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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXI

No. 5

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2003

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukraine and Russia complete delimitation of their land border

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine and Russia officially completed the delimitation of the land border between them on January 28 — more than 11 years after the two countries separated and nearly five years after border talks began.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin signed the historic agreement during a three-day visit to Kyiv on January 27-29. While in Kyiv Mr. Putin took part in several functions in Ukraine's capital, including the official opening of the Year of Russia in Ukraine and an informal summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"If at times assertions of Russian imperial ambitions [over Ukraine] have echoed here, beginning today I would like for them to stop," said Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma after he and Russian President Putin signed the documents that finally fixed the border between their two countries.

The agreement was only one of 10 the Russians and Ukrainians signed in the

Ukrainian capital, but undoubtedly the most significant. In it Kyiv and Moscow officially fixed their 2,063-kilometer (approximately 1,300-mile) border after years of haggling and debate. An initial version of the land border was agreed upon at the close of 2001, but official adoption was put off.

The two sides still have several outstanding problems to resolve, among them the demarcation of the land border they have delimited, which Russia continues to oppose. On January 29 an unnamed spokesperson for the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "The signing ceremony does not mean the two sides intend to demarcate the border along the current map, only the fact the parties agree on the current delimitation," reported Interfax-Ukraine.

There is also the maritime border — yet to be agreed upon even though a deadline of July 2002 passed long ago — and resolution of fishing rights in the Sea of Azov.

Mr. Putin, who described "healthy compromise" and consideration for the national interests of both countries as the key to finally reaching a land agreement, said that only "functional, bureaucratic problems" still need to be ironed out in that area.

However, he explained that the maritime border continues to present a challenge at the "political and expert level." Russia has maintained that the line that would separate the two countries in the

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## Ukrainian delegation in Washington for talks

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — A ministerial-level delegation from Ukraine on January 27 began a series of meetings with U.S. officials aimed at improving bilateral economic ties.

The delegation, headed by Economics Minister Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, is also meeting with representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as with American businessmen and investors. The priority meetings of the week-long visit are being conducted within the framework of the U.S.-Ukraine Committee on Trade and Economic Development, which includes talks with representatives of the departments of State, Commerce and Treasury, the U.S. Export Import Bank and the National Security Council. The committee is part of a bi-national structure set up under the Clinton administration to improve the economic, political and security relationship between Ukraine and the United States.

The Ukrainian delegation was to have been led by First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who also serves as finance minister. A fever reportedly forced him to cancel out on the eve of the delegation's departure from Kyiv.

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## Ukraine's president elected chair of CIS Council of Heads of State



AP/Valery Soloviov

Russia's President Vladimir Putin answers questions as Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma listens during a joint news conference on the occasion of the CIS summit.

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma became the first non-Russian leader to attain chairmanship of the Commonwealth of Independent States when state leaders and representatives of the 12 member-states voted to have him replace Russia's President Vladimir Putin on January 29.

The election of Mr. Kuchma to the chairmanship of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS came in a unanimous vote after Mr. Putin had submitted the Ukrainian president's name for consideration. Mr. Putin said he had decided to formally propose Mr. Kuchma after the idea was floated by the Russian delegation during the previous CIS summit in

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## \$250,000 or bust: Newark parochial school threatened with closure

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEWARK, N.J. — \$250,000. That is the amount that must be raised by April 15 if St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School is to be open in academic year 2003-2004.

The Newark, N.J., parochial school, which has served the Ukrainian American community since 1939, today has an enrollment of 79 students in grades K-8 — a dangerous decline from the level of 103 just two years ago, and one that presents a threat to the school's future. The decrease in income from tuition is compounded by the fact that St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Parish itself faces a serious shortfall of funds and can no longer afford to support its school. Furthermore, the pastor and trustees argue, the continued existence of the school threatens the existence of the parish.

"I am not in a position to bankrupt the church with only \$165,000 in the bank," stated the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, explaining that by June of this year the parish is pro-

jected to have only that amount left in its accounts.

News of the requirement to raise \$250,000 to ensure the school's future for next year — but with the deadline originally given as March 1 — was made public on Sunday, January 26, via the church bulletin distributed during liturgies that day; parents of St. John's schoolchildren were notified three days earlier. Since then, the Rev. Lukie and the Parish Council have granted a newly organized parents' committee an extension, giving them an additional six weeks to come up with the money.

A message from the Rev. Lukie released on Wednesday, January 29, after consultation with both the Parish Council (which consists of 25 council members, two trustees and the pastor) and the faculty, confirmed the new deadline.

It was the Parish Council, as an advisory body, that voted on January 20 to close the school "unless \$250,000 can miraculously be raised before March 1 to cover next year's deficit and to help with

future years," as the Rev. Lukie put it. The reason for the deadline, the pastor explained, was to give teachers and parents enough time to make alternate plans. The Parish Council's advice notwithstanding, the Rev. Lukie explained that it is the pastor who has the authority to decide the fate of the school, while the ultimate authority rests with the metropolitan-archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

The schoolchildren's parents are determined to not only save the St. John's School for the 2003-2004 academic year, but to work toward its development and successful functioning in years beyond in keeping with its three-pronged mission: "to develop a Christian way of life in daily living; to provide a thorough education in academic fields; and to develop a love and knowledge of our Ukrainian heritage."

Indeed, the school has a tradition of excellence. Its students have consistently

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## ANALYSIS

**Ukraine-NATO Action Plan is unveiled**

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry and NATO on January 22 published on their respective official websites the text of the Ukraine-NATO Action Plan adopted by the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the NATO summit in Prague in November (see <http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b021122a.htm>).

"The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify clearly Ukraine's strategic objectives and priorities in pursuit of its aspirations towards full integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures, and to provide a strategic framework for existing and future NATO-Ukraine cooperation under the Charter," the text says, adding that the plan will be reviewed periodically.

The plan lays out jointly agreed principles and objectives in five sections: Political and Economic Issues; Security, Defense and Military Issues; Information Protection and Security; Legal Issues; and Mechanisms of Implementation.

In accordance with the document, Kyiv has committed itself to pursuing "internal policies based on strengthening democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights, the principle of separation of power of judicial independence, democratic elections in accordance with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) norms, political pluralism, freedom of speech and press, respect for the rights of national and ethnic minorities, and non-dis-

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

crimination on political, religious or ethnic grounds."

In the sphere of foreign and security policies, Ukraine pledged in particular to update these policies to reflect its declared goal of full Euro-Atlantic integration, to be a key contributor to regional stability and security, to sustain and enhance participation in peacekeeping operations, and to fully observe international arms-control obligations.

In the sphere of economic policy, Ukraine promised to ensure the openness of its economy in conformity with World Trade Organization standards.

The document obliged Ukraine – in close cooperation with NATO's Joint Working Group on Defense Reform – to reform its defense and security system in general in order to obtain "a well-trained, well-equipped, more mobile and modern armed force" and to strengthen civil control over the armed forces and other security forces.

In particular, Ukraine committed itself to achieving the following objectives: to increase the country's contribution to NATO-led peacekeeping operations in the Balkans and to NATO measures in the fight against terrorism; to develop the full interoperability, sustainability and mission effectiveness of its armed forces through effective implementation of Partnership for Peace goals; and to maintain the readiness of rapid-reaction-force units for participation in joint operations with NATO.

Ukraine has also obliged itself to annually present a draft Annual Target Plan (ATP) for achieving principles and objectives of the action plan. The action plan stipulates that "within the frame-

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**Ukrainians less trusting of NATO**

by Askold Krushelnycky

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

The NATO-Ukraine Action Plan was published on January 22 and outlines Ukraine's strategy for meeting NATO criteria on issues like policy, economy, security, defense, information and law. It also proposes developing joint programs in disarmament, air defense, research, science and emergency situations.

But a nationwide poll conducted in December by the Social Monitoring Center and the Ukrainian Social Studies Institute and published last week shows that confidence in NATO has dropped dramatically since a similar survey made last summer after President Leonid Kuchma declared his country's intention to join.

The results published show that, out of a sample of more than 3,000 Ukrainians, just 28 percent said they trust the Atlantic alliance, down 11 percent from the poll last summer. Likewise, 44 percent of respondents said they did not consider NATO a trustworthy organization this time around. Last summer, just 34 percent said they had doubts.

The head of NATO's representative office in Kyiv, Michel Duray, said that opinion polls only partially reflect reality and that NATO is not disheartened by the poll. "Polls are like tides in the sea. They can go up, they can go down. So I'm personally convinced that [although] there may have been some problems and mis-

*Askold Krushelnycky is an RFE/RL correspondent.*

understandings, and there maybe still are some misunderstandings between NATO and Ukraine, this does not hamper our decision to go forward and to contribute to the implementation of the recently published action plan," Mr. Duray said.

Mr. Duray said another document will appear soon explaining how to implement the objectives outlined in the plan year by year. "The next practical step will be the publication of the annual target plan, which should occur, hopefully, in a few weeks – no more than three weeks, I hope – which describes, indeed, all the practical steps which are to be undertaken by Ukraine and by NATO and Ukraine [jointly]," Mr. Duray said.

When President Kuchma declared in May that Ukraine wanted to join NATO, it was a dramatic departure from the country's previous policy of treading a neutral path between the West and its former colonial master, Russia.

