the March elections through intimidation and bribery of lawmakers, which included using the influence of Mr. Kuchma.

Mr. Yushchenko, who has voiced his displeasure with the president's actions, but has yet to break with him completely, said on September 2 during a meeting of the parliamentary leadership that he was in very serious discussions on a parliamentary majority coalition that Our Ukraine could accept.

"There is dynamic movement regarding the political situation on the matter," explained Mr. Yushchenko.

The former prime minister added that only after "all of my efforts and those of my partners have been exhausted will we then consider alternative perspectives."

COMMENTARY: Ambassador Pascual on 9/11

by Ambassador Carlos Pascual

The terrorist attacks of September 11 were a tragedy not only for the U.S., but for people all over the world. One of the many countries that lost citizens in the terrorist attacks was Ukraine, where I am serving as U.S. ambassador. In the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the outpouring of sympathy from the Ukrainian people. I will always remember the rows of flowers, candles and children's drawings that Ukrainians left outside our Embassy in the days following the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

I have also had the chance to work with the Ukrainian government to strengthen the international coalition against terrorism. The government of Ukraine has shown its support for this global fight by allowing U.S. aircraft to use Ukrainian air space to deliver humanitarian aid and equipment to Afghanistan. Last fall, Ukraine's support at the United Nations and other international fora was unwavering. Ukraine is also one of more than 160 nations that have frozen assets associated with terrorist groups and their supporters.

On the one-year anniversary of September 11, Ukrainians will join Americans in a number of events to honor the victims of the terrorist attacks. Ukrainian students who studied in American schools and universities on U.S. government-sponsored programs will take part in an online discussion of

September 11 and the war on terrorism. A professional Ukrainian photographer will dedicate to victims of the tragedy an exhibit of photographs he took in the U.S. At the opera house, there will be a requiem concert in commemoration of the tragedy. And at museums in Kyiv and Lviv, the Embassy will open exhibits of the harrowing images from Ground Zero and newspaper headlines from around the world on September 11.

As we commemorate the one-year anniversary of terrorist attacks on the U.S., it is important to remember that terrorism is not only an American problem. We are one of many nations whose people have suffered from terrorist violence. Indeed, citizens from more than 90 countries were killed on September 11.

As we have seen during the past year, our collective action has resulted in gains for our common security. More than 2,400 terrorists have been arrested by nations around the world. Afghanistan, which had been a haven for international terrorists, is no longer under the brutal control of the Taliban.

A year after terrorists attacked our country, I am more convinced than ever that terrorism is a global threat that will take a global effort to deal with effectively. The cooperation of the Ukrainian government in the fight against terrorism, along with expressions of solidarity by the Ukrainian people, are important reminders that we are not alone in this fight.

Yushchenko urges Kuchma to stand for democracy

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

The Our Ukraine bloc led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko last week publicized an open letter to President Leonid Kuchma. The letter seems to contain Our Ukraine's harshest criticism to date of the authorities, but avoids pointing to personalities, apart from the head of the presidential administration, Viktor Medvedchuk. Our Ukraine's letter may be read as a kind of response to Mr. Kuchma's recent proposal to launch a systemic reform in the country to move toward a parliamentary-presidential republic.

The letter warned the president against a "systemic crisis of the authority that has hit all spheres of social life." According to Mr. Yushchenko's bloc, "actions by the authorities are threatening Ukraine's national interests, national security and the independence of the state, and are provoking civic confrontation." Our Ukraine reiterated its charge that the presidential administration had created an "artificial majority" in the Parliament by pressuring deputies in order "to give the parliamentary leadership to outsiders in the election race."

"One has the impression that the Parliament, the government and the media have been leased to the head of the presidential administration [Medvedchuk] and his oligarchic clan," the letter noted. Our Ukraine also complained that the opposition has no access to the state-run media. According to the bloc, "the situation in the state has been heading toward unpredictability and uncontrollability."

Our Ukraine called on President Kuchma to make a choice between "democracy and dictatorship" and take urgent measures "to remove threats to Ukraine's democracy and statehood." In particular, the bloc demands that a democratic parliamentary majority be created around Our Ukraine and a coalition government be formed by this majority. Our Ukraine also postulates that the authorities secure equal access to the state media for all

political forces, stop political persecution, and strengthen Ukraine's integration into "European and trans-Atlantic structures," while simultaneously abandoning talk of Ukraine's accession to the Eurasian Economic Community.

Our Ukraine said it is necessary to unite all democratic forces in the country to overcome the current crisis, adding that it wants to gather a nationwide forum of democratic forces on September 15 – on the eve of the "Rise Up, Ukraine!" protest campaign by the opposition – to contribute to this end.

An enigmatic threat of more radical actions, in the event the president fails to heed Our Ukraine's appeal, was included in the letter's last sentence: "The inability of the authorities to stop the country's slide toward a social and economic catastrophe and the continuation of the policy oriented toward curbing democracy and constitutional civil rights and freedoms will force us to call on voters to stand in defense of democracy, national interests and the independence of the Ukrainian state."

Judging by the content of this open letter, Mr. Yushchenko has not yet lost hope of striking a deal with the president and some of the pro-presidential parliamentary factions to form a "coalition government" that he could head, thus positioning himself better for the presidential elections in 2004. The letter carries Mr. Yushchenko's strong message: if he is not given leadership of the government, he will take the leadership of the anti-presidential opposition.

As of now, both options seem to be possible for Yushchenko, whose political sway, measured by both Our Ukraine's parliamentary representation and his personal popularity among voters, remains very strong.

But time is swiftly running out, and there is a threat that following the planned outbreak of opposition protests on September 16, Mr. Yushchenko's political maneuvering and wavering may place him closer to the sidelines rather than the center of political developments in the country.

New Jersey governor appoints Romankow as county prosecutor

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

ELIZABETH, N.J. – New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey appointed Theodore J. Romankow to the position of Union County prosecutor. The official swearing-in ceremony took place in a courtroom in Elizabeth, N.J., on July 26. The ceremony was witnessed by more than 250 people.

Following the oath, several speeches and congratulations of well-wishers were made by prominent judges, prosecutors and attorneys. Among those present were members of the Ukrainian American community: the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, who gave the invocation and benediction, Walter Bodnar, Nestor Olesnycky and Bozhena Olshaniwsky.

After the official ceremony in the county courthouse in Elizabeth the guests were invited to the Berkeley Heights Manor, where a sumptuous buffet was served, spirits flowed and spirited conversation abounded. During the festivities, members of Mr. Romankow's family were at his side: his wife, Daria, his daughter, Donna, and sons, Benjamin and David, and their families.

The work of the newly appointed prosecutor will be varied and multi-faceted. He will have 215 employees working directly under him, 21 municipal departments, the Office of Sheriff and the Union County Department of Police with about 2,000 policemen. The main thrust of his work will be to counter terrorism, fight gangsters and arrest drug traffickers.

Prosecutor Romankow was elevated to a position of power and influence. He has had excellent preparation for this position: he worked as a municipal prosecutor of the cities of Rahway and Berkeley Heights, as an assistant deputy public defender in the state of New Jersey, and as an exclusive trial attorney in his multi-faceted private practice.

Mr. Romankow graduated from Seton Hall University and the Rutgers School of Law. He was admitted to the state bar and bar of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey in May 1966. Martindale-Hubbell, a national rating firm, gave Mr. Romankow its highest competency rating. He began his trial career as house counsel of Aetna Life and Casualty Co. He represented numerous insurance companies since leaving Aetna and entered private practice. He was appointed by the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey and sat as an arbitrator in negligence matters.

He is also a member of the New Jersey and Union County bar associations; and has been a lecturer on trial practice throughout the state. He served as chairman of the Union County Ethics Committee and has been a member of the Judicial Appointments Committee, which screens and recommends judicial and prosecutorial appointment nominees. He was also a mayor of the Township of Berkeley Heights in the 1980s.

Mr. Romankow was born and lived in New Jersey all his life, in the cities of Newark, Irvington and Berkeley Heights. His parents were first-generation Ukrainian immigrants. He fondly reminisces about his parents and grandparents struggling to make a better life for their children and believing in the opportunity that America offered. He publicly thanked them for instilling in him a belief in God, the importance of family, a sense of community and hard work.

Mr. Romankow rendered pro-bono services to Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine since its inception in 1979. He was always willing and ready to help with legal advice and interpretation of laws. He participated in its projects and special events in Newark, Washington and Israel. In 1986 he traveled to Israel in the matter of defense of John Demjanjuk, then held in Ramla prison there. Together with attorney Orest Rudzik from Toronto he met with members of the Israeli government and urged them not to try Demjanjuk in Israel for crimes against humanity because of fabricated evidence, an absurd lack of logic and jurisdictional problems.

The Demjanjuk case is not yet over and continues to be controversial and troublesome. By attempting to counter the forces aligned against Demjanjuk, Mr. Romankow showed his strong sense of justice and sympathy with the downtrodden and his unflinching stance in the face of unpleasantness and danger. AHRU presented its Human Rights Award to Mr. Romankow dedication to justice and human rights.

In addition, Mr. Romankow was president for the past 15 years of the League of Ukrainian Voters, a political action committee in New Jersey which has been active in public affairs and supports candidates beneficial to American and Ukrainian causes.

Mr. Romankow's new appointment as Union County prosecutor is seen by Ukrainian American leaders as a great honor for the community.

Cooper Union's expansion approved by city planners

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The New York City Planning Commission approved a controversial large-scale development plan by Cooper Union on September 3 that would affect East Village residents and the Ukrainian community there. Residents in the East Village had long criticized the plan saying it attempts to change the residential character of the neighborhood to a more commercial one. Many Ukrainians in the East Village also opposed the plan for fear it would significantly alter their community.

A representative of the Ukrainian community in the East Village, Anna L. Sawaryn, said, according to The New York Times, "This is going to fundamentally change our community, and we are opposed to it." The chairwoman of the Coalition to Save the East Village told The Ukrainian Weekly, "We are very disappointed with this decision and it [the Hewitt Building] will totally obliterate St. George Church."

The New York Times also quoted the commissioners who approved the plan as saying that the public good that Cooper Union does by offering a free education for its students outweighed the impact the development would have on the community.

The plan the city passed will replace a six-story engineering building, located at 51 Astor Place, with a 212-foot office tower. It will also raise the Hewitt Building – the largest bone of contention with the Ukrainian community in the school's plan – from its current two-story level to a nine-story academic building with retail planned for the bottom floor. Ukrainian residents in the East Village argued that enlarging the Hewitt Building, which sits between Sixth and Seventh streets on Taras Shevchenko Place, would adversely affect St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church – located opposite the Hewitt Building, also on Taras Shevchenko Place.

According to The New York Times, three commissioners voted against the development plan – William J. Grinker, Karen A. Phillips and Joseph B. Rose – while eight commissioners voted for the plan. "I don't find a legitimate rationale for this project," The Times quoted

(Continued on page 19)

Representatives of Ukraine's Society of the Deaf visit the U. S.



Representatives of Ukraine's Society of the Deaf and the Ukrainian Federation of America in the office of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center of Philadelphia: (from left): Steven Romanko (UFA), Yuri Maksimenko (chairman of UTH), Bohdan Korzeniowski (president of UFA), Virginia Hladun (UECC secretary), Leonid Selezenko (UTH), Andy Bilyk and Volodymyr Honcharenko (UTH).

by Michael Komanowsky

PHILADELPHIA – Three representatives of the Ukraine's Society of the Deaf (Ukrainske Tovarystvo Hlukhykh, or UTH) who recently visited the United States expressed great concern about the fact that 60 percent of their society's members are presently unemployed. They explained that their main reason for coming to the U.S. was to find a solution for that problem by finding new markets for the products that they already manu-

facture in their factories, by learning to manufacture other products, and/or by acquiring new, modern, competitive processing technology.

The firm of Macfadden and Associates Inc. (MAI) and the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) based in Philadelphia sponsored the trip to the United States for three members to enable them to attend Gallaudet University's Deafway II Conference in Washington July 8-12 and a trade show exhibiting products for the

deaf. The owner of MIA is himself deaf and that MIA is recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration as a small disadvantaged business. The trip was organized by Andy Bilyk of Silver Springs, Md., who acted as a guide and is striving to satisfy the education and marketing needs of the UTH by providing it with access to the Internet, e-mail and computer productivity programs and, thereby, rendering its businesses more efficient and competitive.

UTH, which elects its leadership every five years, represents some 100,000 hearing-impaired individuals throughout Ukraine. It owns 41 factories in Ukraine employing 8,000 people, most of whom are deaf or hard of hearing. These factories produce a variety of goods in seven major product lines: furniture and other wood products; wearing apparel and knitted and textile haberdashery; plastic products; metal and wire products; printed products; measuring instruments; and small electrical devices.

Its delegation comprised the society's chairman, Yuri P. Maksimenko; Leonid I. Selezenko, director one of its Kyiv-based enterprises; and Volodymyr M. Honcharenko, director of its Cultural Center, who carried out his duties as the communicator very expertly by means of both lip reading and sign language.

The UTH Cultural Center houses a famous theater for the deaf named Raiduha that recently won first prize at an international contest in Spain. The theater has a wide repertoire and would gladly visit diaspora centers in the U.S. and Canada if invited and sponsored.

Representatives of both UTH and the

Ukrainian Federation of America agreed that in order to be able to compete successfully on the world market, as well as domestically, UTH must be able to manufacture and sell products that are fashionable and cheaper, as well as of equal or superior quality to products made in developed countries. Consequently, UTH would profit immensely from transfer of technology that is readily accessible in the United States but not in Ukraine. Representatives of the Ukrainian Federation of America suggested that this can be accomplished by taking advantage of the many sources of information available in the U.S. and other Western countries, by consulting technical people who are employed in the same field; attending equipment shows that exhibit the newest pertinent equipment and processes; conducting searches in technical journals, equipment catalogues and patent literature; and most importantly, advancing contacts between UTH and representatives of the U.S. industry and businesses and, thereby, encouraging cooperation of mutual interest.

During the meeting, Mr. Maksimenko repeatedly stressed that UTH is an apolitical, non-governmental, social organization.

He also asked that knowledgeable diaspora persons come forward with their ideas for process improvements, process diversification, new marketing opportunities or other ideas that could help UTH businesses employ more of its members. His address is 74 Chervonoarmiyska St., Kyiv, Ukraine 03150; telephone, +38 (044) 246-71-77.

Ukrainian Catholic University choir sings for World Youth Day

by Matthew Matuszak

TORONTO – Stritennia, or Presentation, the choir of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, wowed audiences in the greater Toronto area this July. They came to sing for this year's World Youth Day held on July 23-28. But they also sang for divine liturgies at local Ukrainian Catholic parishes, performed concerts of sacred music and even appeared on a broadcast of a nationwide Christian television channel in Canada.