Ukraine has been a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace since 1997, and joint NATO and Ukrainian military maneuvers are conducted frequently in Ukraine. But Kyiv's decision to intensify relations emerged from a growing fear Ukraine was being left behind as many former Soviet-bloc countries raced toward membership in not only NATO but the European Union as well.

However, Ukraine has only seen its isolation grow in recent months, as Mr. Kuchma has come under fire from Western leaders for his alleged corruption and possible role in the killing of an

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**NEWSBRIEFS****Kuchma elected to head CIS council**

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma was elected to chair the Council of CIS Heads of State at the group's informal summit on January 29 in Kyiv, ITAR-TASS and Interfax reported from Kyiv. Ukraine's status within the CIS is a point of dispute, since Ukrainian diplomats and officials routinely described it as an "associate member" throughout the 1990s because the Verkhovna Rada never ratified the 1994 CIS Charter. But Mr. Kuchma on December 28, 2002, noted that the same charter makes no mention of "associate member" status. Ukrainian Hromadske Radio on January 15 suggested that Ukraine's chairmanship of the CIS Heads of State Council might thus be "legally vulnerable." Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking to journalists after the CIS summit on January 29, noted that Mr. Kuchma was elected on the initiative of the Russian side. "I made this proposal without taking counsel with other leaders, who feared this move might weaken the organization. But my logic was that Ukraine is one of the biggest CIS member-states and the second by the economy volume," Mr. Putin said. He added that the rotation principle must be observed as well. The Russian president first proposed that Ukraine head the council in November 2002. Before Mr. Kuchma, the CIS Council of the Heads of State was led by Russian Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Putin. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Presidents launch "Year of Russia"**

KYIV – Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Vladimir Putin of Russia on January 27 in Kyiv inaugurated the Year of Russia in Ukraine, a yearlong festival of Russian culture in Ukraine that is intended to strengthen ties between the two countries, Ukrainian and Russian media reported. "I am sure [the festival] will strengthen our old and strong friendship, which will continue for centuries," Mr. Putin said, according to the Associated Press. "Today we can say with full confidence that strategic partnership with Russia is not a tribute to geopolitical realities or the long joint past. The development of partnership between our countries is demanded by life itself, by globalization and integration processes in the modern world," ITAR-TASS quoted Mr. Kuchma as saying. The same day, the culture ministers of both countries signed a plan of cooperation between their ministries for 2003-2007. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Filaret cautious on "Year of Russia"**

KYIV – The patriarch of Kyiv and all Ukraine, Filaret, has stressed the danger of

holding the year of Russia in Ukraine. Addressing a congress of the Ukrainian National Rukh on January 25, he said that the forces that seek to separate eastern and western Ukraine have become active now and that national-democratic forces should take account of this in their activity. Patriarch Filaret said he believes that, on the one hand, one can welcome the improvement of cultural ties with Russia, however one should bear in mind that "certain forces are trying to use the year of Russia in Ukraine not in favor of the Ukrainian state." The leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate emphasized the importance of further steps to create a single Orthodox Church in Ukraine, "This is an important issue in building up the state which needs to be settled," because a single state is impossible without a single church. (UNIAN)

**Yanukovych solicits foreign investment**

WASHINGTON – Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 25, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych said Ukraine is ready and willing "to reach cardinal growth of foreign investments" into its economy, Interfax reported. Mr. Yanukovych said that Ukraine's investment climate is relatively attractive and that legislation is in place to protect investors' interests. He also said Ukraine hopes for closer cooperation with the European Union following its enlargement. "Today Ukraine is able to make [a] significant contribution to improve the EU's competitiveness in the field of security, economy, science and technology, [and] ecological safety," he said. He noted there are three basic motives for such a conclusion: "First, we have gone through the most difficult stage of transformation," Mr. Yanukovych said. "Second, the existing critical mass of reforms yields positive results. Third, Ukrainian society is getting more and more consolidated around the idea of integration into the family of European nations." (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Kostenko's Rukh changes name**

KYIV – The moderate nationalist Ukrainian National Rukh led by Yurii Kostenko held a congress in Kyiv on January 25 and changed its name to Ukrainian National Party (Ukrainska Narodna Partia), Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Kostenko, who was elected leader of the new party, told the congress that the Ukrainian National Rukh had failed to unify with the National Rukh of Ukraine led by Hennadii Udovenko because of "essential differences of opinion" regarding

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**THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY**

FOUNDED 1933

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

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

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

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

Postmaster, send address changes to: **Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz**  
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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)

The Ukrainian Weekly, February 2, 2003, No. 5, Vol. LXXI

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## Ukrainian airline announces flights from Kyiv to New York and Toronto

by Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – A Ukrainian commercial airline, Aerosvit, announced it would open two new non-stop trans-Atlantic routes – one between Kyiv and New York, starting on March 30, and the other route, between Kyiv and Toronto, by the end of June – said Gregory Gurtovoy, the company's director general, on January 27.

At the moment, airline officials said there are no plans to expand service from Ukraine to other cities throughout North America. Officials did add that, on the flights from New York to Kyiv, the airline would provide connections to major cities in western Ukraine.

"We feel it is the right moment to start such services," Kostadin Botev, the company's sales director for North America, said.

Airline officials said flights would leave New York's John F. Kennedy Airport and Kyiv's Boryspil Airport on Fridays and Sundays, while an additional flight, on Tuesdays, would be added to the schedule after June 27. A fourth flight, on Thursdays, would be added to the weekly schedule by July.

"We have already sold seats for the inaugural flight [between Kyiv and New York]," Mr. Gurtovoy said. Tickets, he added, can be obtained through the airline's website, [www.aerosvit.com](http://www.aerosvit.com), and through some of the travel agencies in the

metropolitan area that traditionally deal with airline service to Ukraine.

Aerosvit officials stressed that the two routes are completely new for the airline and that people should not confuse Aerosvit with a different Ukrainian airline, Air Ukraine, that once flew the same route but stopped flying into New York four years ago, at which point Uzbekistan Airways filled the void.

However, since Aerosvit successfully appealed to the Ukrainian government to service the route, Uzbekistan Airways will be effectively bumped out of the picture.

Officials at the Uzbek airline said service on the Kyiv-New York route would continue until March 28, two days before Aerosvit's inaugural Kyiv-New York flight.

While the route would remain the same, Aerosvit officials said the company offering the service would be entirely different. "Our airline is on international standards in terms of the service and safety it offers its customers," Mr. Gurtovoy said at a press conference announcing the two new routes. "We also intend to offer our customers a business class with business amenities."

Additionally, Mr. Gurtovoy said that both airports in New York and Kyiv would have a special business class waiting area, similar to Continental Airline's

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## Kostenko faction of Rukh changes name to Ukrainian National Party

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – National Deputy Yurii Kostenko, chairman of the Ukrainian National Rukh Party, announced on January 23 that the political party had dropped the designation "Rukh" and changed its name to the Ukrainian National Party. The move was made in anticipation of enlargement and unification with other political organizations in preparation for the 2004 presidential elections.

The name change came after the collapse of year-long reunification talks between Mr. Kostenko's Rukh and the National Rukh of Ukraine Party chaired by National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko. Mr. Kostenko's Rukh split from the National Rukh of Ukraine in early 1999 just weeks before the death of its founder and longtime leader Vyacheslav Chornovil.

"Since we have failed to find a way to unite, it is nonsense for both parties to continue to use the name Rukh," explained Mr. Kostenko.

The leader of the new National Party of Ukraine, which will remain a part of the Our Ukraine parliamentary faction, said the name change came as a result of a request from 11 oblast party leaders of the Democratic Party of Ukraine as part of an initiative to move their local organizations into the new Ukrainian National Party.

While Democratic Party leader Hanna Antonieva debunked assertions published in a story in the newspaper Den that a unification process is under way, Mr. Kostenko maintained that his party is working with the 11 local Democratic Party leaders.

Mr. Kostenko also said that Our Ukraine faction leader Viktor Yushchenko had accepted the move, with some reservations concerning the abandonment of negotiations to reunite Rukh into a single political organization. However, Mr. Kostenko made it clear he wanted to broaden the national democratic movement in preparation for upcoming elections and was not abandoning cooperation with Mr. Udovenko's National Rukh of Ukraine.

"To win the upcoming presidential elections we do not need a national democratic coalition, we need a coalition of national democratic forces," explained Mr. Kostenko.

Mr. Kostenko spoke during a press conference with Anatolii Matvienko, chairman of the Ukrainian Republican-Sobor Party. Mr. Matvienko said that his party also is negotiating a political merger with the Ukrainian National Party and hoped to form a single party before the end of the year.

"We will unite in December into a single party. It will have such influence as to

(Continued on page 14)

## Ukraine's president...

(Continued from page 1)

Chisinau and in response to very specific ideas for the economic development of the CIS presented by Mr. Kuchma during that summit.

"My logic was that Ukraine is one of the biggest CIS member-states and the second in economic volume," said Mr. Putin.

President Putin also mentioned that he thought it was time for rotation of the CIS chairmanship as was envisioned in the charter documents. Until now, only Russian presidents had headed the council of heads of states, first former President Boris Yeltsin and most recently Mr. Putin.

The leaders of four of the 12 member-states, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, did not attend because of other commitments. Three of the four countries were represented by their respective prime ministers. The Kazak delegation was led by its foreign minister.

President Kuchma said his priority as chairman would be to realize his long-sought idea for a free trade zone for the CIS, which consists of 12 former Soviet republics. He said he expected that final work could be completed quickly and that such an agreement would be ready for consideration at the next gathering of CIS heads of state, currently scheduled for September in Yalta.