The choir, composed of students and staff of the Ukrainian Catholic University, has a short history. The choir considers the Rev. Peter Galadza of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa to be its "godfather." While he was teaching at the UCU's predecessor, the Lviv Theological Academy, for the 1999-2000 school year, he encouraged the academy to start its own choir. The seminary in Rudno already had a choir, but the city campus did not, and the Rev. Galadza thought it necessary "for when bishops come to visit." Volodymyr Ben, who also directs Osanna, another youth choir in Lviv, was asked to be the choir director.

The first bishop for whom the choir sang was then Auxiliary Bishop Lubomyr Husar, who celebrated divine liturgy in the academy's chapel for the Feast of the Presentation in 2000. The choir then decided to name itself after that feast. The next landmark in the choir's history was its first CD, "Z Namy Boh" (God is with Us). This compilation of Ukrainian religious music was released to mark the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul to Ukraine in June of 2001.

An audition via CD

The story of Stritennia's Canadian tour begins in the summer of 2001, when various young musical groups were auditioning to perform for World Youth Day. The choir sent in its CD to Cardinal James Francis Stafford, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, for consideration.

The congregation didn't inform UCU's choir until April of this year, which, according to the Rev. Michael Loza, was "a little late for planning." The Rev. Loza is the director of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation in Canada; he organized the choir's tour from the Canadian end.

Though obstacles came in their way, the members of the choir managed to overcome them. Of the choir's 20 members, 17 were able to travel to Canada, and the airfare of \$1,000 per person was

daunting for the Ukrainians. The Council for the Laity paid a part of the cost, but the choir still had to "sing for its supper" in various Canadian parishes. The sale of their two CDs, "Z Namy Boh" and the new "Svityt Zvizda Chudna" (Thus Shines the Wondrous Star), also helped offset the expenses of the trip. Choir members sold all the copies they had with them and are trying to fill all the additional orders.

The choir's forte is liturgical music, specifically Galician and Kyivan chants of the 17th and 18th centuries. Accordingly, the plan was to be in Canada for as many Sundays as possible, so the choir could sing for divine liturgies. The choir arrived on July 4 and stayed until August 6, for five Sundays. Though they wanted to come earlier, they needed to be in Lviv for the festivities for the inauguration of the UCU during the week of June 29.

Thanks to the kindness of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate, the choir was able to stay at a lovely retreat center in Hamilton, Ontario.

Their Sundays were busy as they sang at various local Ukrainian Catholic parishes. They even sang liturgies at Roman Catholic parishes on two Saturday evenings. The Rev. Loza celebrated the Byzantine-rite liturgy and delivered the sermons in English, while the choir responded in Ukrainian. The Rev. Loza notes that the Latin-rite congregations were very interested in the Eastern tradition, which he talked about during his sermons. On weekdays they sang at senior's centers and nursing homes, for both Ukrainian and Canadian audiences.

The Rev. Loza commented that the choir "was very well-received by the Ukrainian community – wherever they went, people sensed that obviously they are very sincere young people."

On Friday July 12, the Rev. Loza brought the choir members to the set of "100 Huntley Street," a live TV program broadcast on a Christian television network in Canada. The choir was part of the audience as such prominent performers as Phil Keaggy and Kathy Troccoli sang. When the cameras panned into the audience, the choir members were often in view.

When the show finished, Stritennia was asked to do an impromptu song. The staff of the program was impressed and mentioned that one of the performers scheduled for the show the next Friday, July 19, had cancelled. The choir was asked to perform – sort of advertising World Youth Day, which was to start on July 23. The Choir members were delighted with the offer. They showed up



Bozhena Pelenska (center) of the Ukrainian Catholic University's choir greets two fellow World Youth Day pilgrims from France.

in embroidered blouses and shirts, singing three songs, the "Our Father" in English and in Ukrainian, and another Ukrainian song. The show was broadcast live across Canada and rebroadcast five times.

The Rev. Loza noted that throughout Canada audiences were pleasantly surprised that the choir members were fluent in English. Not only were they able to introduce their musical selections in English, but after performing they were able to mingle with the crowds.

Musically speaking, the Rev. Loza applauded Mr. Ben's choice of compositions throughout the tour. "They were pieces I hadn't heard," the Rev. Loza said, "fresh and unique, lively not long, inspiring. It's clear they sing from the heart."

World Youth Day

The six days of World Youth Day (WYD) kept Stritennia very busy. Registration costs posed the first challenge: \$70 for the weekend, or \$200 for all six days. In an attempt to save on expenses, choir member Veronika Velychko, who also works as the bookkeeper at the university's Institute of Church History, suggested the choir register only for the weekend. But Stritennia was scheduled to perform on Wednesday and Thursday. Fortunately, the WYD organizing committee waived the charges, giving choristers free access for the whole week.

Wednesday through Friday was the catechism component of the week. Various groups of youth from all over the world gathered in Toronto churches for morning prayer and catechism, with each

session led by a bishop. About 750 Ukrainian Catholics registered for WYD: about 140 pilgrims from Ukraine, 75 from the U.S., two from Brazil, and the rest from Canada. The English-speaking Ukrainian Catholics assembled at St. Nicholas Church and the Ukrainian-speaking at the Slovak Greek-Catholic Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God.

The members of Stritennia were again called into unexpected service. The catechetical programs consisted of a general welcome, a song, an introduction for the bishop who then gave a talk, and then a discussion. The youth from Ukraine who were to act as facilitators for the catechism session had not showed up for registration. The choir members were asked to be the facilitators. They also sang for the divine liturgy that closed each day's session in the cathedral.

The theme of the meetings was "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." The Rev. Loza mentioned it was "interesting to see females presenting theological themes so eloquently." Stritennia is the choir of the university's Lviv city campus, which has male and female lay students, as well as religious. (The Greek-Catholic seminary in nearby Rudno has its own, separate choir.)

This added responsibility made the WYD trip even more demanding on the choir members because they were lodging a distance from Toronto. They needed to be in the city at 8 a.m. for the catechism sessions, which meant they needed to rise at 5:30 a.m. And they didn't return home

(Continued on page 15)



Two members of the choir of the Ukrainian Catholic University are greeted by the Rev. Terry Kraychuk of the Mother of God Monastery in Orangeville, Ontario.



World Youth Day pilgrims from Lviv were on hand to welcome Pope John Paul II to Toronto.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Mourning the victims of 9/11

In a few days the entire United States, and along with it much of the international community, will mark the solemn first anniversary of one of the darkest days in history: the terrorist attacks on the U.S. perpetrated on September 11, 2001.

As we recall that day, our thoughts go back to the horror as it unfolded before our eyes, and our prayers go out for all the innocent victims of this heinous crime against Americans, as well as people who traced their roots to 115 different countries.

The number of victims at the World Trade Center (WTC) stands at 2,807: 1,379 were confirmed dead, 1,350 were declared dead and 78 continue to be listed as missing. Another 233 were killed in the attack on the Pentagon and the plane crash in Pennsylvania. September 11, 2001, was the second bloodiest day in U.S. history – after the battle of Antietam during the Civil War (in which more than 23,000 were killed, wounded or missing). The largest number of victims at the Twin Towers were between the ages of 30 and 42 – cut down in the prime of their lives, having attained a certain level of accomplishment, but with so much to look forward to. Many of them were the parents of young children.

This newspaper reported that among the dead was Ivan (John) Skala, 31, of Clifton, N.J., a police officer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, and Oleh Wengerchuk, 56, of Long Island, a transportation designer with the Washington Group International whose office was on the 91st floor of 2 World Trade Center. Later we reported that, according to Ukraine's diplomats in New York, there were Ukrainian citizens who died in the WTC attacks, and two of them were known: Yuri Mushinsky and Volodymyr Savinkin (their names were later listed with different spellings on official lists.)

An online search of The New York Times' groundbreaking "Portraits of Grief" feature revealed nine names when the keywords "Ukraine" or "Ukrainian" were entered. The "portraits" of the dead are heart-wrenching and taken together they give readers a clue to the scale of the loss suffered on 9/11 by families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, our country and the world.

Among those identified as from Ukraine was Vladimir Savinkin, 21, who came to the U.S. six years earlier from Odesa, attended Pace University at age 16, and was an accountant at Cantor Fitzgerald. Iouri Mouchinski, 55, arrived in New York from Ukraine in 1994; he was a civil engineer who worked as a handyman at the WTC. Marina Gertsburg, 25, who emigrated from Odesa, was enrolled in a master's program at Baruch College and was a junior manager at Cantor Fitzgerald – she had just joined the company on September 4, a week before 9/11. Tatyana Bakalinskaya, 43, arrived in New York from Ukraine in 1994, and worked as a hostess at the offices of Marsh & McLennan on the 93rd floor. Others we found were: Boris Khalif, 30, and Igor Zukelman, 29, both described as immigrants from Ukraine; and Simon V. Weiser, identified as a Jew born in Kyiv in 1936.

There are others whose last names sound Ukrainian on the somber gray list of victims that filled two pages in small type in a recent issue of The New York Times, and surely there are still others whose last names do not reveal their background. We mourn them along with the Americans, the Japanese, the Indians, the British, the Dominicans, the Guyanese and all the others of so many varied ethnic backgrounds.

As Secretary of State Colin Powell said last September, "Terrorism is a crime against all civilization. Terrorism is a crime against all humanity. It knows no ethnic, religious or other national or geographic boundaries..."

Now, one year later, we Ukrainian Americans respectfully bow our heads in memory of all the victims of 9/11 – a horrific event on American soil that shook the world.

Sept.
11
2001

Turning the pages back...

One year ago, on a date that will forever be referred to simply as 9/11, Ukraine led the international response to the unprecedented terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11 when its Permanent Mission to the United Nations called a special meeting of the U.N. Security Council to coordinate global reaction. For

security reasons, the meeting was held outside the confines of the United Nations at the mission headquarters of the Ukrainian delegation in New York.

Ukraine was then a non-permanent member of the Security Council, occupying one of the four rotating chairs. Ambassador Valery Kuchinsky, who chaired the meeting, condemned the terrorist attack and called for a global response. "The Security Council considers these acts a challenge to all humanity," said Mr. Kuchinsky.

President Leonid Kuchma issued a statement expressing shock and offering condolences. He called a special meeting of the National Security and Defense Council for the next day and then went on national television to call for an effective response to terrorism. "The whole of the civilized world must demonstrate unity, concord and coordination of efforts," said Mr. Kuchma. The Verkhovna Rada began the next day with a minute of silence in memory of the dead.

It was the Ukrainian people, however, who showed the most sincere sympathy for the victims of the tragedy. Individuals left scores of bouquets, wreaths and simple clusters of wild flowers along with candles and individual messages outside the fence that secures the compound of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. Many signed a memorial book placed at the Embassy's entrance.

On September 13, 2001, at 1 p.m. a moment of silence was observed across Ukraine in memory of the thousands who lost their lives in the disasters in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Source: "Ukraine reacts to terrorist attacks on U.S.," by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 16, 2001, Vol. LXIX, No. 37.

REMEMBERING 9/11

May God give rest to those who perished and console those who mourn their departure

Following is the text of a statement by the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA on the first anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Dear brothers in the holy priesthood, and beloved people of God of the parishes of the UOC-USA:

Glory to Jesus Christ, our Resurrection, Life and Hope!

Wednesday, September 11, 2002, the feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, a day of prayer and abstinence, marks the first anniversary of the sudden and violent death of over 4,000 of our brothers and sisters – victims of premeditated terrorist attacks centered in New York City, Washington, and central Pennsylvania. Evil raised its ugly head and within a few minutes the life of this nation and its inhabitants was forever altered. The spouses, children and families of those who perished in this vicious attack on America were spiritually and psychologically scarred profoundly.

Immediately following that horrendous act of one year ago, and for some time after, people found comfort in prayer and by contributing to funds designed to assist those in need and in reaching out to one another. To this day, we harbor memories of loving and pro-

found generosity and of valiant policemen, firemen and rescue squad personnel who risked life and limb to save those they did not know. Many, as we know, forfeited their own lives in their attempts to save their brothers and sisters.

Mindful of the inestimable value and power of prayer, the Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. proclaims September 11, 2002, the Holy Day commemorating the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, and every September 11 thereafter, a Day of Remembrance (Den Pomynannia) and calls upon all the faithful to mark this tragic event with prayers and fasting and by participating to the fullest in the eucharistic liturgies and panakhydy celebrated in their local parishes.

May Almighty God, the source of all consolation, accept our offerings on His heavenly altar, give rest to those who perished, console those who mourn their departure from this physical life and grant us the grace and courage to be channels of His righteousness and peace.

Your servants in the Lord,
† **Constantine**, Metropolitan
† **Antony**, Archbishop
† **Vsevolod**, Archbishop

Let us pray for the victims, their families and our nation at this time of remembrance

Following is the text of a message on the occasion of 9/11 issued by Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church

My brother clergy, reverend religious, and brothers and sisters in Christ:

Praise Be Jesus Christ!

Three days before we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, special observances throughout the United States and throughout the world will commemorate the first anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We are called to remember and to pray for the victims and their families, as well as the heroic acts of courage, love and sacrifice of those who extended themselves to help their fellow human beings in so many ways during this national sacrifice.

From the ruins of the World Trade Center, the steel I-beams that were covered in the shape of the cross, continue to give hope to our nation just as the finding of the true cross of Jesus Christ by St. Helena in the year 326 inspired the faithful of the fourth century and led to the expansion of Christianity throughout the empire.

Listen to the inspirational words of the tropar and kondak from the Feast of the Exaltation. "Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies, and protect Your community by Your cross (Tropar of the Cross). By Your power gladden the faithful people and grant them victory against their enemies. May they have the help of Your instrument of peace, the invincible sign of victory (Kondak of the Cross).

Through His death on the cross and His resurrection our Lord and Savior

transformed the cross from a symbol of hate into a sign of love, from an object of despair into a sign of hope, from an instrument of death into a tree of life. For Christians, the cross no longer represented defeat; it becomes the invincible sign of victory.

Likewise, from the tragic events of September 11, the world has witnessed the hope, love and life that emanated from terrorists' acts of hate and death. The outpouring of love, hope and renewal of faith through the self-sacrifice of the firefighters, rescue workers and caregivers should serve as the continuing living memorial to the victims of this tragedy. In this we find the confirmation of the words of St. Paul, "My grace is enough for you. For in weakness, power reaches perfection" (2 Cor. 12:9).

During this time of remembrance, I ask all of you to pray for the victims, their families and for our nation. I ask our priests to offer the faithful of their parishes a divine liturgy on Wednesday, September 11, at a time of day convenient for most parishioners to attend. Please add appropriate petitions for the souls of all victims, for those grieving the loss of loved ones and for our nation. I also encourage our priests to have their church bells peal for two minutes on September 11, beginning at 10:29 a.m. to coincide with the bell ringing observances to take place in New York City and throughout the United States at that time.

I thank everyone for your anticipated prayerful observance of this first anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. God bless America!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
† **Most Rev. Stefan Soroka**
Metropolitan-Archbishop

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Independence Day thank-you message

Dear Editor:

Please accept our gratitude for The Weekly's help and support and the printing of our appeals to the Ukrainian community to join in the celebration of the 11th anniversary of Independence of Ukraine in the residence of New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's historical Drumthwacket mansion in Princeton, N.J., on Saturday, August 24. The event was an unprecedented success with 1,300 participants present – including the leadership of Ukrainian Churches, organizations and representatives of Ukraine's government.