During remarks at the summit's plenary session on January 29, President Kuchma spelled out his vision for the new economic relationship, which is centered on duty-free and tax-free trade among the member-states, and includes an accent on the development of specific markets and support for certain transnational corporations to help them compete effectively on the world market.

"A common market will help us feel safe in the rough sea of globalization," said Mr. Kuchma.



AP/Valery Soloviov

CIS leaders during their summit in the Mariinskii Palace in Kyiv.

He cited the need to restructure remaining inefficient economic links based on old Soviet ties that still exist, adding that the CIS region must develop a modern, effective and low-cost transport system to move goods and services between Asia and Europe. He also suggested that much attention must be given to developing the fuel and energy complex that is so vital to the region and proposed to establish an interstate coordinating agency to be called the Fuel and Energy Council of the CIS. Finally, he called for the development of wholesale markets for agricultural commodities.

Mr. Kuchma has supported the idea of a free trade zone since 1999, with a good

amount of backing from within the CIS. However, the plan had been opposed by Russia, if only because it had the largest volume of inter-regional trade turnover and stood to lose the most in revenue.

Ukraine's agreement to forego value-added tax (VAT) on Russian gas and oil shipments through its territory, coupled with Russia's increased energy trade with Europe, seems to have made a free trade zone more appealing to Moscow. Yet, President Putin declared during a meeting with students of Kyiv State University on January 28 that in the end Russia went with the agreement in the pursuit of good-neighborly relations.

"On this issue we can and ought to

change the system for the sake of strategic cooperation between the two countries," explained Mr. Putin.

The decision to hand the reins of the CIS to Mr. Kuchma did not come without controversy. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had voiced some protest after the Chisinau summit, arguing that his country should take the next chairmanship in keeping with an alphabetical rotation of leadership as documented in the CIS charter agreement. In Kyiv, however, he voiced wholehearted support for Mr. Kuchma's ascendancy.

Mr. Lukashenka also stated that he

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## New York surgeon journeys to Ukraine to help 4-month-old Mariyka

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Mariyka Tkachuk was born in a Kyiv hospital. Like many newborns, Mariyka was healthy and adorable. Only months later, however, the same deadly virus that killed four other infants had also infected Mariyka.

The mysterious virus slowly ate away the cartilage in young Mariyka's nose, forcing doctors to surgically insert a breathing tube in the infant's throat in order for her to breathe. Sadly, the virus seriously scarred Mariyka, leaving the youngster with a badly disfigured nose and a closed nasal passage. But the work of one Ukrainian American facial surgeon with a plush New York practice, and the relief organization that initially found the child, may yet put the 4-month-old on the road to a normal life.

That road, said Dr. Oleh Slupchynskyj, the New York doctor who performed Mariyka's surgery, will be long and difficult. But, the doctor said, untreated, Mariyka's condition would have become a serious social stigma for her and would have made a terrible impact on the child's life.

"It's a quality of life issue," said Dr. Slupchynskyj, who grew up in New York City's Ukrainian East Village community, "and we're giving Mariyka the chance to live a normal life."

Officials from the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, a humanitarian organization established to help deal with the human legacy of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, first learned of the youngster on a routine visit to Kyiv Children's Hospital No. 2, a hospital the organization has supported for some time.

When CCRF co-founders Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky walked into the hospital during a November 2002 visit, the doctor there just looked at them and said "Thank God you're here. I need you to see something," Mrs. Matkiwsky remembered Dr. Oleh Kornichuk of Kyiv's Children's Hospital No. 2 say.

She learned of how a virus had wreaked havoc on the pediatric ward, claiming the lives of four children and leaving another with permanent brain damage, and met young Mariyka. Mariyka made an instant and strong impression. Mrs. Matkiwsky recalled thinking of doctors in the United States who might be able to open an airway for the youngster and help reconstruct her nose. Several possibilities came to mind.

Among them, the Matkiwskys were familiar with Dr. Oleh Slupchynskyj, having spent time with the doctor and his family at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort. Dr. Slupchynskyj attended St. George Ukrainian Catholic School in the East



Dr. Oleh Slupchynskyj

Village, was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, and graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University before earning his medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla in 1991. The doctor and his Aesthetic Institute of New York, which estimates its facial reconstruction work at 20 percent of its overall work load, seemed well-suited to help Mariyka.

The only problem, Dr. Slupchynskyj noted, was the 4,700 miles that separated the doctor from his possible patient.

"I really didn't know what to expect. I asked that photographs of the child be sent immediately so that I could see what I was dealing with," Dr. Slupchynskyj remembered. But, even after seeing photographs of Mariyka, the doctor was still concerned. Properly sedating the youngster for the procedure to open an airway in Mariyka's nose worried the 37-year-old Dr. Slupchynskyj.

"He [the Ukrainian anesthesiologist] did a wonderful job sedating her," Dr. Slupchynskyj said. Initially, Mariyka was only to be sedated for an examination, however, "she was so well anesthetized that I felt we could go right ahead and create an airway," the doctor said.

The two-hour procedure to put a metal stent into Mariyka's nose went off without a hitch and the Ukrainian medical team proved themselves skilled and well-educated, Dr. Slupchynskyj recalled. "I

saw them do things that I've never seen our doctors [in the United States] do. They [the Ukrainian medical team] are very talented," Dr. Slupchynskyj said, adding that unfortunately they do so much with so very little.

Dr. Slupchynskyj, however, is also no ordinary surgeon. While he regularly reshapes well-to-do New York faces by way of Botox and Collagen, he also spent four of his nights in Ukraine sleeping on the floor of CCRF's Kyiv office, eliminating the cost of a hotel room.

After landing in Kyiv Dr. Slupchynskyj insisted on immediately traveling to see Mariyka — Mrs. Matkiwsky recalled being impressed — foregoing a good night's rest after a long flight from New York. It was Dr. Slupchynskyj's second trip to Ukraine, but since Mariyka still has several more surgeries to get through, he estimates he'll have four more trips to Kyiv, with the next coming in the spring.

"They're short of so much equipment," said Dr. Slupchynskyj, who brought his own medical supplies, fearing that what might be provided wouldn't do the trick. But much of the equipment that now cares for Mariyka, as she begins her road to recovery, is the result of CCRF's mission in Ukraine. The pope also should be thanked, Mrs. Matkiwsky said.

While CCRF provided Dr. Kornichuk's hospital with several pulse oximeters, ventilators and incubators to care for newborns, one specific neonatal unit was a gift from Pope John Paul II during his 2001 trip to Ukraine.

The donated equipment has been a big help to the hospital, and specifically for Mariyka. But in order for her to progress any further, she will need a bronchoscope, a special tool Dr. Slupchynskyj will need in order to remove the artificial airway in Mariyka's throat. At several thousand dollars, obtaining it will be a matter of fundraising and the generosity of donors.

"He did a wonderful thing for this girl," Mrs. Matkiwsky said. "He took time out of his own schedule to help this adorable child."

The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund has set up a fund for Mariyka. For more information or to donate to the fund contact CCRF, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07080; phone, (973) 376-5140; fax, (973) 376-4988; e-mail, info@childrenofchernobyl.org.



Pictured in Kyiv Children's Hospital No. 2 are Dr. Oleh Kornichuk (right), Dr. Oleh Slupchynskyj (back), Mariyka Tkachuk (in her mother's arms) and a nurse.

## OBITUARY: Michael J. Metrisko, first Ukrainian American member of Stock Exchange

NEW YORK — The three American flags which adorn the facade of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street flew at half staff on Monday, January 13, in honor of trader Michael J. Metrisko, 93, believed to be the oldest and longest serving member of the Exchange.

Mr. Metrisko died on Sunday, January 12, at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta after a brief illness. His funeral was held on January 17 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Wilmington, Del.

Dick Grasso, NYSE chairman, told the media the day after his passing: "Mike was a beloved member of the exchange community and will be missed."

Michele Rollins, Mr. Metrisko's daughter, says the family learned from the Stock Exchange that Mr. Metrisko was the oldest member of the New York Stock Exchange.

The son of Ukrainian immigrants who settled in Olyphant, Pa., Mr. Metrisko attended Penn State University, moved to



Michael J. Metrisko

New York City in 1927 and attended City College of Finance at night while working as a runner at the Stock Exchange by day. His keen aptitude for the financial world brought a rapid ascent on the floor, and he became a member of the Exchange in 1961 — the first Ukrainian American to achieve that position.

Buying his seat for the brokerage house of Jones, Kreeger & Co., he connected the telephone lines from the brokerage branch houses in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland directly to the floor of the Exchange, a first of its kind.

During his years at the Exchange, he was known to younger traders as "Uncle Mike" and "The Silver Fox," Ms. Rollins said.

In 1991, while affiliated with Merrill Lynch Specialists, Mr. Metrisko leased out his seat and moved to Greenville, Del. to be near his daughter and his four grandchildren. He continued to commute to Manhattan several times a week to

participate in the action on the floor, until September 11, 2001. He was on his way to Manhattan that day when he saw the first plane hit the World Trade Center tower, according to Ms. Rollins, who marvels that her father saw two crashes — 1929 and 9/11.

Mr. Metrisko is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elizabeth (née Sedor) Metrisko; three daughters, Marsha Metrisko, Michele Rollins and Monica Metrisko; and four grandchildren, Michele, Monique, Michael and Marc Rollins.

Also surviving are his sister, Olga Metrisko, brothers Pat and Will Metrisko, and several nieces and nephews.

At the family's suggestion, donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, for Msgr. Martin Canavan's Ukrainian Project, c/o Father William Gore, 1600 Brinkle Ave., Wilmington, DE 19806.

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Young UNA'ers



Michael Harrison Rinker, son of Dr. Anna M. Kalynych-Rinker and Harry Rinker, is a new member of UNA Branch 222 in Michigan. He was enrolled by his grandparents Michael and Nadia Kalynych.



Sofia Nina Olson, daughter of Ksenia and Scott Olson, is a new member of UNA Branch 172. She was enrolled by her great-grandparents Dr. Ihor and Daria Vytvytsky.



Juliana Maria Gahr, daughter of Anastasia and James Gahr, is a new member of the UNA. She was enrolled in UNA Branch 172 by her grandparents the Rev. Deacon Theophil T. Staruch and Aristida M. Staruch.



Daniel Robert Olivette, son of Halyna and Daniel Olivette, is a new member of UNA Branch 42. He was enrolled by his grandmother Mary Romancio.



Jason Peter Marfey, 2, and his older brother, Aren Paul, 5, are new members of UNA Branch 13. They are the children of Lynn and Johan Marfey, and were enrolled into the UNA by their grandmother Dr. Anne Marfey.



RECORDING DEPARTMENT				
MEMBERSHIP REPORT – DECEMBER 2002				
Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary				
	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 11/2002	6,153	12,827	2,836	21,816
Total Inactive Members – 11/2002	7,541	16,581	0	24,122
Total Members – 11/2002	13,694	29,408	2,836	45,938
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP				
Gains in 12/2002				
New members	23	16	0	39
New members UL	1	4	0	5
Reinstated	6	6	2	14
Total Gains:	30	26	2	58
Losses in 12/2002				
Died	0	32	0	32
Cash surrender	2	11	0	13
Endowment matured	17	44	0	61
Fully paid-up	23	66	0	89
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	16	30	0	46
Certificates lapsed (active)	11	16	20	47
Certificate terminated	0	6	6	12
Total Losses	69	205	26	300
Total Active Members – 12/2002	6,114	12,648	2,812	21,574
INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP				
Gains in 12/2002				
Paid-up	23	66	0	89
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	16	30	0	46
Total Gains	39	96	0	135
Losses in 12/2002				
* Died	2	53	0	55
* Cash surrender	3	8	0	11
Pure endowment matured	2	7	0	9
Reinstated to active	6	6	0	12
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	2	3	0	5
Total Losses	15	77	0	92
Total Inactive Members – 12/2002	7,565	16,600	0	24,165
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 12/2002	13,679	29,248	2,812	45,739
(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)				

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Visit our archive on the Internet at: <http://www.ukrweekly.com/>

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### SOS: save our school

The front page of this newspaper reports that yet another of our venerable community institutions in the United States faces the imminent threat of its demise. The institution is St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School, the alma mater of thousands of young Ukrainian Americans who benefited from the solid education it has offered since 1939 when it first opened its doors in Newark, N.J.

It is a school that more properly could be called a magnet school to use the terminology in vogue today. It is a magnet for students from various parts of New Jersey; students from towns and cities near and far attend the school because it not only offers an excellent education, and a Christian education, but also an education that is focused on the Ukrainian heritage. That's what makes the school unique. Parents send their children there because they firmly believe that an education in the Ukrainian spirit is worth the extra effort – the extra miles of driving, the extra inconvenience, and yes, the extra cost (after all, there are plenty of excellent public schools in New Jersey that cost \$0). They believe in what the school has to offer, and they see the results every day. They also know they are immeasurably fortunate that St. John's has created a caring and nurturing community, where each and every child is truly loved. Now they, and the community at large, may lose this priceless treasure.

The good news is that the parents have pledged to do their utmost to save St. John's. They simply will not let it close without a fight. However, they need help. Raising a quarter of a million dollars is no small task, and the deadline – a mere two and a half months away – makes it so much more difficult to accomplish.

But why should the Ukrainian community care about the fate of this particular school? Why does this cause deserve their support?

The number of truly Ukrainian schools, as readers are no doubt aware, has been decreasing for some time now. Furthermore, some of the Ukrainian parochial schools that continue to exist have all but done away with the Ukrainian component of their programs – they have remained simply Catholic schools. (Some of them can boast of fewer than a tenth of their students being of Ukrainian background.) To be sure, they are wonderful institutions, and they, too, deserve support. But St. John's is a rare gem.

Consider also that St. John's is schoolchildren's first exposure to organized Ukrainian community life. Through this school the kids learn, and feel, that they are part of something greater than themselves, larger than their immediate family, stronger than their local school. That something is the Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian nation.

What is even more significant is that more than half of the current student population at St. John's is made up of children of the Fourth Wave of immigrants to this country. What better way to involve these newly arrived Ukrainians in the life of our community here and thus to ensure our community's existence? As these students attend St. John's they naturally become a part of our community; along with them their parents become active, working side by side with their peers, the Ukrainians born in this country.

Perhaps another way to argue this point is to ask: If we can support Ukrainian schools in Ukraine, why can't we – why shouldn't we – support Ukrainian schools here? Why don't we feel the same need to help our children in this country?

Recent developments at St. John's Parish have made it crystal clear what needs to be done to save St. John's School: \$250,000 has to be raised in the next few weeks – by April 15 – in order for the school to reopen its doors come September 2003. And that will buy the school time to work toward ensuring its future beyond the next academic year. Otherwise the school will close this June, never to open again.

It is equally clear that in the more than six decades of its existence St. John's has been responsible for educating many of our leading community activists. In a sense, then, all of us can consider St. John's to be our school. All of us can also help save it.

Feb.  
7  
1993

### Turning the pages back...

A decade ago, this newspaper reported that independent Ukraine's first minister of defense, Kostiantyn Morozov, was under fire from Communist holdovers in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. Members of Parliament who were once members of the

Communist Party, which was then banned, had begun circulating a petition demanding the resignation of Gen. Morozov. The Respublika news service reported that the Communists were also calling for the removal of Maj. Gen. Volodymyr Muliava, director of the ministry's Social-Psychological Service. The Communists depicted both as ultra-nationalists.

The Ukrainian Republican Party reacted to the petition drive by cautioning the public to beware of Communist fabrications and disinformation. A URP statement called on the people of Ukraine to defend members of the armed forces who serve Ukraine and who will be able to defend Ukraine from imperialism. "Having emerged from their foxholes," the Communists have begun a new attack, using fabrications and twisting facts, as was done in the worst days of the Communist regime, said the URP.

At about the same time, the president of the Officers' Union of Ukraine, Hryhorii Omelchenko reported that in western Ukraine bogus leaflets were distributed. The leaflets, which appeared to be issued by the Officers' Union, touted Ukrainians' supremacy over Russians and Jews. Col. Omelchenko categorically denied that his union had issued any such materials; he called the leaflets a provocation meant to create inter-ethnic animosity.

Col. Omelchenko explained that the attempts to discredit and dismiss Gen. Morozov were a reaction to the defense minister's firm and principled stand on the formation of Ukrainian military forces and their non-participation in CIS military structures. It was Gen. Morozov who was charged with transforming the Soviet armed forces on Ukrainian territory into a Ukrainian military; and it was Gen. Morozov who in the spring of 1992 had directed that Ukraine's soldiers take an oath of loyalty to the newly independent state.

Source: "Communist bloc demands ouster of Morozov," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 7, 1993, Vol. LXI, No. 6.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Cultural and religious treasure in Newark must be preserved

by Rostyslaw Robak

NEWARK, N.J. – This city has been the home of a Ukrainian cultural and religious treasure for the past 63 years. This treasure is not a stone monument, nor a wooden museum piece that may be occasionally admired. The treasure is a school that has been a vital part of the Ukrainian community in the United States. St. John the Baptist School has educated and molded the lives of over 4,000 Ukrainian Americans since its humble beginnings in the early 20th century.

It has been part of the young life of individuals who went on to be American military heroes in every war since World War II. Its Ukrainian Catholic values have been at the very heart of the personal, family and civic lives of several generations of Ukrainian Americans. Its long list of graduates includes prominent professionals, scientists and educators.

More importantly, its graduates include the very backbone of America: the hard-working, upwardly striving people of Ukraine and their children who came to this country believing that to be an American is the greatest honor a person can attain.

St. John's is about to be closed. The current pastor and his parish trustees have determined, with the recommendation of their advisory Parish Council, that it simply is no longer profitable nor financially feasible to maintain the school. On January 23, they set a sum of \$250,000 to be raised by the school's parents before March 1, 2003, in order to keep St. John's school open for one more year.

There is not one parent or student in the St. John's school community who agrees

*Rostyslaw Robak of South Orange, N.J., a professor of psychology at Pace University, is a member of the executive committee of the newly created Committee for the Development of St. John's School.*

with this short-sighted decision. They are willing to do whatever it takes to keep their school open. A large committee of about 40 parents and friends has been raising funds furiously since the end of December 2002 after their first meeting with the pastor and the trustees. This group, the Committee for the Development of St. John's School, is also creating a formal structure and legal entity in preparation for assuming the school's administration.