Gov. McGreevey was the main speaker and the master of ceremonies of the program, during which he displayed his eloquence, knowledge of Ukrainian history, empathy with the Ukrainian people and a sense of humor. He and his wife, Dina, were gracious hosts and made the participants feel welcome and relaxed, and brought a ray of sunshine on an otherwise damp and dreary day.

The success of this event happened mainly through the grace and generosity of Gov. McGreevey and the hard work and diligence of the committee which was called together for the explicit purpose of working on this project. The committee members were: Theodore J. Romankow (the driving force of the project), the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, CSSR, Dr. Julian Bemko (commander of Ukrainian American Veterans Post No. 6), Walter Bodnar, John Burtyk (president of the N.J. State Coordinating Council of UCCA), Orest Ciapka, Gregory Dovbush, Elizabeth Jacus, Joseph Jacus, Michael Koziupa, Jerry Kuzemchak, Ihor Laszok, Jaroslawa Mulyk (president of the N.J. State Council of the UNWLA), Nestor Olesnycky, Kvitka Semanyshyn, Adam Stec, Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky and Vladimir Waskiw.

I hereby thank all members of the committee and the organizations they represented for their concerted and dedicated effort during the five months of preparatory meetings in a congenial atmosphere. It was an honor and a pleasure, and fun working with all of you.

Bozhena Olshaniwsky
Newark, N.J.

The letter writer served as chairperson of the Governor's Committee to Celebrate the 11th Anniversary of Ukraine.

Regensburg reunion recalls UPA contacts

Dear Editor:

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the partisan army that fought against Nazi occupation of Ukraine and then against the repressive Soviet regime is being commemorated this year.

At their 13th reunion, to be held at Soyuzivka, the estate of the Ukrainian National Association, on September 9-12 former students of the Ukrainian Regensburg Gymnasium (high school) will review the impact the UPA had on their education in general.

This relationship between the education in this gymnasium and the UPA was explained by Evhen Malaniuk, a teacher at the school, who wrote that the school principal, Dr. Mykola Velychko, was a pioneer and an experienced pedagogue. Having lost his only son, a soldier in the UPA, he

transferred his fatherly care and love to the students' of the gymnasium. Sometimes that love and care was hidden under the mask of strict discipline and academic demands imposed on himself and others.

There were also students who had connections to the UPA. Vasyl Futala had an older brother, Lev, a former veterinary medical student, somewhere back home fighting, so did Zenon Babiuik.

And there is the story of Bohdan Malaniak. His family was and is close friends with the family of Gen. Roman Shukhevych – Taras Chuprynka. During the time when Gen. Shukhevych was avoiding the German police his wife, Natalia, with their children, Maria and Yurko, stayed with the Malaniak family in the city of Lviv. One day Bohdan, 14 and Yurko, 11, packed their knapsacks and went to the railroad station to board the train heading toward the Carpathian Mountains to join the UPA. Just in the nick of time, Bohdan's father caught up with them and took the boys back home.

However the year of 1947 was eventful in the life of the school. The news spread that the UPA soldiers broke through the Iron Curtain to the West. There was Vasyl Futala's older brother Lt. Lev Futala – Lahidnyi, in person. Vasyl was happy to see his brother and the students were happy to see the heroes. Also, there was one of the youngest UPA soldiers, 15-year-old Roman Mac, who shortly became a member of the student body. He was admired not only for his celebrity status, but also for his violin playing.

The UPA became part of school activities. On December 19, 1947, there was a formal school meeting with UPA officers Baida, Lahidnyi and Hromenko. And on February 8, 1948, the Literary Club arranged an "Evening of UPA Poetry and Songs." This event was attended by many UPA soldiers. Most likely, at that time, one of the students, Halyna Doberczak met Lt. Lahidnyi, a meeting which eventually resulted in the long and happy marriage of Halyna and Lev Futala.

Another mentor in the school, physical education teacher Matthew Meleshko – Virlyk – trained future officers for the UPA in 1944.

In his address to the students at the opening of the academic year in September 1947, Dr. Velychko said: "Dear students ... during the hours of instruction hours learn to work properly, and remember that the result of your work is a cultural level that determines the place of a nation on the international arena. And that place of the Ukrainian nation in the future depends on your work, knowledge and perseverance..."

Dmytro Bodnarczuk
Albuquerque, N.M.

Filmmaker's reaction petty, unwarranted

Dear Editor:

John Paskievich's reaction to the Orysia Tracz review of his film "My Mother's Village" is vulgar, petty, and undeserved. Ms Tracz's commentary was remarkably fair, which means writing it must have been taxing.

After spending several hours interviewing me, Mr. Paskievich later phoned to say that he had cut me entirely out of the film, for which he offered an apology. Having since seen "My Mother's Village" I now offer him thanks.

Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D.
Kingston, Ontario

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Lake Huron Ukrainian shores

Ever since Lesia and I purchased the Readers Digest 150 Scenic Drives in America, we've been hitting the road as often as possible.

Among other scenic by-ways, we've traveled around Lake Michigan as well as the Lake Superior shoreline of upper peninsula Michigan, drove down to the Shawnee Hills in southern Illinois, been thrilled by the Great River Drive in Minnesota and Wisconsin, traveled the Red Rock Country and Apache Trails in Arizona, and driven along Skyline Drive in Virginia.

America is a magnificent country, and we aim to see the best of it as long as health and energy permit. At our age, postponing travel is not a good idea.

In all of our many U.S. highway trips we've never run into any Ukrainians. I know that sounds strange, but it's true.

This year we decided to return to Michigan, our favorite Great Lakes state, and to travel the so-called Sunrise Shore of Lake Huron. We drove to Bay City and from there traveled north along highway 13, a two-lane road most of the time, along the shore. It was a 220-mile trip that took us through Bay City State Park, Tawas State Park, the River Road National Forest and eventually Mackinaw City. Returning, we drove south along Lake Michigan's eastern shore, stopping overnight in beautiful Charlevoix, our favorite resort town in Michigan.

As we were driving north on highway 13, coasting along the Lake Huron shore, we passed many resorts when suddenly, we zipped by a flagpole with an American flag on top and what appeared to be a Ukrainian flag below it. "Did you see that?" I asked Lesia. "It looked like a Ukrainian flag."

"It looked like a Ukrainian flag," Lesia replied, "but it could have been Swedish. Let's go back and take a second look."

So we turned around, drove back, and sure enough, it was a Ukrainian flag. A Ukrainian flag in what appeared to us as a scenic but somewhat isolated place in Michigan, not far from the village of Greenbush. Imagine that, we thought.

The sign said "Stefan's R & R Resort," so we drove in. Sweeping the driveway was Stefan Maryliw, a tall man who appeared to be in his 50s.

We drove up to him and asked: "Are you Stefan?"

"I am," he replied.

"Are you Ukrainian?" I asked.

"Affirmative, he said.

"What are you doing here?" I asked. (Stupid question.)

I rephrased my question. "I mean, how did you ever end up here?"

Stefan told us he was originally from Detroit.

"Do you know Stephen Wichar?" I asked. (Another stupid question.)

"Everybody knows Stephen Wichar, answered Stefan.

To establish his bona fides further, Stefan brought out the latest issue of The Ukrainian Weekly which, fortunately, had my column in it. I pointed to it and said "that's me."

"Uh, huh," said Stefan, obviously not all that impressed.

He showed us around his impressive resort. Located on 300 feet of sandy Lake Huron beach front, the facilities include lakefront luxury suites with jacuzzi and

fireplace (going for \$160-\$180 per couple), decorated in Mardi Gras style. Amenities include a wet bar, a microwave, CD player, TV/VCR and a special breakfast served in your suite. In addition, there are one-to-three-bedroom family cottages (\$110-\$130) on the grounds, only a few feet from the lake.

In addition to numerous nature trails and river boat rides in the area, Stefan offers Saturday night bonfires on the beach, a pavillion with ping-pong and pool tables, as well as volleyball and banminton courts. The winter months offer snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and ice-boating, ice-fishing and skating on inland lakes. Great Ukrainian hospitality abounds year around.

This year for the ninth year in a row, Stefan and his lovely wife, Jennie, will host their annual Ukrainian Fall Festival.

So how did Stefan Maryliw end up on this side of Lake Huron? His is a familiar story. Born in Germany, he arrived in Detroit in 1951 as a displaced person. He attended St. John's Ukrainian Elementary School and St. Joseph's High School in Detroit. He spent a year in Vietnam as part of a three-year hitch in the U.S. Army. Later, he worked for the U.S. Defense Department, retiring after 28 years. During this time he served a term as vice-commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans, Post 101 in Warren, Mich. Stefan and Jennie purchased the resort in 1993.

There's still time to enjoy Michigan's exquisite fall foliage. Call Stefan at (989) 739-2778 or e-mail him at stefan@stefans-rr-resort.com. You'd better believe he'll treat you right.



E. Stefan Maryliw in front of the resort, by the flag pole.

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

National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy

Leadership Through Education Building a Democratic, Open, Prosperous and Healthy Society

Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky
President of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy

The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy is committed to its historic mission of offering the finest undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate education in Ukraine. Today's Kyiv Mohyla student aspires to be the type of individual that a Kyiv Mohyla education has always fostered - an intelligent, independent individual who is committed to scholarship, leadership and social service.

Since the re-opening of the University in 1991, my tenure as president has been challenging and stimulating. Together with colleagues, faculty, students, and supporters, we have focused on increasing the quality and stature of the University among the best institutions of higher education in the world. Thanks to these dedicated efforts, we have been successful in many areas.

The rebirth of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy can be considered a miracle. It was rebuilt on the ruins of the past, first its closing by Russian czarist regimes and then its destruction and misuse by the Soviet government. But let us concentrate on the future and not the past. Today, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy rose up like a Phoenix from the ashes, as an untouched, unmovable fortress of spirituality and scholarship. The University showed the world the bright face of a younger generation of a renewed, independent Ukraine.

The University's outstanding faculty guarantees a high level of education and scholarly research. The fact that NaUKMA's official languages of studies are both Ukrainian and English, allows for the inclusion of highly qualified and renowned professors from around the world. This important factor also contributes to a more varied and higher standard of excellence. In the last ten years we hosted close to 300 professors from other countries.

We are fully committed to advance the highest quality of education and to make continued investment in academic programs and in student life. We continue to enhance and develop the use of technology, which is a critical area for our future. And we are engaged in the critical political, economic and social issues presented in Ukraine today. Legal reform, the rule of law, transparency, environmental and health issues and the free exchange of ideas are of the highest priority at NaUKMA.

The authority of our school in Ukraine is unquestioned. The University's more than

Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky, President of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy

"There is no greater issue today for Ukraine, than the education of a new generation of leaders that will promote an open society based on democratic principals, that will improve the quality of life for future generations."

Zbigniew Brzezinski, US National Security Advisor

"I am amazed by the progress that has taken place at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. There is a true renaissance of independent Ukrainian intellectual life."

Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State

"I wanted to speak here because the history of the Academy is intertwined with the history of Ukraine itself. Here, it is easy to see that it was one of the greatest cultural centers in Europe, and we can be sure that it will return to its former glory."

2000 graduates are working in the nation's Parliament, in the government, on television stations, radio and in newspapers, at the most prestigious firms and corporations. Many among them established their own businesses, and they take an active part in political life. There are many that came back to Ukraine after finishing their doctoral studies overseas, others are working in Europe, the USA and Canada, learning and gaining the knowledge that they will apply in Ukraine upon their return. The University has received numerous grants and awards, and our students are winners of international and national scholastic honors.

We entered the 21st century renewed in our purpose of making the University an institution of the highest order of excellence, not just for Ukraine, but for the entire world. But we are not unaffected by the fact that the world has changed in many ways. The economic uncertainty in Ukraine and in today's world affects us directly. To guarantee financial responsibility, we keep strong controls of budgets and we are very selective in our undertakings and initiatives.

But there are continuing needs that need to be addressed and a lot of work to be done to reach our goals, such as the expansion of new programs, new residence halls for students and teachers, the branching out with affiliates and collegiums, publications and the need to guarantee a strong, lasting foundation for the future. We know that in order to achieve this, it is imperative to establish a permanent endowment. We need the support of ongoing fundraising efforts. We need to enter the international network of institutions that collaborate and form educational alliances. We already started work in this regard in Ukraine. Now it is time to develop these programs on the American continent.

The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America, an independent nonprofit foundation, was established for that purpose - to help and support the University reach its goals. Together we can achieve this. We continue to have the determination to strive for the highest standards and we want to reach everyone who shares our vision - to inspire and contribute with vitality, creativity, and personal and financial support. This support is the basis of the great things that will come in the future. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our donors and supporters. There is a saying that a winner is a person who has hope in the future. I not only have hope, but I have confidence in our success with your assistance through the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation.

National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy Educates the Future Leaders of Ukraine



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OF AMERICA**

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The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide assistance to the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, a private institution founded in 1615, to promote knowledge through training and programs in education that will improve the quality of life in Ukraine and the world now and for future generations, through academic excellence that contributes to the development of democratic processes, legal and market reforms, and the enhancement of civil liberties that will result in the capacity of individuals, communities and institutions to build a prosperous and secure future.

Kyiv Mohyla Foundation is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donation is fully tax deductible as permitted by law.

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Airshow disaster...

(Continued from page 1)

acknowledgments they deserve and have made themselves unavailable to the press and even to people who simply want to thank them for their kindness and bravery. They are part of the untold story of the Sknyliv disaster.

As Lviv residents observed traditional 40th day memorial services on September 5 with divine liturgies in all of the city's churches and a procession from the Lviv city center to the Sknyliv Aerodrome in honor of the airshow victims, 27 people remained hospitalized. In all 76 people, among them 27 children, died as a result of the air disaster, while another 241 people, including 83 children, were hospitalized with injuries. Thirteen children lost at least one parent; three kids lost both, including 4-year-old Yurchyk.

Yurchyk's parents, Bohdan, 28, and Iryna, 24, went with him to the air show because the tight-knit family always went somewhere together on the weekend and because Mr. Motyziuk wanted to see the 14th Army, whose air force was celebrating its 60th anniversary that day, with which he had served. The celebration was the reason the Sknyliv airshow was organized.

Hours later, Yurchyk's blackened and bloodied face was seen on countless television screens after cameras filmed him sitting helplessly amid the charred metal and human debris on the tarmac. He didn't sit there long because a woman who has yet to be identified picked him up and carried him to her home.

Oksana Motyziuk, Bohdan's sister and Yurchyk's godmother, said she first heard about the catastrophe at around 1 p.m. during a special news bulletin, 15 minutes after the crash had occurred. A short while later a friend phoned and told her that Yurchyk was being shown on a certain television channel. They raced to the hospital near the air base, where volunteers gave them the number of the woman who had taken Yurchyk under her care.

Ms. Motyziuk and her parents met the good samaritan that evening, but she insisted that she would only give up Yurchyk with proper identification and with law enforcement officials acting as intermediaries.

"We had not brought documentation to show that we were grandpa and grandma," explained the elder Motyziuk, "so we called [Yurchyk's other grandmother], who brought identification and took Yurchyk home.

In the confusion and shock, they never even got the woman's name. They have twice tried to visit her since then, to thank her for her heroic deed, but no one answers the door or the telephone. The Weekly also failed to contact her despite repeated attempts.

"The woman had a big heart," explained Yurchyk's grandfather. "People had already called stating that the child was theirs or that they were ready to pay her to give him up, but she acted properly."

The majority of survivors of the Sknyliv airshow disaster are children, teenagers and young adults below the age of 30. The dark memories and grisly details will stay with

them a lifetime. They will have to deal with post-traumatic stress syndrome and "survivor guilt" in the weeks and years ahead, according to psychologists.

Yurchyk, a quiet and unassuming child, today cries more often than he once did. The Motyziuks believe their 3-year-old grandson remembers the events well, although he rarely mentions them.

"He seems to understand that something happened but doesn't yet fully understand what it means," explained Yurchyk's aunt and godmother, Oksana. "Recently, while playing at his godfather's house, located near the Lviv Airport, he saw an airplane and stopped to gaze carefully at the sky until it disappeared. He did this while the other kids continued their activities undisturbed.

Another time, as she explained, he saw a newspaper with a photo of the ill-fated aircraft tumbling along the tarmac and commented matter-of-factly, "I was there."

Ten-year-old Iryna Bohach also is trying to deal with events she doesn't fully understand, having viewed her mother's grisly death, and more savage scenes of human dismemberment, destruction and grief in a few hours that most warriors do in a lifetime

The youngster is reluctant to talk about the events of that tragic day, except to describe what happened when the aircraft exploded as it hit the ground.

"I fell on my knees from the explosion. There was a lot of glass flying around," explained Iryna in a timid voice.

Her grandmother, Maria Sokulska, anguish on her face, head covered by a scarf and dressed in mourning black, said that her granddaughter and grandson do not sleep in their father's place, but spend the night in a separate apartment she shares with her husband, which is located several floors below. This is because Iryna, at least, is more comfortable with more people in the apartment.

Her younger brother, however, no longer cares to stay in the building at all. While a reporter talked with the family, 6-year-old Ihor repeatedly asked to go outside. His father, Volodymyr Bohach, explained that his son would live outdoors if that were a realistic option.

"He doesn't want to come indoors, and when we finally make him do so, within minutes he wants to go back outside again," explained Mr. Bohach.

Iryna, who also suffers night sweats and bad dreams, and her younger brother are both undergoing psychiatric counseling, as is Yurchyk Motyziuk. Doctors say that only time will heal the psychological trauma they have experienced.

Dr. Oleh Bereziuk, assistant head of the department of psychiatry at Lviv State Medical University, who has seen many of the victims, said that most are currently only beginning to get over shock – some with loss of memory regarding the event, while others may already be reacting to the cataclysm of July 27 by withdrawing from society, by not venturing out of their apartments, increasing their use of alcohol or even becoming manic about attending church services. Others repeatedly go over the event in their minds, detail by detail, several times a day, which paralyzes normal social activity.

"It all depends on the degree of sensitivity and how the



Yurchyk Motyziuk with his father, Bohdan, who was killed in the Sknyliv airshow disaster, in a photo taken in June by his aunt, Oksana Motyziuk.

body deals with it," said Dr. Bereziuk, explaining why individuals react in various ways.

He said that up to 1,500 of the witnesses to the event who survived may feel some sort of psychological fallout within the next six months, with some suffering more serious and longer-term post-traumatic stress syndrome, which would require more intensive counseling.

To help the families of the victims, the state promised to cover funeral expenses and followed up with 2,000 hryvnia to each family, which both the Bohaches and the Maotyziuks said they had already received. In addition, surviving children have been offered the opportunity to rest and recuperate at several sanitariums around the country.

In fact, the Khmils, whose daughter Halyna died with her best friend, Svitlana Bohach, had left for a government-paid vacation at a Carpathian Mountain sanitarium a day before they were to be interviewed by The Weekly. The Bohaches were awaiting a trip to the Crimea in the near future.

There is a tragic irony to the story behind the close friendship between Halyna Khmil and Svitlana Bohach, the two mothers and best friends who died at Sknyliv. It is an irony that can never be explained properly, but makes one consider spiritual matters more deeply. When Halyna and Svitlana first met seven years ago, what spawned the strong bond that made them nearly inseparable in the ensuing years as they raised their individual families was the striking coincidence of so many special dates in their personal histories. Soon after they met, they discovered that they were born on the same date, that they were married on the same date and that they had both given birth to their first child in the same maternity ward several days apart. What they could not have known was that their decision to attend the Sknyliv air show together would lead the two closest friends to share one final date together.

Top prosecutor...

(Continued from page 1)

cause of the death was the decapitation of the body. The earlier report had indicated that the head had been severed after the person had expired.

Mr. Piskun said he would inform the journalist's mother, Lesia, and then decide how to proceed. Lesia Gongadze, who lives in Lviv, has been a thorn in the side of investigators since the Tarascha body turned up because she has refused to accept earlier results, including DNA testing, which officials said proved the corpse belonged to her son. She has charged that to stymie the investigation law enforcement officials might have gone so far as to change bodies or testing samples on order from high government officials, who feared the investigation could eventually implicate them.

Mrs. Gongadze's attorney said on September 5 that he had not seen the procurator's documents and had yet to hold a meeting with his client and, therefore, had no comment on the matter at the moment. The previous day Mrs. Gongadze told *Ukrainska Pravda*, the Internet newspaper that her son founded, that until she had a chance to see the details of the reports and determine whether they included the DNA test on the hair of her son, which she had supplied months before, she could not

accept the conclusion made by Mr. Piskun.

Mr. Piskun said during his press conference that the 10-member panel that reviewed the case, "beginning from point zero," consisted of a group of medical professionals from the Ministry of Health who had from 15 to 40 years' experience each. He also said that while reviewing the work of investigators done under his predecessor, Mykhailo Potebenko, his investigative team found major flaws and errors, and discovered additional evidence at the site of the unearthed burial site, which had been overlooked for two years.

He said that his office had arrested the Tarascha county prosecutor for failing to perform his duties and covering up evidence in the case.

Mr. Piskun explained that reports from testing done in April by an FBI team of forensic specialists, which originally confirmed that the Tarascha body was Mr. Gongadze's, were taken into consideration as well in making the final analysis.

U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual told The Weekly he supported the claims made by the Ukrainian chief prosecutor and said that there was little chance that the body belonged to anybody but the missing journalist. He said that during the FBI examination Mrs. Gongadze had submitted hair samples and X-rays of her missing son, as well as tissue samples taken from his twin daughters, which were compared against

tissue taken from all parts of the Tarascha body. The conclusions the FBI team drew were conclusive and consistent, explained Mr. Pascual.

"As the doctors have explained to me, when you have X-rays and hair and skin DNA there can be little doubt that it is his body" said Mr. Pascual, who then added, "There is no doubt."

Rada committee levels charges

As the fate of the Tarascha body, apparently, was finally decided, National Deputy Omelchenko, the chair of the ad hoc parliamentary committee on the Gongadze affair, announced that he had forwarded recommendations made by the committee to bring criminal charges against President Kuchma and several political cohorts, including Volodymyr Lytvyn, his former chief of staff, today the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada; the former head of the Security Service of Ukraine Leonid Derkach; former Minister of Internal Affairs Yuri Kravchenko; and current Tax Administration Chairman Mykola Azarov.

In one of the documents, the officials are accused of "collaborating to organize the kidnapping of Heorhii Gongadze, which led to fatal consequences," while in another one President Kuchma and Mr. Azarov are charged with forcing an apartment owner to give up his dwelling, located in a choice section of Kyiv in favor of the chief taxman

of Ukraine.

Other documents accuse the president's political cronies and other associates with more high felonies and abuses of office, including organizing a felonious assault on National Deputy Oleksander Eliashkevych in February 2000, an attack that left him with a concussion and a broken nose; the illegal use of wiretaps and eavesdropping devices to listen to the conversations of various members of the political opposition; and illegal arms sales to Iraq.

The evidence that Mr. Omelchenko submitted is based largely on the Melnychenko tapes, digital recordings made by Maj. Mykola Melnychenko during the first nine months of 2000 when he worked in the security detachment assigned to the presidential offices. The recordings allegedly contain scores of hours of conversations between President Kuchma and the various parties named in the parliamentary committee report.

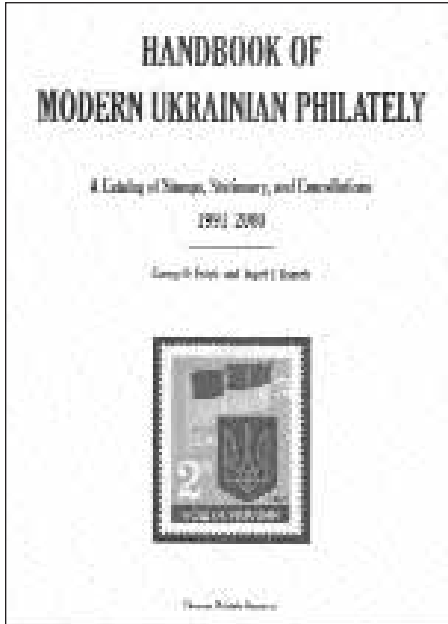
Mr. Melnychenko released the tapes to Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, long a political opponent of President Kuchma, in November 2000. Mr. Melnychenko, who eventually requested and obtained political asylum in the United States after hiding in Europe for several months, explained at the time that he did so as a service to his country because he could no longer watch as the president and his

(Continued on page 14)

BOOK NOTE: A new handbook on Ukrainian philatelic releases

"Handbook of Modern Ukrainian Philately: A Catalog of Stamps, Stationery, and Cancellations 1991-2000," by George D. Fedyk and Inger J. Kuzych. Springfield, Va.: Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, 2002, 236 pp, softcover, \$25.

The Ukrainian firm Marka Ukrainy has been issuing stamps, postal cards, pre-stamped envelopes, special cancellations and all sorts of additional products for more than a decade now, making it hard to keep up with everything. Wouldn't it be great if there was one catalogue that listed



all of the philatelic materials produced in Ukraine since independence?

Well, such a catalogue now exists and it is the result of two dedicated philatelists working (literally) on opposite ends of the earth. George Fedyk from Australia and Inger Kuzych from the United States have spent much of their free time over the past couple of years compiling the "Handbook of Modern Ukrainian Philately" – the most complete volume on modern Ukrainian philately ever produced. Everything has been included and just about everything has been illustrated. (Some 700 illustrations grace this tome.)

The authors have gone out of their way to make the handbook extremely user friendly, beginning from the very first pages with a brief "Introduction to Ukraine." Right up front, a "Quick Reference Guide" gives basic information on all of Ukraine's stamps, first day covers, and first day postmarks in a comprehensive seven-page table. This saves the user from having to search through the main body of the book to search for basic facts.

When looking for more info, however, the user will come across complete and thorough descriptions of all of the types of

philatelic products produced in Ukraine. These items are easy to locate because they are grouped in appropriate parts marked off by colored inserts.

Part I covers all postage stamps, both regular issues and regional issues created from remaining Soviet stamps in 1992 by overprinting with tridents. The descriptions include all available information for every issue. In addition to the regular facts, such as date of release, designer(s), colors, paper type, perforations, quantities produced and printing format, additional information on major varieties is presented along with descriptions for the fluorescence patterns exhibited by the stamps or souvenir sheets under UV light. This latter characteristic is a unique attribute of Ukrainian stamps and sheets. Moreover, the subjects depicted on the philatelic issues are concisely but completely described.

Part II details postal stationery items, including first day covers, pre-stamped envelopes, pre-stamped postal cards, souvenir folders, souvenir cards and stamp booklets. All available information is set forth including dates, sizes, designer(s), quantities, descriptions and, where applicable, the unique order number that is assigned to every stationery item produced.

Part III describes special issues and includes joint issues, Europa issues, World Wildlife Fund issues and other distinctive

releases – such as maximum cards, post-cards and postal cards prepared for certain philatelic events.

Part IV is perhaps the most impressive in the catalogue, because it includes descriptions of the commemorative postmarks (837) in all produced in Ukraine during its first decade of independence. These descriptions are laid out not just chronologically, but also grouped by oblast. Of these postmarks, those used as first day markings are also illustrated.

All of the stamps, stationery products, special issues and cancellations listed in Parts I through IV have been assigned their own unique catalogue numbers.

Part V closes out this impressive volume and it is composed of five detailed appendices. These include an extensive listing of Thematics on Ukrainian Stamps (22 categories are set forth), a compendium of Ukrainian Stamp Series, a complete itemization of Ukrainian Postal Rates (from 1992 to 2000; 14 pages of minute but complete tables), an introduction to Ukraine's Official Transliteration System, and a glossary of Philatelic Terminology. The authors have tried not to overlook anything in their quest to make this the ultimate guidebook for Ukrainian philately.

Copies of the 236-page "Handbook of

(Continued on page 19)

Mykola Melnychenko...

(Continued from page 1)

"And like most teenagers of that time, I wanted to be a military officer and defend the fatherland."

In 1984, at age 18, he enlisted in the Soviet army. Later he was accepted for officer training, which he completed successfully. As an officer, he joined the KGB, to serve in what was then called the Ninth Directorate, the unit responsible for the security of senior Soviet officials, including then Soviet-President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He served in the security service in Moscow and in Kyiv, but, as he stresses to counter the short-hand descriptions of him in the press, he never worked as a "body-guard" neither for President Kuchma or for President Gorbachev.

He was stationed in Kyiv during the break-up of the USSR and continued to serve in what is now called the Security Service of Ukraine.

Mr. Melnychenko remembers the post-independence period as one of high hopes for Ukraine. "When independence came, I welcomed it with an open heart and high hopes that life in Ukraine would improve greatly. It had all of the prerequisites for this," he said.

"But with every passing year it became worse and worse," he added. And in the course of his work and travels around the country he began to realize why this was so, he explained.

In all of his various statements, press conferences and interviews, Mr. Melnychenko has consistently evaded answering questions about when he started to secretly record conversations in President Kuchma's office. Neither would he answer that question for The Weekly.

Those who need to know, like Commission Chairman Omelchenko, he said, know the answer.

"Let Kuchma and the mafia remain fearful. Let them worry about when, from what year and which month I began to record," he said. And it wasn't a single incident that moved him to begin recording. It was, as he put it, when "quantity evolved into quality." It was the chasm he observed between the life of the common man and that of the president and the oli-

garchs, the expensive gifts, corruption and the president's meetings with leaders of criminal groups, he said.