Currently, our school is a beacon of hope for newly arriving immigrants. This school has been a haven where generations of both children and parents have made a transition to American society and have quickly become productive citizens. To close the school is to stop ministering to the neediest among us and thus to ignore the teachings of Jesus Himself. Jesus was the Shepherd who was willing to give up His life for His sheep. Each of us should only try to follow His teaching. This is the moral, Christian reason to save St. John's school.

At this time, funds are being raised through various programs. The children themselves are contributing, such as going "on tour" with their Christmas concert.

With a new philosophy of the school that completes its original mission statement, with an administrative board, and with modern fund-raising and financing techniques, we are determined to save the school and elevate it to new heights of excellence. The Committee for the Development of St. John's School appeals to the Ukrainian community at large for financial support. Throughout North America and Europe, it is the moral response of everyone of Ukrainian descent to help us save our living cultural treasure.

Please help ensure the future of St. John's School with a donation to: Committee for the Development of St. John's School, c/o Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, 734 Sandford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106.

### An appeal to the community regarding Famine museum/research center in Kyiv

Recently several articles have appeared in the press concerning the need in Kyiv for a national museum-research center dedicated to the memory of the victims of the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine. They were: Roman Baranowskyj's "Concerning the Issue of Memorials and Museums" in *Narodna Vola* on November 21, 2002; Eugene Stakhiv's "The Time Has Come to Open a Famine Museum" in *Svoboda* on November 22, 2002; and Rostyslaw Chomiak's "Famine Memorial in Kyiv" in *Svoboda* on November 29, 2002.

In their articles, the authors emphasized the need in the Ukrainian capital for the establishment of a scholarly research center that would house primary source documents, scholarly writings, the testimony of eyewitnesses to the Famine and pertinent materials from congressional committees from the U.S. Congress.

Historians, researchers and students could avail themselves of the materials in such a museum-research center to trace and to publish works concerning the truth about this horrific episode in Ukrainian history. Subsequently, the idea of such a museum-research center was also very

convincingly supported by an editorial in *The Ukrainian Weekly* on December 8, 2002.

With this in mind, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, together with the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council in Kyiv, is undertaking the initial steps necessary to secure a location worthy of such a museum-research center. For this purpose, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council is now establishing a fund drive. We are herewith turning to you with an urgent appeal to donate whatever you can to this vital project. Toward this end, the Baranowskyjs, Roman and Stefania, have provided an initial donation of \$1,000.

We hope that you will share our sense of the historic importance of this project. To donate funds, please make out your donations to "UACC Famine Memorial Center Fund" and send them to: Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, 142 Second Ave. New York, NY 10003. Your donations are tax-deductible.

**For the UACC Presidium:**

Ihor Gawdiak, president  
Dr. Roman Baranowskyj, secretary

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Myron Kuropas entitled to his views

Dear Editor:

I found Dr. Myron Kuropas' tongue-in-cheek New Year's resolutions a bit amusing – especially his resolution not to offend anybody. Since he asked for additional suggestions, here is my advise, given publicly and with a straight face. Telling the truth should not be offensive to anybody. And that is what he has been doing for so many years on the pages of The Ukrainian Weekly – calling a spade a spade.

One could or should take his political beliefs, views and opinions expressed on the pages of The Ukrainian Weekly with a grain of salt, but he is entitled to them – as is everybody else. Whether those political opinions belong on the pages of The Ukrainian Weekly is a matter for the editorial board to decide. I trust Dr. Kuropas will not shy away from controversy.

Ihor Lysyj  
Austin, Texas

### Kuropas does not The Weekly make

Dear Editor:

Despite Dr. Myron Kuropas' often-hard-to-stomach paranoid right-wing rhetoric, he does not The Ukrainian Weekly make. Thus, I enclose my subscription renewal and a modest donation to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

Best wishes for 2003.  
Khrystos Rodyvsia!

Ihor Tomkiw  
Toronto

### Potemkin villages abound in Kyiv

Dear Editor:

A few Potemkin villages, targeted at the foreign or criminally rich, and built to the benefit of the kickback extracting ruling class, should not deceive us about Kyiv's and Ukraine's true state of affairs. In fact, except for a handful of freewheeling expense-account foreigners and a concentration of local politicians "biznesmeny," whose lifestyle clearly exceeds their legal income, to the average, honest Ukrainian Kyiv remains a dismal place to live; and a glimpse at the excesses of the unethically monied few is of little comfort to them.

Yes, the metro runs well and is cheap, and, yes, visible street crime is relatively minor (it's fully eclipsed by well-concealed white-collar crime – these are the few favorable leftovers from the old regime – but recent achievements have really contributed little to the living standard of the average citizen. Away from the center and a few favored regions, roads and buildings are crumbling, few jobs that will cover the cost of living are available, and few meaningful opportunities can be anticipated by the unconnected young.

A short walk from the center you see pensioners selling whatever possessions they still have in an attempt to survive, farmers spending all day selling whatever they can to scrape together a few hryvnia, countless overqualified individuals manning ramshackle kiosks trying to earn a few bucks.

Grandiose monuments and projects most likely add generously if discreetly to the pockets of the ruling elite (who somehow can never explain how they developed their "biznesses" or begat their wealth on a salary of \$100 to \$200 a month, but add little to the local economy and only mislead foreigners superficially breezing through. Meanwhile, productive foreign investment (which could create real jobs and economic growth) remains insignificant without the proper kickbacks to the ruling authorities, pensioners are paid minimally if at all in the hopes of putting them out of their misery as soon as possible, and of course allegiance to all things Russian remains prevalent. And let's not forget that beyond Kyiv and a few favored (pro-regime) cities – in effect subsidizing Kyiv – only minimal pensions or government funds flow out to regions which have also paid the taxes, to assure Kyiv remains the artificial showcase and the ruling elite, sucking up money from the rest of the country.

True, central Kyiv can appear superficially flashy and well-heeled compared to Warsaw, Budapest and even Prague, and has become quite livable for monied Westerners and "beeznessmen" milking their favorite racket. But while those capitals' streets are sadly lacking the \$80,000 Mercedeses and \$40-a-head restaurants that clutter up Kyiv, those countries are building industry and a middle class for the future, and creating bona fide economic growth, not just pandering to the ruling elite and putting on a show.

Those diasporites sitting around in the United States or breezing through their annual week or two in Ukraine can be optimistic and celebrate Kyiv's seeming achievements. Those of us truly in touch with Ukrainian reality unfortunately cannot succumb to these illusions, even if Kyiv life for us personally has become a bit more upbeat. Because if you look at the overall real situation for the average Kyivite, let alone the average Ukrainian – what exactly is there to celebrate?

George Lomnycky  
Venice, Fla.

### Activists condemn anti-Semitic gazette

Dear Editor:

I read the article in the December 17-24, 2002, issue of the Kyiv-based newspaper Stolichniye Novosti by Serhii Kovtunenکو ("Yesli v kranie niet vody"), which referred to the Lviv newspaper Idealist, which had already been banned by the authorities, but nonetheless released a new publication called "The Jewish Occupation of Ukraine."

The publication calls for the physical destruction of many leading activists of Ukraine because the newspaper recognizes them as Jews. This newspaper of "yellow journalism" brings infamy around the world to Ukraine.

The Society for Ukrainian-Jewish Relations condemns the activity and writings of the newspaper Idealist and calls for an end to such inflammatory anti-Semitic propaganda emanating from the glorious city of Lviv.

Anti-Semitism is spread in Ukraine, and especially in Halychyna, (western Ukraine), by Russian "special services" with the goal of defaming Ukraine in the eyes of the democratic West.

Eugene Stakhiv  
Waldwick, N.J.

The letter writer is president of the Society for Ukrainian-Jewish Relations.

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### What's the policy toward Ukraine?

The 20th century was rough on Ukrainians in a way that's impossible to fathom: during both world wars, Ukraine served as a battlefield for years on end. Afterwards there were revolutionary struggles of appalling cruelty. Factor in the man-made Famine of 1932-1933, the Great Terror, Chernobyl, totalitarianism, mass emigration, etc.

Weighed against all that, you might say that Ukraine in 2003 has never been in better shape:

- Ukrainians can worship God in whatever form they choose.
- Ukraine is a democracy.
- People respect Ukraine's national symbols.
- National leaders speak Ukrainian.
- Minority languages and cultures are flourishing.
- Ukraine's economy is making slow but steady progress.
- Independent civic, social and cultural groups are creating a civil society.

Despite all this, there's no denying that Ukraine has serious problems – not the least of which is growing isolation, illustrated dramatically at the NATO summit in November 2002 when President George W. Bush made a point of snubbing President Leonid Kuchma and encouraged other leaders to do the same. Most did. Poland's President Aleksander Kwasniewski and Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, reportedly, were exceptions.

Critics contend that Mr. Kuchma himself brought this isolation on Ukraine. Citing credible accusations of corruption, abuse of office, election tampering, the illegal sale of military equipment to Iraq, even complicity in murder, Ukraine's leader to them conveys more the image of gangster than president.

Without excusing any shortcomings, others see a double standard, pointing to Russia's links to the "Axis of Evil" (Iran, Iraq and Korea.) Russia is building six nuclear reactors in Iran, a project the Bush administration fears will lead to an Iranian nuclear bomb. Ironically, this is the same project that Ukraine abandoned at the request of the Bill Clinton administration because of those very same fears. Heedless of America's concerns, Russia stepped in and picked up the contract.

Russia also maintains a close relationship with Iraq, negotiating huge deals and protecting Saddam Hussein's access to radio jammers and intercepts, global positioning equipment, high speed computers, antidotes for nerve agents and other items with dual civilian-military applications.