He could have turned a blind eye, he said, continued in his high and well-paid position, with ample perks and the possibility of retiring in 2001 to live in a government-provided apartment, on a good pension and with other privileges.

"But there was the matter of conscience," he said. "My father raised me to fight for what is right – the rule of law, in other words – and to fight for one's people." Having had the technical training for it, he decided to record the evidence, he said.

And why did he finally decide that the time was ripe to go public?

"The evidence was piling up, for one," he said. "Also, when the media began reporting about the disappearance of the journalist (Heorhii Gongadze), I understood that I could no longer remain silent."

He recalled how he and his wife were moved when they saw the slain journalist's widow, Myroslava Gongadze, on television and their reaction to what she said.

"So I asked my wife, 'What do you think this journalist may have done?' And she replied, 'Well, he reported the truth and paid for it.' 'And should one fight for truth?' I asked her, and she replied, 'Yes.'"

That was his Rubicon, he said.

He turned over copies of some of the recordings to Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, whom he considered to be the most honest political figure he knew. On November 26, 2000, on the recommendation of Mr. Moroz, who was concerned about his safety, Mr. Melnychenko and his family managed to get out of Ukraine to an undisclosed East European country.

One of the first transcripts released through Mr. Moroz included a conversation in the president's office about the need to do something about the bothersome investigative reporter Gongadze.

When the term of his stay in the East European country elapsed, Mr. Melnychenko had to find another host country. In mid-April the State Department confirmed that he and his family were being granted political asylum in the United States, as was at about the same time Myroslava Gongadze

along with her children.

Asked why he chose the United States or whether it was the United States that chose him – Mr. Melnychenko replied that he had received offers of asylum from other countries, but added: "Let's put it this way, only a very strong country could fight with and overcome the evil that exists in Ukraine today. And, as I saw it, it would have to be the United States, the more so because Kuchma was afraid of U.S. Ambassador (Steven) Pifer – very much afraid." He was also "very much afraid" of former Vice-President Al Gore, he said, and did everything he could so that he would not be elected president.

Mr. Melnychenko's views about the United States had reversed completely since the mid-1980s, when he saw the U.S. as an enemy of the USSR.

"We had a military doctrine that held that our foremost enemy was the U.S.," he said. "I accepted and believed the notion that the United States was our enemy."

"But as the years and time passed, I became convinced that the United States was not an aggressor," he said. And by 1996, he added, it became our friend.

Mr. Melnychenko admits he has a public image problem. Some people see him as a traitor; others are convinced he was or is working either for the CIA or Russian security; and still others, primarily in the diaspora, think that, although well-intentioned, he is misguided and causing harm to Ukraine by helping move it into Russia's embrace. And there are those who see him as a hero.

His parents, now retired, are suffering from the fallout of his decision to go public with the recordings. And so are his in-laws. "You can appreciate their suffering when a representative of the Kyiv police visits my mother-in-law every week and asks, 'Where is Melnychenko? When did you see him last?'" Every week they traumatize her, he said, knowing full well that he is in the United States. She has had a nervous breakdown and has developed Parkinson's disease, he said.

Asked whether he is optimistic or pessimistic about the future, Mr. Melnychenko said he is "convinced that in the very near future things will come to a

fore." And the reason is that, while in the United States, Mr. Omelchenko took an official notarized deposition of his charges, which will be turned over to the Procurator General's Office. With those duly signed and sealed charges in hand, prosecutors will have to investigate them – something they have thus far evaded doing, Mr. Melnychenko said.

He also sees a very good chance for clamping down on the Ukrainian mafia, using judicial proceedings initiated in the United States by such plaintiffs as Ms. Gongadze and Mr. Eliashkevych, provided they can get some legal and technical assistance.

"Unfortunately," he added, "some politicians in Russia and in the United States are taking advantage of the situation to further their own interests." In his view, Russian President Putin is taking advantage of a weakened President Kuchma to have the Ukrainian gas pipelines transferred to the Russian mafia, while the United States is not pushing President Kuchma too hard on reforms, so as not to jeopardize the overfly rights for U.S. military planes in the war against terrorism.

"Kuchma today is drowning Ukraine's interests so that he can stay afloat," he said.

Some have criticized Mr. Melnychenko for dragging out the process of transcribing the recordings and making public only bits and pieces of them. He said that while it is true that not very many recordings have been completely transcribed and that only a small part of these have been released to the press, most of the recordings have been reviewed and annotated, and their contents are known.

If he had the chance to do it all over again, would he do it or change anything?

"I would do a few things differently. I would start recording a lot sooner, and I would have wanted to have the contents of these recordings revealed before the presidential election in 1999," he said.

Mr. Melnychenko declined to take the bait of a tongue-in-cheek question about whether he was invited to any of the diplomatic receptions marking the anniversary of Ukraine's independence. He answered in a more serious tone: "I think that in the not-too-distant future we will celebrate a day of true independence."

Jersey parish has ambitious vision for new church and community center

by Victor M. Hatala

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The migration of Ukrainian Americans, particularly families with children to the suburbs and exurbs of western New Jersey has presented a rare and wonderful opportunity for the Ukrainian Catholic parish here to build a new church, and to establish a significant Ukrainian cultural and community center that will be easily accessible to residents of New Jersey, southern New York, eastern Pennsylvania and even southwestern Connecticut. “This is the vision of our parishioners,” reported the Rev. Roman Mirchuk, who in May was named pastor at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J., a Morris County community just north of Morristown and approximately 45 minutes west of Manhattan.

Parish experiences dramatic growth

St. John's Parish, located on Route 10 at the corner of Jefferson Road, has been an integral part of the Whippany community, contributing to the spiritual and social needs of Ukrainian Americans and the general community for more than 80 years. More recently the parish doubled in membership under the dynamic leadership of the Rev. Uriy Markewych, who was pastor at St. John's from 1995 until this past May.

Today 476 persons worship at St. John's. Additional growth has been constrained, however, as the present church building is too small to accommodate all who wish to participate in the divine liturgy on Sundays.

The potential for further growth is evidenced by the fact that more than 600 persons from the area who are not parishioners at St. John's belong to Ukrainian community organizations based in Morris County, such as the Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and a traditional folk dance school.

These vibrant community organizations themselves are currently renting and relying on less-than-adequate facilities for their programs and look forward to supporting a cultural/community center offering classrooms and recreational facilities. That is the shared opinion of Dr. George Demidowich, a member of Plast, Michael Koziupa, a member of SUM, and Ihor Zwarych, an activist at the Lesia Ukrainka School. All three gentlemen also serve on the parish's Building Committee.

Orest Kucyna, parish trustee and chairman of the Building Committee, said he believes that “Our future lies in attracting young families and our youth by providing adequate facilities for worship, religion classes, a Ukrainian heritage school, cultural groups, scouting organizations and sports clubs. We must also reach out to provide support for senior citizens by establishing Ukrainian-sponsored social services.”

Land is purchased

St. John's Parish already has taken a number of critical steps toward making its vision a reality. A desirable parcel of 7.5 acres of land (one of 23 options that was considered) was purchased in April of this year. Peter

Victor Hatala is chairman of the public relations and communications subcommittee of the Building Committee at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Whippany, N.J.

Binazeski, a member of the Building Committee and chairman of its finance subcommittee, explained that “the land purchase was funded for the most part from the parish's cash reserves that had been built-up by generous parishioner contributions and through some opportune real estate transactions.” The land purchase, less than half a mile north of the current church, provides an attractive location approximately a mile from two major exits off Interstate 287, a major metropolitan area artery.

The parish has retained a Ukrainian American architect, Taras Dobusz, who has experience in designing and building Ukrainian churches. Mr. Dobusz has already begun prepared renderings of a church, a rectory, a bell tower and a Ukrainian cultural-community center with classrooms, a gymnasium, an auditorium, community rooms and a commercial kitchen. The adjacent bell tower would be built using stained glass windows, a bell and dome from the current church building.

Additionally, the Building Committee has retained the services of a land-use attorney and a site engineer, both of whom have extensive experience with area civic and governmental authorities and agencies, which “will expedite the project review and approval process,” according to Jerry Kuzemczak, a Building Committee member and an attorney in private practice in Morris County.

Morris County now a hub

“Morris County is an ideal area for implementing a vision for a church and Ukrainian cultural-community center for children, young families and senior citizens,” stated Michael Halibej, president of a local real estate development firm, a member of the parish's Building Committee and the former parish trustee who led much of the land acquisition process during the past few years. “While the broader multi-state geographic area continues to be home to the largest concentration of Americans of Ukrainian descent in the United States, Morris County itself has experienced a substantial influx of families of Ukrainian descent in recent years,” he added.

During the decade ending in the year 2000, Morris County's Ukrainian American population increased 76 percent, far surpassing the county's very strong overall growth of 12 percent. Many of these families have moved from the more traditional Ukrainian centers in and near major urban areas primarily to experience the suburban lifestyle of Morris County, while remaining within commuting distance of professional career opportunities in New York City and throughout northern New Jersey. “The strong professional job market in the region also has attracted transfers from as far away as Canada and other parts of the United States,” said Stefan Belej, a Building Committee member and himself a recent transferee from Canada.

Archbishop offers support

In early 2002, then-Pastor Markewych, accompanied by Building Committee members, Mr. Halibej and this writer, traveled to Philadelphia for what was to be a pivotal meeting. There they presented detailed market and financial analyses on which the parish's plans are based and sought the support of the Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S. and archbishop of the Philadelphia Archeparchy, which includes Ukrainian Catholic churches in New Jersey.

At this meeting Archbishop Soroka expressed his wish that the parish build a new, larger church for worship, as well as a community-cultural center that would provide reli-

gious, cultural, educational and social community services in a spiritual and soul-enriching setting. He said he believes that such an approach is the way to include young families, families that are more established and senior citizens.

The metropolitan directed the parish to proceed with purchasing the new land parcel and provided support until its successful acquisition.

According to the Rev. Mirchuk “continued support of the parish's vision by our metropolitan is crucial to the project's success.”

Social events to elicit support

The parish has released a schedule of major social events for the upcoming year designed to secure support for St. John's project. Mr. Zwarych, chairman of the fund-raising subcommittee, invited “everyone in northern New Jersey, southern New York and eastern Pennsylvania to join in these events, which will be fun, informative and productive toward realizing the vision that has been created.”

Some of the events on tap for the next 12 months are: the annual fall picnic – September 8; a formal dinner-dance with the special project's presentation, featuring music by the popular Luna band on Saturday, November 16, at the Ramada Hotel located in nearby East Hanover, N.J.; a golf classic annual – spring/summer 2003; an “In the Community” annual event to increase visibility of the project in the local area – spring 2003; and art and charity auctions – winter 2003.

The parish also will be pursuing numerous other fund development activities, including such initiatives as: planned trust and estate bequests, corporate and foundation solicitations, a parish cookbook of favorite recipes and individual giving from the community at large.

Communication seen as fundamental

The parish desires to describe the details of its vision to the general Ukrainian American community and to residents throughout Morris County and the surrounding area. The Building Committee has authorized the ongoing communication of major developments, so various instruments, such as a newsletter, brochure and website, are being developed for that purpose.

Said Mr. Kucyna: “The Building Committee and the public relations and communications subcommittee seek and welcome suggestions from all who are interested and would like to support the parish's vision.” Readers who would like to help as a volunteer, or with donations, or who simply want more information about this project, may e-mail the parish at stjohnwhippany@hotmail.com or call (973) 887-3616.

“This is an exciting time for our parish,” said the Rev. Mirchuk. “What we are planning and doing today will affect not only us, but also future generations of Ukrainian Americans in our town, county and state. We can make our vision a reality, but it will take commitment from each and every one of us. We look forward to input and support from everyone in the Ukrainian America community of New Jersey.”

St. John's Parish Building Committee members are: the Rev. Roman Mirchuk, Stefan Belej, Peter Binazeski, Peter Brocky, George Demidowich, Andrew Hadzewycz, Michael Halibey, Victor M. Hatala, Michael Koziupa, Orest Kucyna, (chairman), George Kryzaniwsky, Jerry Kuzemczak, Ihor Lodziuk and Ihor Zwarych; Bohdan Halibey and Bohdan Turynsky are alternates.



Architect's rendering by Taras Dobusz of the possible design for the congregation's new church.



The current St. John's Church in Whippany, N.J.

Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute offers enrichment for students from six countries

by Yuri Shevchuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Intensive studies, cultural enrichment, new friends from all over the world – these were the mottos of the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute 2002 (HUSI) that concluded on August 16. Thirty-four students from six countries studied Ukraine-related disciplines this year.

Students from North America and Ukraine constituted the majority, yet the traditional international flavor of HUSI was enhanced by students from other, sometimes quite distant corners of the world. Miki Kameda, who took the history course “20th Century Ukraine,” was from Japan, and her classmate Jurate Stanaityte was from Lithuania. Federigo Argentieri from Italy took “Beginning Ukrainian”; Anton Mirashnichenka from Belarus, Mariusz Zajackowski and Anna Müller from Poland enrolled in “Ukraine as Linguistic Battleground.”

This summer’s program in Ukrainian studies was exceptionally rich in innovation. The already intensive language training was further beefed up by an additional fourth hour of instructor-supervised laboratory work at the state-of-the-art Lamont Library Language Resource Center.

Novelty was manifest not only in the fact that there were new faces among the HUSI faculty – for example, Serhy Yekelchuk of the Ukrainian history course, or Maria Rewakowicz of begin-

ners, Ukrainian – but above all by two pioneering courses that focused on conceptually new areas of Ukrainian studies and were presented for the first time in the history of HUSI and of Harvard. Thus, HUSI became a testing ground for the course “Images of Ukraine in Western Culture” (Lubomyr Hajda and Ksenia Kiebuzinski) and “Ukraine as Linguistic Battleground” (Michael Flier). (For detailed descriptions of these courses visit the HUSI website at www.huri.harvard.edu/husi.)

Students’ educational horizons were further broadened by the program of cultural events. This year the program was exceptional. Lectures included: “An Intimate Insularity: The Triangular Framework of Jewish-Ukrainian History” (Henry Abramson, Florida Atlantic University), “The Forbidden Art of the Ukrainian Avant-Garde, 1910-1935” (Myroslav Shkandrij, University of Manitoba), “Ukraine’s Challenges and Choices at the Intersection of Past and Present” (Yuri Shcherbak, ambassador to Canada), “The Sacher-Masoch Foundation: Ukrainians, Russians and the Masoch Legacy” (Vitaly Chernetsky, Columbia University) and “Solomea Pavlychko: Literary Critic, Author, Feminist. A Tribute” (Oksana Zabuzhko, poet, Kyiv).

For those who like literature and arts, the cultural program offered such events as the Evening of Literary Readings and Conversations with the participation of authors Ms. Zabuzhko, Ms. Rewakowicz (New York) and Volodymyr Dibrova (Kyiv-Cambridge), the concert of the Experimental Bandura Trio – Julian Kytasty, Michael Andrec and Jurij Fedynskyj (New York) and the Ukrainian Folk Concert presented by Mariana Sadovska (Kyiv) and Virlana Tkacz (New York).

By far the most important event of the HUSI cultural calendar was the screening of “A Prayer for Hetman Mazepa,” the latest film by the world-renowned Yuri Illienko – a film that had caused an uproar in Ukraine even before its release for the general viewer. The Harvard screening was in fact the film’s North American premiere. Covered in the Ukrainian media of North America (Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly, New Pathway, Brama.com) and in Ukraine (the Kyiv daily Den), the premiere became an authoritative forum for an open discussion of the film at the same time that its creators were subjected to scathing and often politically motivated criticism in Ukraine.



Winners of the Senkowsky Prize for the Best Summer School Student, from left: Roman Syrota of Lviv and Anna Müller of Gdansk, Poland, with HUSI-2002 Director Halyna Hryn.



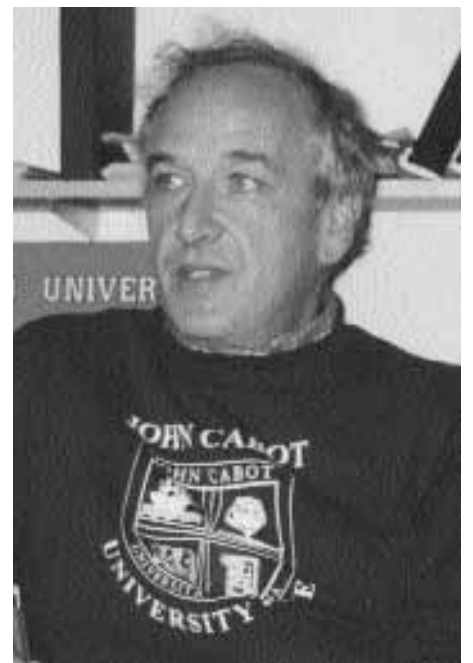
Miki Kameda, perhaps the first student from Japan in the HUSI’s history.



Exchanging tearful farewells are: (from left) Maria Sakvuk (Lviv), Justyna Jerzewski of Chicago and Natalia Dydyk of Rohatyn, Ukraine.



Poet Oksana Zabuzhko of Kyiv (right) discusses problems of contemporary Ukrainian language usage with students of the course “Ukraine as Linguistic Battleground.”



Federigo Argentieri, professor of political science at John Cabot University in Rome, studies “Beginning Ukrainian.”

Soyuzivka begins its 50th anniversary year: life was a cabaret that night

by Rokšana Prystacka

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Being at Soyuzivka during the weekend of August 3-4 reminded me of the old day, when there was so much pride, enthusiasm, joy and enrichment working at Soyuzivka – Suzy-Q, as we say. The workers came from all parts of the United States, as well as Canada, and many friendships and relationships were forged.

Although taboo in most any other workplace, getting together and staying together was the “in” thing here, long before it became fashionable. Encouraged by our parents as the right thing to do, Suzy-Q was the perfect place to enhance our Ukrainian heritage by being immersed in this unique cultural experience.

This particular weekend wasn't just any weekend at Suzy-Q; it was the weekend that we got together to officially acknowledge the beginning of the 50th anniversary of Soyuzivka. Former workers were asked to send copies of their memorable photos so that massive collages could be prepared. In addition, Soyuzivka requested any workers interested in performing in the evening's Cabaret Show to please contact the office.

Well, it worked. Soyuzivka was sold out that weekend. All along the perimeters of the auditorium the captivating collages were displayed and viewed by all of the former workers in attendance this night. There was a beautiful tribute to the late Manager Walter Kwas, of course, as well as photos of every past and present manager.

Fifty years' worth of memories were depicted: people from all over vacationing here, performers from all around the U.S., Canada, Ukraine, etc.; campers attending the various “tabory” (camps); teachers who came for the various courses held here; artists who came to display, sell or debut their pieces and of, course, the workers who not only worked at their posts but who also took part in the various talent nights – some of whom then moved onto the main stage at the Saturday night shows. What these photos seemed to deliver to the viewer was not merely snapshots of the moment, but the essence of the moments spent together. These moments were then revisited during the Saturday evening show.

The fun-filled Soyuzivka Cabaret was hosted by none other than Roman Wasylyk, beloved comedian extraordinaire and Suzy-Q veteran. Throughout the evening, he did a wonderful job of entertaining and educating the audience about the rich history of this resort owned by the Ukrainian National Association.

Mr. Wasylyk was hot that night. He had the perfect material for the perfect audience. When he wanted audience participation, he got it. And when he didn't, he got it anyway which worked, too.

The host regaled everyone with stories of what it was like to work at Suzy-Q and what it was like being fired – then rehired, fired, rehired, etc. Mr. Wasylyk was full of funny anecdotes that really tugged at the audience's heartstrings. He knew a lot of the workers who had passed through the resort's gates, and he was able to tell the audience about some of them – friends and co-workers – who made all smile and remember.

He never missed a beat to say, and have the audience repeat: “There' no place like Soyuzivka!”

Mr. Wasylyk also introduced the entertainers of the evening with style and grace. The entertainment ranged from a traditional Suzy-Q talent night to the more serious main stage performer, and included performers who blended both formulas.

Opening the festivities were Mr. Wasylyk with the assistance of his lovely



Oles Kuzyszyn

wife, Marianka, who together welcomed the audience, announced the dignitaries present, including UNA executive officers National Secretary Christine Kozak and Treasurer Roma Lisovych, and acknowledged what a great asset Soyuzivka is and should continue to be for all future generations. Then, on with the show!

The first entertainers were the duo of Alexandra and Walter Bek with their very cute rendition of the Supremes' classic “Stop in the name of love!” This would have been a sure contender at the old talent night concerts.

Next was someone who was no stranger to the Suzy-Q stage, either as a solo accordionist or as a longtime Suzy-Q house-band leader, Alexander (Alik) Chudolij. He presented the audience with two breathtaking showstoppers, both of which he performed here nearly 30 years ago. His fingers moved so quickly and expressively upon the keys that they just appeared to glide effortlessly; the triple bellow shakes are only something that a true master can accomplish with such precision. If there was anyone in the audience who thought that playing the accordion was out of style, this performer turned them around.

Mr. Chudolij then invited his wife, Lillianna, to join him on stage for a number together.

Halfway through “I shumyt, i hude...” a traditional folk song, their son, Peter, appeared dressed in Kozak garb to make this into a duet between mother and son. Peter surprised the audience as he proclaimed in song that he would save the divchyna (girl) from the rain (as the song goes). Petrus was then asked back on stage to sing his solo, “Zasvystaly Kozachenky,” as accompanied by tato. This 7-year-old brought the house down with his perfect execution.

The Chudolij family finished up with a duet by Alik and Lilia that gave a new twist to the old folk favorite “Chy ya tomy vynna, scho peйна zymna?” This trio was very much a highlight of the evening.

The dance team of Elyse Benoit, and Lara and Anna Chelak showed everyone why it is so great to be Ukrainian: you get to dance with so much technique, refinement and fun. The dancers are graduates of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky's dance workshops held at Soyuzivka each summer. It was a real treat to watch as they kicked up their heels to a dance that they choreographed themselves. These girls should be booked for every festival.

Next, Oles Kuzyszyn took center stage at the piano, performing some of his best work ever as a soloist. The consummate professional, Oles captivated the audience as he worked his way up and down the keyboard performing two



The Chudolij family: Alexander, Peter and Lillianna.

classics flawlessly.

As the audience was getting ready for yet a third masterpiece, Mr. Kuzyszyn surprised everyone by asking his lovely daughter Adriana to join him on stage for a duet. Together they poignantly performed the beautiful ballad written by Yuri Turchyn, friend and collaborating member of the Luna Orchestra. “Poslukhai, Pochuyesh” – Listen and You Will Hear – has been sung for many years around the campgrounds of Plast, but it is only now that the author has been given public credit for such an accomplished work as this has also become the title song of the long-awaited debut album by Luna.

A favorite Saturday night segment of Pan Kwas' followed. A woman who had won the hearts of many who listened to her as she performed the great works of Taras Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka and others for the first time at Soyuzivka over 30 years ago was back on stage this night. Olia (Shkafarowska) Rudyk held the audience's

attention once more as she breathed life into the Shevchenko classic, “Lebedyn,” transporting all back into the Kozak glory days. Hats off to a great talent.

Mr. Wasylyk was called upon to work his magic not only between every performance, but also as the voice behind the special slide presentation showcasing Soyuzivka's 50 years of wonderful existence. It is to Mr. Wasylyk's credit that – without a script and without prior review of any of these photographs he did a fantastic job explaining and expanding upon what was seen.

The last segment of the evening's festivities was the performance of Andriy Stasiw who took to the piano keys as if they were on fire. His technique and showmanship were superb. However, partially through, he stated that it was awkward for him to be a soloist as he was now more used to being an accompanist. So into the audience he went, searching for two volunteers to join

(Continued on page 21)

FOR THE RECORD: The UNA is committed to keeping Soyuzivka

In this, the 50th year of Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association would like to thank everybody for their ongoing support of our wonderful resort. Soyuzivka has been essential to sustaining our community – providing opportunities for our youth to meet, for families to reunite, for couples to celebrate, for our community to grow closer.

We have been touched by the overwhelming support from our community to help resolve the various problems associated with Soyuzivka. Our blue ribbon panel of experts, all volunteers, has been working throughout the summer, analyzing the situation and examining ways to redevelop our beloved resort.

All of this is happening because the UNA is committed to keeping Soyuzivka. We are perturbed by the number of rumors that say that the sale is eminent, or even concluded. This is simply not true.

As we have mentioned throughout the summer – both in the reports from the 35th UNA Convention as well as the UNA president's statement in this paper of August 18 – the UNA will present a Soyuzivka redevelopment plan this fall, one that will rely in large part on continued community commitment for success.

I have been personally overwhelmed and encouraged by the community's response and expression of affection for our beautiful resort. The future of Soyuzivka is of great personal and professional importance to me and to all members of the UNA General Assembly. Each weekend, this summer one member of the Executive Committee has traveled to Soyuzivka in order to implement basic changes and improvements. Roma Lisovich, as the treasurer of the UNA and a former summer worker at closed the season with the traditional Soyuzivka Labor Day festivities. She reported that it was heartwarming to receive so many offers of support. For those to whom Soyuzivka is important, we need your advice and ideas. I encourage you to contact me at Ukrainian National Association Inc., 2200 Route 10, Parsippany NJ 07054, or by e-mail at kaczaraj@unamember.com.

Stefan Kaczaraj
President

Ukrainian National Association

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9/11 memorial events to include presentations by Ukrainian performers

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Among the many memorials scheduled to mark the first anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States are two in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area in which Ukrainian performers are featured.

Harpist Odarka Polansky Stockert will be among those performing at the 9/11 memorial at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in downtown Newark, N.J. The program starts at 2:30 p.m. with Ms. Polansky Stockert as the opening performer. The event will include music, speakers, a silent procession and the dedication of a memorial garden.

Ms. Polansky Stockert is an active member of the Ukrainian American community in New Jersey.

In New York City, AntiGravity, a company of acrobats and aerialists, will be featured on the evening of September 11. The troupe will present its distinctive 9/11 tribute, previously performed nightly during the Salt Lake City Olympics.

AntiGravity comprises international champion gymnasts who have called New York City their home for the past 11 years. Among the troupe's members is Tatyana Petruk, a World-Cup and European acrobatics champion born in Ukraine. She was also a two-time USSR champion and was part of the Acrobatics World Team in Tokyo.

AntiGravity members are donating their time and skills for this special production – "AntiGravity: An American Band. A Tribute to the Enduring Spirit of New York City" – a 50-minute stage/aerial performance told entirely without words that explores the emotions the world shared after September 11. The performance takes place at the Exit Nightclub, 610 W. 56th St. (between 11th and 12th avenues) at 9 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.). A suggested donation of \$20 to benefit Broadway Cares will be collected at the door.

Top prosecutor...

(Continued from page 9)

team committed high crimes. Although tests done initially to determine whether the recordings were altered or forged proved inconclusive, a second test by the U.S. firm Bek Tek is said to have shown they are authentic.

Mr. Omelchenko, who is a member of the Yulia Tymoshenko faction in the Verkhovna Rada, spent several weeks in the U.S. during the summer gathering information on the various aspects of his report. Most importantly, he met personally with key players in the Gongadze affair and the tape scandal, notably Mr. Melnychenko, Myroslava Gongadze, the missing journalist's wife, and Mr. Eliashkevych. Mrs. Gongadze requested and received political asylum in the U.S. at the time Mr. Melnychenko did, while Mr. Eliashkevych has sought shelter in the U.S. since he lost criminal immunity after not being re-elected to office in March.

The 12-member committee headed by Mr. Omelchenko has a decidedly anti-Kuchma flavor. Formed in January of this year, after an earlier one headed by Oleksander Lavrynovych, who now is the minister of justice, could not reach a conclusion on how to proceed further in its investigation, it consists exclusively of members of the four parliamentary factions that have refused to enter a pro-presidential parliamentary bloc.

On September 4 Procurator General Piskun said he had not yet received the materials submitted to his office by the Omelchenko committee.

Kuchma's pre-emptive...

(Continued from page 2)

their policies to the Ukrainian people. I think that this step was made in connection with the countrywide protest actions [planned by the opposition in September]. The president and his entourage are trying to weaken the opposition's demand that Ukraine move from a presidential-parliamentary to a parliamentary-presidential republic," Mr. Symonenko added.

Yurii Lutsenko, a coordinator of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement, said that by making his proposals, President Kuchma "has snatched away the initiative from the opposition, which has announced mass protest actions under slogans demanding a change in Ukraine's political system."

Mr. Lutsenko said he believes that Mr. Kuchma's reform ideas could become flesh in the form of "a constitutional accord on transferring a part of the presidential powers to the parliament" in the form of "a direct presidential decree." He also said he believes that the protest actions planned for this fall will not be called off.

"It is another matter that they may take place under different slogans. It is dependent on the authorities whether the protest actions will be held under radical slogans or under slogans supporting a change of the political system," Mr. Lutsenko added.

While most Ukrainian commentators agree that President Kuchma's announcement of political reform is intended to defuse the potential of the opposition protest to some extent, some of them suggest that the presidential proposal pri-

marily targets Viktor Yushchenko and his Our Ukraine bloc, which has, until recently, wavered as to whether to join the Communists, the Socialists, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement in the upcoming protests.

With his offer, those commentators assert, Mr. Kuchma is proposing to Mr. Yushchenko that he enter into a parliamentary coalition with the pro-presidential group and form a coalition Cabinet – the goal pursued by Our Ukraine after it suffered a setback in the election of the parliamentary leadership earlier this year.

Mr. Yushchenko's reaction was rather distrustful. While noting that President Kuchma's proposal to form a coalition government coincides with Our Ukraine's postulates, he said, "we read the notion of coalition in a different way" than the president. "I think Ukraine does not need a government formed by political forces that will be artificially herded into a parliamentary coalition."