Russia is also cozy with the world's most recent nuclear threat, North Korea, whose dictator, Kim Jong II, visited Moscow twice in the past two years.

Then there's the frightful campaign against the Chechens, which spares neither civilians nor combatants. President Vladimir Putin responded to human rights protests by expelling monitors and journalists. He's also getting rid of Roman Catholic priests, labor organizers, Peace Corps volunteers and others who complicate things by speaking the truth and acting freely.

Despite all this, President Bush extolled Mr. Putin for having a "good soul," hosted him at his ranch and, after snubbing Mr. Kuchma in Prague, flew to St. Petersburg to assuage any concerns

the Russian president might have about NATO expansion.

By any fair measure, Ukraine does suffer from a double standard. Why? A good part of it, I think, involves the tremendous stature of Russian culture. Consider the composers: Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Rimsky-Korsakov, Shostakovich; novelists: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Bulgakov, Solzhenitsyn. Think of the Kirov Ballet, the Hermitage in St. Petersburg or Russian architecture. Indeed, Ivan the Terrible was so pleased with the work of one architect that he ordered him blinded so he couldn't design anything as beautiful ever again. Centuries later, in 1944, when cinematographer Sergei Eisenstein filmed Ivan the Terrible, people understood: Joseph Stalin.

And that's the underside of Russian culture, something many people in the West discount. They adore the Bolshoi Ballet, while accepting the ghastliness of figures like Lenin, Dzerzhinsky and Andropov. Even those who are appalled by Putin's Chechen policies, respect Russia's nuclear arsenal and veto power in the U.N. Security Council.

Ukraine, whose culture is barely known in the West, does not get the benefit of the doubt that Russia does. Ever since the 1930s, when Stalin massacred the artists and audiences that were creating a Ukrainian renaissance, the country has been in the shadows – a bit of a joke, a bit of an embarrassment – holding a seat in the United Nations, but voting exactly as the Kremlin ordered. With the exception of Ukrainians themselves, the world greeted independence as a huge surprise. Since then, Ukraine has made visible progress, but resistance from those who are vested in the past is keeping the country's democracy from really taking off. And it's leading to isolation.

Those pointing at Russia and arguing that Ukraine is subject to a double standard are right, of course, but lowering our expectations to the level that many accept for Russia is not the answer. Russia's in another league. Besides, Ukrainian independence is based on rejection of the Russian model. That's a goal the whole world can support. Certainly friends like Poland and Lithuania – countries that Russia once dominated – want Ukraine to succeed.

Today, many forces in Ukraine are working toward positive change. Most have some kind of link to America and, of course, there are several treaties that bind our two countries together, especially the one where Ukraine agreed to dismantle the third largest nuclear arsenal in existence – no small gesture. The tools are there to continue building Ukraine's democracy, but American support remains critical.

During the Clinton administration, Ukrainian American leaders – both Republicans and Democrats – met regularly with the national security team, including the president and vice-president themselves, to consult about America's policy toward Ukraine. We had lots of suggestions. Some were accepted; others were not. None of that is happening now. Not only is the Ukrainian American community not engaged in U.S.-Ukrainian policy, we don't even know what the policy is. And that's troubling.

So, when's the next meeting?



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invites you to the annual

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Juliana Wynohradnyk, Suffern, NY



Oksana Rusynko, Passaic, NJ



Larissa Sydor, Passaic, NJ



Oksana Paluch, Passaic, NJ



Marusia Drobenko, Yonkers, NY



Khrystyna Tsar, Hartford, CT



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# Western NIS Enterprise Fund chief optimistic about Ukraine's investment climate

by Maria Kulczycky  
and Andrew Finko

CHICAGO – The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, a private equity investment fund capitalized by the U.S. government, has proven that, by following sound business principles, investments in Ukraine are not only prudent, but also can be quite successful, as confirmed by its president and chief executive officer, Natalie Jaresko.

Speaking at a seminar organized by the Chicago Business and Professional Group in late November 2002, Ms. Jaresko explained the goals, strategy and operations of the \$150 million Western NIS Enterprise Fund. The seminar was held at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago.

Since its inception, the Western NIS Enterprise Fund has made investments of \$77 million in 24 companies in Ukraine and Moldova employing more than 12,000 people. The fund's success can be traced to its ability to identify undeveloped market niches that have the potential to competitively produce and sell goods for local and world markets. The fund has invested in businesses in food processing and distribution, construction materials manufacturing, packaging, light industry and financial services.

The fund succeeds by identifying the fastest growing sectors of a region's emerging market economies and identifying enterprises with outstanding growth potential and the ability to build competitive advantages. Then the fund works to build shareholder value, thus enabling it to recoup its investment and garner an appropriate return, Ms. Jaresko explained.

Reviewing the fund's many successful investments, the speaker observed that "Winners for us have been companies that meet an unsatisfied demand; are leaders in their market; have a uniquely talented management team; and an excellent customer base, distribution, brand and distinct features."

In addition to carefully screening potential firms, the fund also maintains a blocking ownership interest to, at a minimum, balance the interests of current managers and co-owners while providing direction to ensure success.

Businesses receiving the fund's equity investments also are required to adhere to strict corporate governance principles, maintain transparency in accounting, conduct annual international audits, pay required taxes, apply Western-style management and technology principles, and install world-class management information systems, according to Ms. Jaresko. As a result, two-thirds of the outstanding portfolio

is experiencing double-digit percentage increases in U.S. dollar revenues year after year.

In addition to direct investment in production and services, the Western NIS Enterprise Fund stays committed to small business development. In order to sustain and expand the growth of the small business sector in Ukraine, WNISEF became a founder of Micro Finance Bank of Ukraine (MFB), a specialized micro-lending bank set up in partnership with prominent international financial institutions such as the International Finance Corp., European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the DOEN Foundation, Internationale Micro Investitionen and the German-Ukrainian Fund. WNISEF invested \$5.65 million in equity and debt. Since its inception, MFB has disbursed \$44 million through 6,259 loans while maintaining a 0 percent default rate and a delinquency rate of 0.6 percent.

The creation of this micro-lending bank and its subsequent regional expansion into nine cities has enabled more capital to reach businesses throughout Ukraine. "Rapid development of our Micro Finance Bank and its outstanding performance is yet another proof of the growing small business and entrepreneurship culture in Ukraine," said Ms. Jaresko.

She pointed out several attractive sectors in the Ukrainian economy, including financial services (26 percent growth rate last year), retail distribution (11.5 percent), food processing (7.8 percent growth rate), and construction materials manufacturing (5.6 percent).

Among the fund's more successful investments is Slobozhanska Budivelnna Keramika (SBK), a brick factory in Romny, Sumy Oblast. SBK is an excellent example of a remarkable turnaround: an inefficient, nearly bankrupt factory in 1997, it became the premium facade brick manufacturer in Ukraine in 2001. Growing demand for SBK bricks in and outside Ukraine resulted in the company's expansion and acquisition of a second production facility in Kharkiv. While local officials in Sumy oblast were initially skeptical of the endeavor, the company's continued profitability has generated considerable tax revenues for local government, as well as reaffirming the fund's judgement and providing inspiration to other Ukrainian businesses, Ms. Jaresko related.

As evident from the brick factory example, a key strategy in determining the social viability of an investment by the Western NIS Enterprise Fund is to ensure that the business pays all taxes. Plainly stated, taxes are the proof of success to the people who live in the communities where the business

is located, since they are direct beneficiaries through improved roads, public service, and most importantly, regular paychecks for civil servants. Ukrainian companies pay corporate taxes of 30 percent of net profit and various local taxes. In SBK's example, since 1998 it has paid more than \$4.4 million in national and local taxes, contributing significantly to the development of its community.

Ms. Jaresko pointed out that several market opportunities are being missed in Ukraine because of regulatory, financial and technical environmental hurdles:

"For instance, the clay in Ukraine is of such fine quality, that Italian firms import it to fabricate the expensive tiles used in home decorating. Bringing the fabrication know-how to the source would not only make the tiles less expensive, but would provide tremendous employment opportunities in Ukraine," she said.

In addition, Ukrainian steel mills produce very high quality product, but the lack of infrastructure investment threatens to destroy their future competitiveness.

"The Western NIS Enterprise Fund's mission is to build market leaders that attract capital to the region as a result of their competitive advantage within their industry and their ability to set standards for

small and medium size businesses," Ms. Jaresko said. "But our investments have also produced direct benefits in terms of tax payments, social security contributions, salaries, and charity and community support. Indirectly, we've created value in local economies that translates to almost \$5 in impact for every dollar invested."

Over the first 10 years of Ukraine's independence, the fund has demonstrated its effectiveness and shown Ukrainian business owners (and those people living in communities where investments are made) the market potential for Ukrainian businesses to compete in local and even world markets with well-established businesses. Ms. Jaresko underscored that she is optimistic about the future of the Ukrainian economy and investment climate, which is surely and steadily making progress.

The Chicago Business and Professional Group is an organization that has been reactivated by an initiating committee after a hiatus of several years. Last year it sponsored two programs with speakers and one social reception. A full program is planned for 2003. For membership information, please write to: CBPG Membership, P.O. Box 2249, Chicago, IL 60690; or e-mail questions to CBPG@operamail.com. Annual membership dues are \$35.

## Quotable notes

"Other nations have rid themselves of weapons of mass destruction cooperatively in ways that were possible to verify. So let's talk for a moment about what real disarmament looks like.