Mr. Yushchenko reportedly said that both a presidential-parliamentary and parliamentary-presidential republic could be efficient politically, but added that the current situation in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada discredits the idea of parliamentary democracy. As of now, Mr. Yushchenko added, the Parliament is a "puppet in the hands of some forces," therefore, in his opinion, it is inexpedient to move toward a parliamentary-republic system. There are also voices in Ukraine suggesting that President Kuchma does not see a worthy successor to whom he could entrust the entire store of presidential powers after his retirement in 2004, therefore, he has proposed to curb these powers in a bid to win the title of major reformist.

Did death squads...

(Continued from page 2)

produced an alibi saying they were participating in a wedding at the time of the crime, one of them as the groom. Neither of the two men are alive today. Gongadze was followed by unmarked cars for months prior to his abduction. When he reported their license plates to the police he was told they were police vehicles.

Other journalists and opposition leaders were subjected to similar harassment, and some died under suspicious circumstances. Since 1997 there have been at least eight suspicious car accidents involving large Kamaz trucks. The most suspicious of these was the purported accident in which Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil was killed in March 1999. In October of that year, two opposition deputies, Hryhorii Omelchenko and Anatolii Yermak, a former officer of the Security Service of Ukraine, were shown a videocassette by Yevhen Marchuk, then an anti-Kuchma presidential candidate who was trying to woo national-democratic voters. The video included an interview with a colonel of the special-purpose MVS unit Orly (Eagles) who described the purpose of his unit as dealing with individuals on behalf of the authorities and admitted that the Orly were behind Mr. Chornovil's murder. The Orly colonel said he was ready to give evidence if his safety was assured.

Were the "Orly" the same as the death squads that the authorities now admit have existed since 1996? It is difficult to believe that death squads – which the authorities now admit included high-ranking Internal Affairs Ministry officers who used official cars and weapons –

would go unnoticed by the National Security and Defense Council the Security Service and even President Kuchma for seven years.

The tape recordings made illicitly in Mr. Kuchma's office by his security guard, Mykola Melnychenko, led to the "Kuchmagate" crisis of November 2000 and reawakened interest in the evidence of malfeasance in Mr. Chornovil's death. A fragment on the Melnychenko tapes includes a conversation between President Kuchma and then Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko in which Mr. Kravchenko gloated about the existence of his Orly unit. "I have such a unit who have their own methods and have no morality or anything. So, God help anybody," Mr. Kravchenko was recorded as saying.

Mr. Chornovil's son, Taras Chornovil, a member of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc, is convinced, as are many other members of the opposition that the Orly were behind his father's "accident" and Mr. Gongadze's abduction.

It may be significant that the existence of officially sanctioned death squads in Ukraine was confirmed only after Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka admitted in October 2001 the existence in Belarus of a special unit named Zubr drawn from the Presidential Protective Service. The first unconfirmed reports of Zubr's existence surfaced one year earlier, in November 2000. Although Mr. Lukashenka insists that Zubr targeted only criminals, it is believed to have also murdered leading opposition figures and a Russian television cameraman.

Ukrainian Catholic University...

(Continued from page 5)

until midnight throughout the week.

The large group activities for World Youth Day were held at Exhibition Place, which the Rev. Loza describes as a "fairgrounds in Toronto." The whole area was rented out and fenced in, with booths set up and displays in various buildings. This was the location of the two events that the pope attended.

On Thursday, July 25, the pontiff flew in by helicopter and spoke for an hour. The Rev. Loza noted that it was surprising that, "though he was feeble, the Pope managed to talk so long." On Sunday, July 28, about 800,000 pilgrims came for the closing papal mass. Many had camped over the previous night, when a large prayer service had been held. At the beginning of the Mass it was raining, though the rain stopped after about 15 minutes.

The Rev. Loza mentioned that a great number of Ukrainian flags was very noticeable at both of these papal events. Though the flags of many countries were to be seen, the Ukrainian presence was quite evident.

As part of the WYD program, the choir had two performances. The first was in Trinity Bellwood Park, near St. Nicholas Church, on Wednesday, July 24. They sang on an outdoor stage located in a valley, with a good sound system and lighting. Because of the venue, they sang folk songs with electric amplification, which

was a little foreign to this ensemble. The second performance was inside St. Nicholas Church on Thursday, July 25. It was a concert of sacred music, with church acoustics, so the choir was much more at ease.

The week after World Youth Day was a little quieter for the singers. On July 30 they sang a concert of religious music at a church in Burlington, Ontario, and on Sunday, August 4, they were the main component of a concert to raise money to help the victims of the Sknyliv air show disaster. This was held at Holy Dormition Church in Mississauga, just outside of Toronto, and attended by about 400 people.

And the choir members did not forget the alumni of Lviv Theological Academy. They visited the grave of the Rev. Dr. Bohdan Lypsky in Toronto, who was a student at the academy in the 1930s. In the 1960s and 1970s he was pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Toronto. His niece was at the graveside and told the students about him.

The Rev. Loza reported that choir members did have time to relax a bit. They took a day off to go swimming in Lake Erie, visited Niagara Falls and got to see museums and other sights in Toronto.

For further information about the Ukrainian Catholic University, contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622; phone, (773) 235-8462; fax, (773) 235-8464; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org; website, http://www.ucef.org.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Ukraine's Agrarians (16), People's Choice (15) and United Ukraine (nine). The Rada also had 11 independent deputies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko compares regime to Stalin's

KYIV – Our Ukraine bloc leader Viktor Yushchenko told journalists on August 29 that Ukraine is witnessing “how state institutions resort to the methods of a dictatorship,” Reuters reported. Mr. Yushchenko was commenting on his meeting with President Leonid Kuchma earlier the same day, where he handed the president Our Ukraine's open letter. “My colleagues have been subjected to political persecution to make them change their faction, betray their political views and obediently join a majority formed by the presidential administration,” Mr. Yushchenko noted, adding that “we need to abolish this kind of 1937 regime.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

President firm on pursuing reform

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma confirmed at a Cabinet sitting on August 28 that he intends to implement constitutional reforms that would move Ukraine toward a parliamentary-presidential republic, as he announced last week, Interfax reported, quoting presidential spokeswoman Olena Hromnytska. Mr. Kuchma said a working group to prepare relevant amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine should include representatives of the presidential administration and the government, as well as lawmakers and experts. The president called on the Verkhovna Rada to create a majority that could form a coalition Cabinet and take joint responsibility with the government for running the country. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tabachnyk seeks talks with Our Ukraine

KYIV – Dmytro Tabachnyk from the pro-presidential Labor Ukraine parliamentary caucus said on August 28 that more than 230 lawmakers have already formed a parliamentary majority, thus confirming an earlier assertion to this effect by Oleksander Zadorozhnyi, the permanent presidential representative in the Parliament. Mr. Tabachnyk said the parliamentary majority will now seek talks with the Our Ukraine caucus on the creation of a constitutional majority (300 votes) to secure the implementation of the political reform proclaimed by President Leonid Kuchma. However, Our Ukraine Vice-Chairman Yurii Kostenko commented the same day that no parliamentary majority has been created thus far. “If Our Ukraine goes into opposition, the Parliament will adopt no decision, no budget, no law,” Mr. Kostenko added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Is there a parliamentary majority?

KYIV – Oleksander Zadorozhnyi, the permanent presidential representative in the Verkhovna Rada, told Interfax on August 27 that President Leonid Kuchma may support the creation of a coalition Cabinet even without making relevant amendments to the Constitution. Mr. Zadorozhnyi was commenting on Mr. Kuchma's proposals last week to move toward a parliamentary-presidential republic and empower the Parliament to form a Cabinet. Mr. Zadorozhnyi said an “informal” parliamentary majority of 231 deputies has already been created by caucuses that previously constituted the United Ukraine bloc, as well as by the Democratic Initiatives group and several unaffiliated lawmakers. In his

opinion, the current prime minister, Anatolii Kinakh, could also head a future coalition Cabinet since “the candidacy of Victor Yushchenko may not obtain the necessary number of votes.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Our Ukraine calls for national forum

KYIV – The Our Ukraine bloc intends to gather a national forum of democratic forces to formulate “basic demands” with regard to the authorities, UNIAN reported on August 27. Our Ukraine's Political Council at its meeting on August 25 decided that the bloc will take part in the anti-government protests scheduled by the opposition for September. Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko said he regards the planned protests as “a part of the bloc's political strategy and [I] want to widen the circle of political participants in the [protest] action.” The Political Council on August 28 decided to hold the nationwide forum of democratic forces in Kyiv on September 15, one day before the inauguration of anti-presidential protest actions planned by the opposition, Interfax reported. The council also appointed Roman Bezsmertnyi to coordinate Our Ukraine's activities with those of the organizers of the upcoming protest campaign, which include the Communists, the Socialists and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv wants EU market-economy status

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma requested on September 3 that the European Union grant his country market-economy status as it did for Russia earlier this year, the Associated Press reported. Mr. Kuchma made the request at a meeting with European Commission President Romano Prodi at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Mr. Prodi reportedly responded that the European Commission will issue its opinion in six months. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Oil and gas seen as key for Russia

MOSCOW – Russian policy toward its neighbors in many instances is dictated by a desire to control the oil-and-gas export infrastructure, Komsomolskaya Pravda wrote on August 27. This conclusion stemmed from the daily's analysis of President Vladimir Putin's policies toward the former Soviet republics and, especially, his recent about-face in relations with Belarus. The paper wrote that Belarus, Ukraine and Georgia seem to be nothing more than oil-and-gas transit corridors for Russia. However, it warned that this policy might cause Russia to lose both control over the oil-and-gas infrastructure there and its political influence. If Belarus agrees to Mr. Putin's proposal to incorporate it into the Russian Federation, it would simply be an apposite illustration of the thesis that Russia has always conducted a “cynical colonial policy,” the paper wrote. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Socialists want reform without Kuchma

KYIV – The Socialist Party has said the reform of Ukraine's political system proposed by President Leonid Kuchma in his address to the nation on August 24 could be implemented much more quickly if Mr. Kuchma resigned his post, the UNIAN news service reported on August 27. The Socialists noted that President Kuchma's proposals to move Ukraine's political system toward a parliamentary-presidential republic replicate their party-program goals and stressed that the implementation of those goals has thus far been blocked by the president. (RFE/RL Newsline)



Coming up at Verkhovyna

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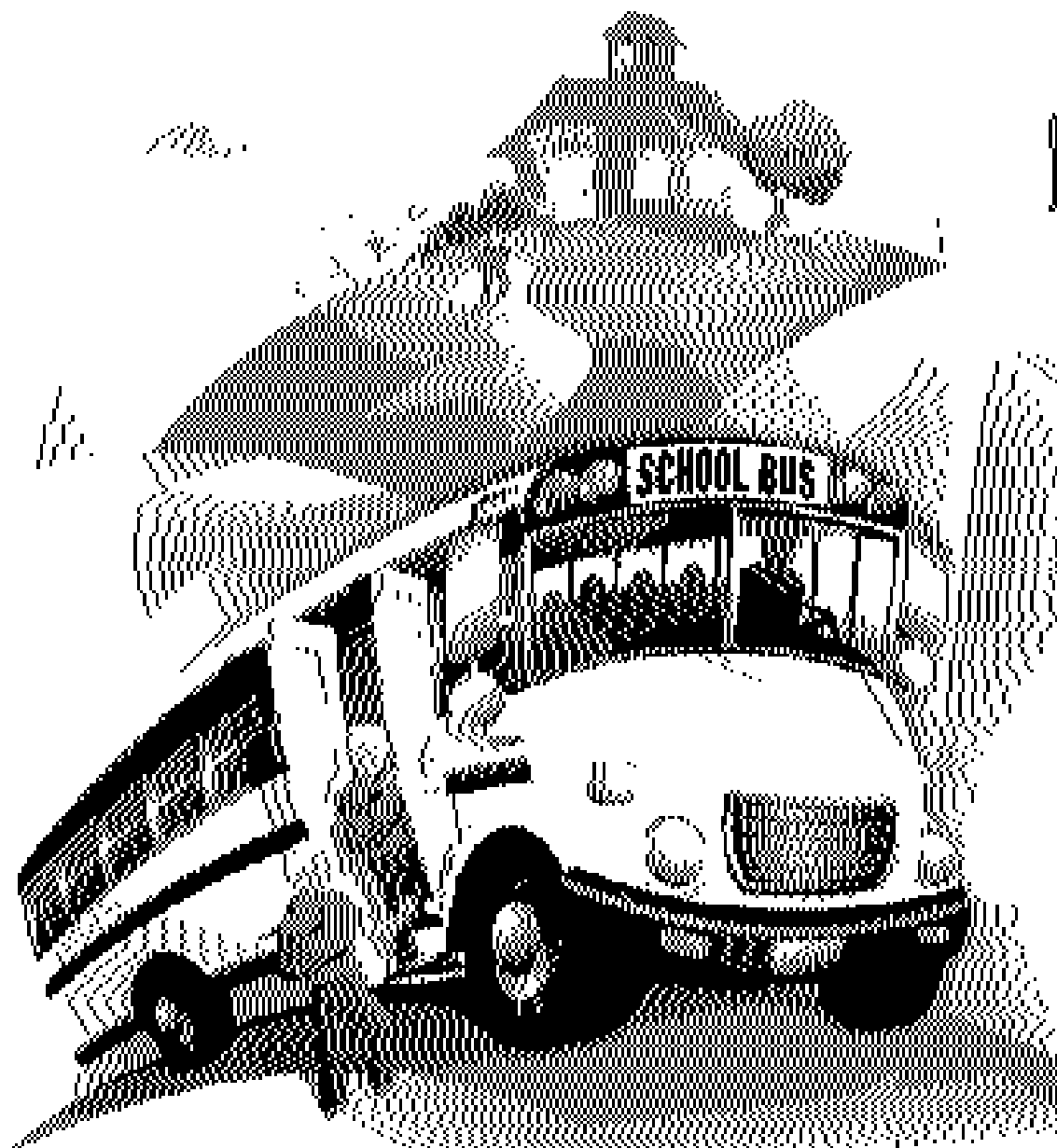
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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Rochester's Poltava sports club welcomed into USCAK federation

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEWARK, N.J. – The Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) recently welcomed a new member-club, the Ukrainian American Sports Club Poltava of Rochester, N.Y.

Founded about a year ago, the Poltava club now has about 40 members, 15 of whom are boys and girls under the age of 18. Almost all of the members are recent arrivals from Ukraine. The club's focus is presently limited to soccer and it already

has fielded an under-18 boys' team in local competition. However, other sports are envisioned in the club's future plans.

Poltava is managed by Mike Kohut, president; Walter Sukhenko, secretary; and Wasyl Kornylo, treasurer.

USCAK President Myron Stebelsky noted that, in view of the general decline of organized Ukrainian sports activity in North America, this infusion of new blood represented by the Poltava sports club is particularly encouraging.