"There are several significant examples from the recent past – among them South Africa, Ukraine and Kazakstan. ...

In the 1990s, President [Leonid] Kravchuk of Ukraine and President [Nursultan] Nazarbayev of Kazakstan ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation and START treaties, committing their countries to give up the nuclear weapons and strategic delivery systems that they had inherited with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Kazakstan and Ukraine both went even further in their disclosures and actions than was required by those treaties. Ukraine requested and received U.S. assistance to destroy its Backfire bombers and air-launched cruise missiles. Kazakstan asked the United States to remove more than 500 kg of highly enriched uranium. Given the full cooperation of both governments, implementation of the disarmament was smooth. All nuclear warheads were returned to Russia by 1996, and all missile silos and heavy bombers were destroyed before the START deadline.

"Each of these cases was different but the end result was the same: the countries disarmed while disclosing their programs fully and voluntarily. In each case, high-level political commitment to disarmament was accompanied by the active participation of national institutions to carry out that process. In each case, the responsible countries created a transparent process in which decisions and actions could be verified and audited by the international community."

– U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz addressing the Council for Foreign Relations in New York City on January 22 on the topic of Iraq's "weapons of mass terror," as transcribed by the Federal News Service and published by The New York Times.

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A huge thank-you to our many contributors for this wonderful response to our book!

Please note: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the sole fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.



## FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

### The trident in Ukraine

by Alexander Malycky

There are various theories about the origins and meaning of the trident. As a symbol, it has been found in various countries, including Ukraine, and used in a number of ways: as a religious and military emblem, as a heraldic device, as a state emblem, as a monogram and simply as a decorative design.

At present, the trident – “tryzub” in Ukrainian – is the official coat of arms of Ukraine. The oldest examples of the trident discovered by archeologists on Ukrainian territory date back to the first century AD.

As a state emblem, the trident dates back to the medieval empire of Kyivan Rus', when it was the coat of arms of several members of the ruling dynasty. At that time, the trident was stamped on gold and silver coins issued by Prince Volodymyr the Great, who might have inherited the trident of his father, Sviatoslav the Conqueror, as a dynastic coat of arms and modified it to a trident. The latter was also used on silver coins of Volodymyr's son Yaroslav (later called the Wise), probably during the period when he was governor of the city of Novgorod the Great, or Novgorod Velikii. Several other contemporary and later princes reverted to using the trident again as their coat of arms.

The trident appeared not only on coins but also on bricks of the Church of the Tithes in Kyiv, on tiles of the Dormition Cathedral in Volodymyr-Volynskiy (one of the major towns of that period), and on stones of other churches, castles and palaces. It continued to be used until the 15th century – often in some modified form – as a dynastic coat of arms of some of the ruling families in countries that emerged from Kyivan Rus'.

Additionally, the trident was also used as a religious symbol in Ukrainian folklore and church heraldry, or as a decorative element on ceramics, weapons, rings, medallions, seals and manuscripts. The wide use of the trident in Kyivan Rus' resulted in its evolving in many directions without losing its basic structure. Some of these variations were its forerunner, the bident; the trident with a cross on one of the prongs, or at the side; and the trident with a crescent moon.

In modern times, upon the recommendation of historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky, Ukraine's first president, Grand Prince Volodymyr's trident was adopted as the coat of arms of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) in 1918. By that act, the UNR leaders linked their modern Ukrainian state with the medieval empire of Kyivan Rus'. The trident, which also appeared on Ukraine's bank notes (Figure 1), was further retained as the official coat of arms by subsequent Ukrainian governments, i.e., the Hetman Government (Hetmante) and the Directory Government.

A trident with a crossed central prong was also confirmed in 1918 as the emblem of the Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet. In 1939, the Diet of Carpatho-Ukraine, the short-lived independent Ukrainian state that emerged from Czecho-Slovakia, adopted the trident with a cross as its official coat of arms. Finally, in 1992, following the restoration of Ukraine's independence the previous year, Ukraine's Parliament adopted the trident as the chief element in its coat of arms. The trident is today shown on

Ukraine's monetary emissions (coins as well as some bank notes or their watermarks; see Figure 2) and on its postage stamps.

#### The trident on postal issues of independent Ukraine, 1917-1920

As a main design element, the trident appeared on the postal issues (postage stamps, postal stationery and various postal forms) of several Ukrainian governments. The first was that of the Ukrainian Central Rada (Council), which proclaimed



Figure 1. A 1918 Ukrainian bank note.



Figure 2. From left: a bank note and a coin of the present Ukraine in karbovanets currency and a coin in its hryvnia currency.



Figure 3. From left: the April 18, 1918, perforate money tokens and the July 18, 1918, imperforate stamps of Ukraine.



Figure 4. From left: the January 1919 20-hryvni stamp of Ukraine and samples of overprinted stamps from Ukraine's Katerynoslav, Kharkiv and Kyiv postal districts.



Figure 5. From left: samples of overprinted stamps from Ukraine's Odesa, Podillia and Poltava postal districts; and locally overprinted stamps from Ovruch and Sarny.



Figure 6. A registered cover with three overprinted stamps from Ukraine's Kyiv Postal District.

the creation the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR); on November 20, 1917, and full independence from Russia on January 22, 1918. Subsequent governments were those of the Hetmanate, which created the Ukrainian State (April 29, 1918-December 19, 1918) and the Directory, which restored the UNR (December 19, 1918-November 21, 1920).

Ukrainians in territories that seceded from the Austro-Hungarian Empire formed the Western Ukrainian National Republic (WUNR), which lasted from November 1, 1918 to July 18, 1919. After January 22, 1919, the WUNR united with the UNR and became known as the Western District of the UNR. (The merger, however, was more symbolic than real and the two governments continued to conduct their affairs independently.)

The trident first appeared April 18, 1918, on perforated, stamp-like Ukrainian money-tokens. Four of the five issues show the trident somewhere in their

design; all show a trident on the reverse as part of an inscription that states that these tokens circulated in lieu of coins. On July 18, 1918, these same designs were used for Ukraine's first true postage stamps (Figure 3). In January of 1919, the trident appeared on a high-value 20-hryvni issue (Figure 4).

Additionally, tridents also appeared beginning in August of 1918 on overprinted postage stamps of Tsarist Russia (Figures 4, 5 and 6). Some 800 basic provisional postage stamps were created, about 700 of them in the postal districts of Katerynoslav, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa, Podillia and Poltava (using 32 basic overprint types) and some 100 stamps overprinted locally in close to 20 localities. All this does not take into account a wealth of overprint varieties, errors and issues whose status has, to date, not been confirmed and/or clarified, and which are known only from a few specimens. If added, these scarce items would bring the



Figure 7. From left: a Western Ukrainian stamp; and Ukrainian and Western Ukrainian stamps prepared but never issued due to the loss of Ukrainian independence.



Figure 8. A registered cover with two overprinted stamps of Western Ukraine.



Figure 9. An example of a surcharged postal card from Ukraine's Kyiv Postal District.



Figure 10. An example of a stampless postal card with trident-overprinted stamp affixed.

total to over 1,600 stamps.

The Western Ukrainian National Republic issued 19 postage stamps with trident overprints on May 8 and 13, 1919. Few of these, however, were put into circulation (Figures 7 and 8). During the time of Western Ukraine's independence, the trident also appeared on the cancellations of some post offices.

Postal stationery with trident overprints was issued in all six of the above-mentioned postal districts of Ukraine. Twenty-seven overprint types were applied to 137 pre-stamped items of tsarist and post-tsarist Russia. Included were 78 postal cards (Figure 9), already in use from July 16, 1918; 30 envelopes; 13 letter cards; 15 periodical wrappers; and one parcel card form.

Four trident-bearing postcards without imprinted stamps (Figure 10) and two parcel card forms (Figure 11) were also issued. Additionally, three stampless field postcards were prepared for use by the Ukrainian Galician Army while still in Galicia, or Halychyna, and later in the right-bank (central) Ukraine (Figure 12).

The printing of a number of postage stamps and pieces of postal stationery displaying tridents was commissioned abroad, but these items remained postally unused, due to the collapse of Ukraine as an independent country. They included one stamp of Ukraine (Figure 7), four stamps of Western Ukraine (Figure 7), as well as four Western Ukrainian postal cards (Figure 13), one C.O.D. postal form and one letter card.

**The trident on a World War II postal issue (under foreign occupation)**

World War II saw the appearance of a local trident-surcharged Soviet postal card issued in Kolomyia while this town was still under Hungarian occupation; it was later used as a postal form for a short time under the German occupation (Figure 14).

**The trident on postal issues of independent Ukraine, post-1991**

From 1992 onward, rapid inflation played havoc with the postal rates of newly independent Ukraine. Most of the Soviet-era postage stamps and postal stationery, which continued to be valid for postal usage, and also the early postal issues of Ukraine, were either quickly used up, or became practically useless due to their low denominations. As a result, between 1992 and early 1995, the Post of Ukraine was unable to supply adequate quantities of its own postage stamps and postal stationery with the then valid rates.

So, between 1992 and 1994, the central postal authorities were forced to allow locally applied surcharges, mostly on old Soviet postal stationery, but later also on Ukrainian stationery. This situation resulted in some 50 different trident types, some even encountered in the heavily Russified sections of the country (Figures 15 and 16). Local postage stamps were also created, many of which showed the trident (Figures 17 and 18).