Language society raises funds at "Fun Day"



CHICAGO – Members of the Ukrainian Language Society (ULS) of Chicago as seen above with the Republican candidate for governor of Illinois Jim Ryan, during "Fun Day" held on August 4 at the Ukrainian resort at Round Lake Park in Illinois. The event, sponsored by the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, of was an opportunity for members of ULS to raise funds by selling pastry and coffee throughout the day. Pictured (from left) are: Vera Troshchuk, Luba Kalin, Vira Bodnaruk (president of the ULS), Jim Ryan, Bohdan Bodnaruk, Wasyl Kalin and Maria Bodnaruk.

A new handbook...

(Continued from page 10)

Modern Ukrainian Philately" may be ordered from: Ukrainian Philatelic Resources, P.O. Box 3, Springfield VA 22150. The cost is \$25, plus \$3 postage to U.S. destinations, \$6 postage to Canada, \$7 for mail to the rest of the world by surface, or \$14 to the rest of the world by air. (All funds in U.S. dollars).

Quantity discounts of 40 percent are offered on purchases of 10 or more books. Include 15 percent of discounted price for surface postage or 25 percent of discounted price for air mail postage.

Two years ago, Ukrainian Philatelic Resources released "The Provisional Postage Stamps of Ukraine, 1992-1995" by Heorhiy Lobko (translated by Andrew O. Martyniuk), the most comprehensive volume ever on the temporary and local stamps produced in Ukraine during its first years of independence. This multi-award-winning publication of 278 pages and over 900 illustrations is now being offered at a substantial discount off its \$32 price if ordered in conjunction with the "Handbook of Modern Ukrainian Philately." The combined price for both volumes is \$50. Together the two books present a complete record of Ukraine's philatelic output through its first decade of independence.

Both books may be obtained from: Ukrainian Philatelic Resources for \$50

plus \$4 postage to U.S. destinations, \$9 postage to Canada, \$11 for mail to the rest of the world by surface mail, or \$22 to the rest of the world by air.

Cooper Union's...

(Continued from page 4)

Mr. Rose as saying.

However, Mrs. Sawaryn said almost all of the commissioners at the September 3 meeting appeared disappointed with the school's plan but voted for the project based on the school's name recognition.

Plans for a lawsuit filed by four individuals from the community against the City's Planning Commission and Cooper Union to halt the development process would go forward, Mrs. Sawaryn said. The lawyer for the plaintiffs, Jack Lester, could not be reached for comment when The Ukrainian Weekly went to print.

Correction

Due to an editing error, a sentence in Dr. Inger Kuzych's philatelic column last week (September 1) was altered. The sentence should have indicated that the King Danylo souvenir sheet, which had 17 percent of the votes for the best Ukrainian philatelic release of 2001 finished ahead of the folk costumes stamps (which had 14 percent of the vote) by 3 percentage points – not 3 percent.

Through the effort of
the American Association of Museums and
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**"September 11th 2001
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(Exceptions: Sept. 22, 28, 29)

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Wednesday, Sept 11th, 2:00 PM
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2. "PRAYER"

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The Ukrainian Museum's programs and operations are funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency

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Columbia University offers four Ukrainian studies courses

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian studies courses offered this fall at Columbia University, where registration commenced September 3 and continues through September 18, are courses in politics, literature and language.

• “Ukrainian Politics and Identity” (U8477) is taught by Prof. Volodymyr Kulyk of The Harriman Institute. The course presents the complex relationship between political processes in post-Soviet Ukraine and identities of its elites and masses, largely determined by their Soviet experience. It seeks to describe Ukraine both as a typical post-Communist state undergoing a painful process of transition and as a very peculiar case in view of its historical legacy imposing further constraints on the transition. The course will deal with various aspects of Ukrainian politics and state-society relations, including the formation of post-Soviet power bodies and political parties, the constitutional process, foreign and security policy, economic transformation, the media, religion, as well as ethnolinguistic and cultural politics. The discussions will seek to disentangle impacts of historical legacies and current decision-making in the post-Soviet development. The influence of outside actors, such as Russia, the United States and international organizations, also will be analyzed. The course will also demonstrate how these contradictory processes influence the identity of Ukrainian elites and masses and shape a post-Soviet identity of the Ukrainian state and society. The course, which begins on September 10, will be held on Tuesdays at 4:10-6 p.m., Room 1219, International Affairs Building.

• “Modern Ukrainian Prose” (W4040), Prof. Vitaly Chernetsky: The course surveys the most important developments in Ukrainian prose from the 1890s to the present, in a broad cultural context. Among authors to be discussed are Olha Kobylianska, Vasyl Stefanyk, Mykhailo Kostiubynsky, Volodymyr Vynnychenko, Mykola Khvylioviy, Valerian Pidmohylnyi, Ivan Bahrianyi, Valerii Shevchuk, Yurii Andrukhovych and Oksana Zabuzhko. The course, which is offered by the Slavic Department, will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, starting September 4, at 10:35-11:50 a.m., Room 616, Hamilton Hall.

• “Language Development in Post-

Totalitarian Space (U6888), is taught by Prof. Antonina Berezenko. While the main focus will be on current processes in language development in three areas, i.e., Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian language within and outside Russia, the course will also consider problems from a diachronic perspective, extending to the Soviet and late imperial period. The syllabus is available on the Harriman Institute website at <http://sipa.columbia.edu/REGIONAL/Hi/home.html>. The course, which began September 4, is being held Wednesdays, at 4:10-6 p.m. For more information call the institute, (212) 854-4623.

• Elementary and Intermediate Ukrainian is offered by the Slavic Department, with Profs. Paola Castagna and Antonina Berezenko, respectively, as instructors. Elementary Ukrainian will be held in Room 518, Hamilton Hall. Classes for intermediate students will be held in Room 609, Hamilton Hall. Both courses, which commenced September 4, will be taught on Mondays and Wednesdays, at 5:40-6:55 p.m. For additional information call the Slavic Department, (212) 854-3941.

Soyuzivka begins...

(Continued from page 13)

him upon the stage. He found two of his students, who then became the other half of his act. The young ladies performed some difficult pieces and are certainly a duo to look for at festivals and other functions in a few years.

In closing, Soyuzivka’s stylish MC thanked everyone in attendance and invited everyone upstairs for the zabava. Mr. Wasylyk bid farewell to all and, without missing a beat, reminded everyone that “There is no place else like Soyuzivka.” A fun Suzy-Q family evening was had by all!

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School of Ukrainian Studies in Jersey City, NJ

has extended the application deadline for the 2002-2003 school year

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The school operates under the auspices of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The major sponsor is the Jersey City branch of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union.

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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Sumeniata experience “Pisnia Ukrainy” – Song of Ukraine



Young Ukrainian musicians — campers in disguise.

by Khrystyna Bihun

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Over 50 youngsters, age 4 and 5, enjoyed two weeks of fun and excitement at this year’s two-week camping adventure in Ellenville, N.Y., at the resort of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (known by its Ukrainian acronym, SUM). The Sumenyata Camp’s theme was “Pisnia Ukrainy” (Song of Ukraine), and much of the fun was centered around the rich musical tradition of Ukraine and Ukrainians.

The adventures were too many to be counted, and included numerous water games; a hike to the oselia’s river, where a nature-based scavenger hunt awaited younger campers while a “terenova hra” challenged the older kids; an indoor Winter Olympics complete

with bobsled races and an ice skating competition (yes, we’re aware this was a summer camp); a field trip to a local farm to pick corn and blueberries as well as to feed the barnyard animals; culinary arts, featuring hands-on varenyky-making and ice cream-making, with the patient and cheerful cooperation of the dear kitchen staff; and lots, lots more.

Many thanks go out to this year’s staff: camp director Darka Horbachevskyj, and counselors Oksana Bartkiw, Khrystia Bihun, Oksana Bodnar, Chrystia Fedorijchuk, Darka Hryckowian, Halyna Shepko and Marianka Wasylyk, who developed and conducted an original and outstanding camp program.

One of the oldest camping traditions is the evening campfire. The



Outdoor activities at camp included this game with a parachute.

sumeniata enjoyed a rich vatra program prepared by staffers featuring the oldest sumeniata – members of the group named Bandury – and a guest appearance by participants of the neighboring Huseniata Camp (children age 1 to 3).

Pawlo Danyliw and Bohdanna Wolansky visited the camp with a display of very traditional and also some very unconventional homemade Ukrainian musical instruments. The children enjoyed them all, from the bigger-than-life trembita to the pint-sized drymba, but

most pleasing to the children was the opportunity to try their hand at each of the instruments and enjoy the sounds they made.

At the end of each week of camp, a tea and “zabava” (dance) were held. Sumeniata decorated, and then ate, cookies, played music and games, and danced until they dropped. They can’t wait until next year to come to camp again.

For more information about SUM and its summer camp programs, visit the association’s website at www.CYM.org.

Huseniata, too, enjoy SUM campgrounds

by Iryna Nauholnyk-Cohen

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – This year as part of its summer camp program, the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) officially introduced a Huseniata program into the line-up of youth camps in Ellenville, N.Y. This two-week camp, held from July 21 to August 3, was geared specifically for Ukrainian-speaking children age 1-3.

A total of 36 children participated in the camp over the course of two weeks. Some stayed for one week, while others enjoyed both weeks of fun.

The theme of this year’s tabir was “Nash Horod” (Our Garden). Throughout the two weeks, the children planted and tended to a real outdoor garden. At the end of each week, each child also received a flower to plant in his or her garden

at home, as a reminder of their experience at camp.

Every day the Huseniata sang Ukrainian songs, created arts and crafts projects and were immersed into a fully Ukrainian toddler experience with education, the Ukrainian language and, of course, fun as the main focuses.

Myriad exciting activities included a hike to the Ellenville estate’s river a trip to Kelder’s farm in Kerhonkson, sundae-making and an Olympiad event. A highlight of each week was a release of a total of 2,000 live ladybugs into the camp’s garden.

All this was made possible through the dedication, toil and inspiration of the camp’s staff and counselors: Iryna Nauholnyk-Cohen (director), Chrystia Danyliuk, Hania Myhal, Maryann Zawojski, Natalka Stupak, Lesia Myhal and Nadia Leniw.



The young campers enjoy a hot, lazy afternoon near the river.

Roving reporter Petro Pytaye: What did you do this summer?

UKELODEON reporter Petro Pytaye, was on the scene at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort for this year's exciting Labor Day celebrations. While Petro was at Suzy-Q, he asked other youngsters what they did during their summer.

Remy Cholhan, 11, Rochester, N.Y.:

"I went to Plast camp in Buffalo and three hockey camps. The best part was Plast camp (Yunatskyi Tabir) because it was so much fun. The camp was called 'Striletska Sima.'"

Elyse Benoit, 14; Shavertown, Pa.:

"I went to dance camp at Soyuzivka for two weeks with Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky and spent three weeks at the resort with my family and two friends. The best part was dance camp. This was my fourth year and I love it there."

The Halatyns, Suzanna, 8, and Zoe, 5, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.:

"We went to the Chemny camp [at Soyuzivka] and to Ukrainian Week in Wildwood, N.J. We also went to Barbados for one week in June and to an American camp called Squire Advantage. We both made new friends this summer."

Suzanna added: "I really liked the Chemny camp, and Barbados was a lot of fun."

Dianka and Marchyk Kyzyk, 3-1/2, Brooklyn, N.Y.:

"Went to Wildwood [their father, Roman, noted that it was their first time] and went to 'Huseniata' (a camp at SUM oselia), also, Tabir Ptashat [their father noted that they were too young to be members of the Ptashata camp, which was held at Soyuzivka for two weeks, but were "attached" to the camp].

Marchyk added: "We liked Wildwood."



Remy Cholhan



Zoe and Suzanna Halatyn



Elyse Benoit



Marchyk and Dianka Kyzyk

2002 Plast camp for "novaky" was educational, fun – the best ever

by Paul Hadzewycz

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – Plast camp this year was very much fun and educational. Our camp name was "Valhalla," and we learned about Viking heritage, history and religion. Valhalla was a heaven for Vikings – only the best, the boldest and the strongest warriors got to go there. The entrance to our camp was a gate in the shape of a Viking ship.

At camp at "Vovcha Tropa" we also played many sports and games. We played a game we called "bratchyk ball" – which was dodgeball against our "bratchyky,"

or counselors. We went on trips to Howe Caverns and a lake at Fox Hill Camping.

This was my last year as a "novak"; next year I will be a "yunak." Because this was my last year, I went on a hike to Slattery's General Store with other older "novaky."

This was my best year yet at camp. I look forward to next year.

Paul Hadzewycz, 10 (well, almost 11) of Morristown, N.J., has been attending Plast camps at "Vovcha Tropa" since age 6. He is a sixth grader.



"Novaky" and counselors bid each other farewell. (Note the camp commander in Viking headgear on the right.)

Mishanyna

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

This month's Mishanyna could be described as a checklist of supplies you might need as you head back to school. See if you can find all the items on the list below in the Mishanyna grid above.

- backpack
- binder
- bookcovers
- calculator
- compass
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- dictionary
- eraser
- folders
- glue
- highlighter
- markers
- notebooks
- pencils
- pens
- protractor
- scissors

OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated October 13, please send in your materials by October 4.

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

**WANT TO SHARE NEWS ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE UP TO?
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The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear in October 27, 2002.

For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by October 15, 2002.

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

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

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, September 9 and 16

PHILADELPHIA: The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble begins its school year on September 9. Registration of children age 4 and above will take place on Monday, September 9, and Monday, September 16, at 6 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Classes are held weekly on Monday evenings at the center. For additional information contact Nina Prybolsky, school director, (610) 591-2492 or (215) 572-1552.

Sunday, September 22

PARMA, Ohio: The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 12 is sponsoring a 35th anniversary concert in honor of Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912). The concert will be held at 3 p.m. at the Pokrova Parish Hall. Admission: \$10; refreshments will be served.

Sunday, September 29

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago is hosting a jubilee banquet, celebrating its 50 years and the blessing of the new wing of the museum. The museum will be open from 11 a.m. The dedication will take place at 12:45 p.m. at the museum, 721 N. Oakley Blvd., and the banquet will follow immediately at 1:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave. Donation per person: \$75; senior citizens, \$50. Reservations will be accepted through September 16.

For additional information call (312) 421-8020, Thursday through Sunday.

ONGOING

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday, October 6

CLEVELAND: The Brotherhood of Ss. Peter and Paul, Branch 102 of the Ukrainian National Association, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at 1:30-4:30 p.m. with an open house/reception at The Ukrainian Museum – Archives, 1202 Kenilworth Ave. As part of the celebration, the museum will display historical documents and artifacts from the brotherhood's collection. Donations will be accepted for the museum. For additional information call Dan Bobeczko, (440) 255-5993.

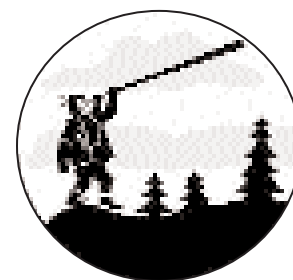
REMINDER REGARDING REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, November 23, 2002



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