After 1995, sufficient stamps and stationery became available and the need for these provisional issues became unnecessary.

Throughout the entire period of Ukraine's present independence, the trident has appeared quite often on national postage stamps (Figure 19) and on postal stationery issues (Figure 20). Additionally, in Lviv only, the trident was also carried for a few years on calendar cancels used with slogan-type meter cancellations (Figure 21).

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The author is indebted to Ivan Bobyn, the late Ivan Bulat, Borys Fessak and Dr. Andriy Zhuk for supplying him with some of the materials and/or illustrations reproduced in this article.



Figure 11. A stampless Ukrainian postal parcel card with trident-overprinted stamps.



Figure 12. An example of a stampless field postcard used by the Ukrainian Galician Army.



Figure 13. An example of a Western Ukrainian postal card that was never issued due to the loss of Ukrainian independence.



Figure 14. The 1941 locally surcharged postal card of Kolomyia issued under Hungarian occupation and later used for a short time under German occupation.

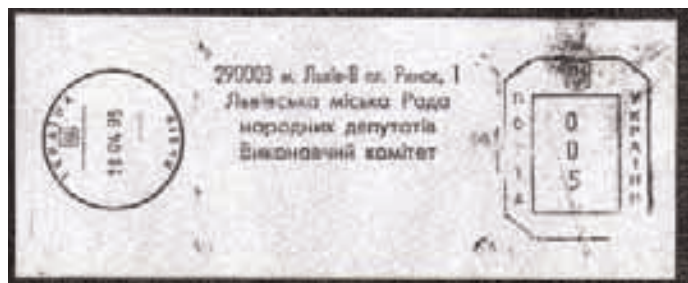


Figure 21. A 1995 Lviv meter cancellation with a slogan shows tridents on the round "cancel" portion on the left and on the octagonal "stamp" portion on the right.



Figure 15. A 1993 locally surcharged registered cover from Kosiv in western Ukraine.



Figure 16. A 1995 locally surcharged registered cover from Stakhanov in eastern Ukraine.



Figure 17. From left: examples of locally overprinted stamps from Kyiv, Melitopol and Chernivtsi, and locally produced stamps of Boyarka and Kharkiv, all issued in the early 1990s.



Figure 18. A 1993 registered cover with five locally produced stamps of Rivne.



Figure 19. Some stamps of present-day Ukraine.



Figure 20. A recent pre-stamped Ukrainian commemorative envelope.

## Ukrainian presence at 'Masterpieces of the Russian Underground' concert series at Lincoln Center



Hashimoto

Oleh Krysa

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

NEW YORK – Ukrainian violinist Oleh Krysa, professor at the Eastman School of Music and former prominent student of David Oistrakh at the Moscow Conservatory – who was esteemed in the former USSR as a soloist, chamber musi-

cian and teacher, is among the featured performers taking part in the three-concert series "Masterpieces of the Russian Underground," presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at Alice Tully Hall on January 24-February 2.

Among composers featured in the program is Ukrainian Valentin Silvestrov whose compositions – String Quartet No. 1 and "The Messenger" for Solo Piano – were performed on January 28 in the second part of the series, titled "Song of Innocence and Experience: Serialism and Post-Modern Style."

The series, curated and directed by pianist Vladimir Feltsman, features music by proscribed composers of the second half of the 20th century whose music did not comply with Soviet aesthetic strictures and who experimentally broke with accepted musical conventions.

Mr. Krysa was slated to perform in all three concerts, beginning with the first program titled "Russian Expressionism: From Shostakovich to Schnittke" (January 24). Well-known as a champion of Alfred Schnittke's music, Mr. Krysa premiered many of the late composer's pieces, including several that were dedicated to him, such as "A Paganini," "Concerto Grosso No. 3,"

and "Piano Quartet after Sketches by Mahler."

(As special guest with Irina Schnittke, widow of the composer, Maestro Krysa appeared with the Winnepesaukee Chamber Players (of which he is a member) and the New York Symphonic Ensemble, under the direction of Mamoru Takahara, in a commemorative concert titled "Remembering Alfred Schnittke" at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall on April 29, 1999.)

Mr. Krysa's close relationship to Schnittke was underscored in a lengthy New York Times article titled "Where Composers Still Held Sway, From Underground," by Joseph Horowitz, (Sunday, January 19 issue) that appeared as a prelude to the series. The article, which explores the paradoxical influence and prestige attained by the proscribed underground composers in the Soviet Union, prominently features the festival's artistic director and former "refusenik" Mr. Feltsman.

Featured performers in the concert series are Mr. Feltsman, piano; Gary Hoffman, cello; Ani Kavafian, violin; Mr. Krysa, violin; Paul Neubauer, viola; and David Shifrin, artistic director, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, clarinet.

"Masterpieces of the Russian

Underground" program is supplemented by poetry readings, a film program ("Soviet Sounds: Russian and Soviet Composers in the Cinema"), a photography exhibit, and lectures.

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As happens all too often in such forums, the program organizers used imprecise and misleading terminology when they labeled the entire series "Masterpieces of the Russian (rather than Soviet) Underground."

In fact, the third musical program of the series, "Mirror in the Mirror: Search for Unity and Order" (February 2), features exclusively non-Russian composers from the new independent states, among them, Ashot Zohrabian (Armenia), Faradz Karayev (Azerbaijan), Arvo Pärt (Estonia), Giya Kancheli (Georgia) and Sofia Gubaidulina (Tatar Republic).

The Ukrainian composer Silvestrov, however, although correctly identified in the program's website as "a leading voice of the new Ukraine," appears in the second musical program, titled "Song of Innocence and Experience: Serialism and Post-modern Style (January 28), along with the Russian composers: Andre Volkonsky, Nikolai Karetnikov, Edison Denisov and Victor Kissine.

## Parfeniuk's work on display at Museum of Imagination

HUDSON, N.Y. – The Museum of the Imagination, under the direction of Mikhail Chemiakin, opened its new exhibition titled "The Reaper" on January 11, coinciding with the town's monthly "Gallery Crawl."

The exhibition traces, within its means, the history of the imaging, portrayal and symbolic use of death in drawings, painting and sculpture as manifested in various cultures throughout the last millennium.

As in previous museum exhibitions that evolved from considerations of a specific conceptual theme, (e.g., last year's exhibit focused on "the sphere"), the museum's exhibition space is divided into two sections, with one section given over to original works and artifacts by contemporary artists, and the other, featuring images from Mr. Chemiakin's research into the particular subject.

Taking part in this year's group exhibit, composed of former émigrés as well as American artists, is Gennadiy Parfeniuk, a.k.a. Gepar, a noted Kyiv sculptor who has been affiliated since 1996 with the museum and its parent institution, the Institute of the Philosophy and Psychology of Art. Mr. Parfeniuk's entry is a computer generated triptych titled "Path to Heaven," a conceptualization of the passage from life through physical death to eternity.

A noted Kyiv sculptor who gained recognition and acclaim in the early 1980s

in the field of monumental sculpture and sculptural portraiture, Mr. Parfeniuk's work since 1989 has been characterized by general abstraction, specifically, the conceptualization of form and space, and interest in computer-generated art. His work is characterized as a synthesis of architecture and sculpture, with the sphere and its metamorphosis as a key concept in all of his current work.

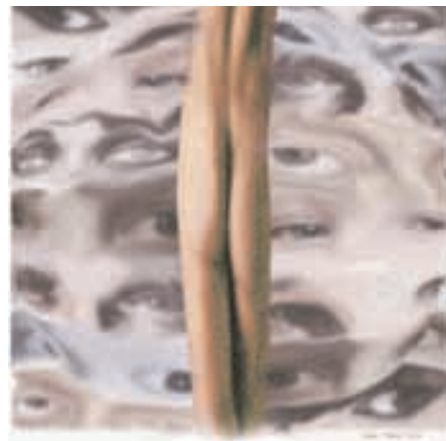
Mr. Parfeniuk's work was included in the "Artworks in Book Form" issue of the Italian arts catalogue *Liberazione*, which comes out in Turin under the auspices of the Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio and is sent out to art galleries worldwide.

This summer Mr. Parfeniuk returned to Ukraine, where he met with his colleagues, leading Ukrainian architects and artists who are engaged in the reconstruction and reconceptualization of the capital in the post-Soviet era. While in Kyiv the artist was engaged in discussions of having his work "Sphere with Cross Inside" installed in the city's center.

A solo exhibit of Mr. Parfeniuk's work, a thematic exhibition devoted to the concept of the sphere as expressed in his graphic work, sculpture and computer images, is to be held in mid-March at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York.

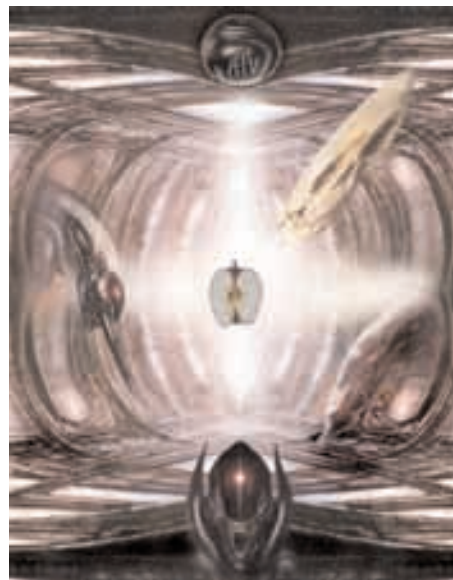
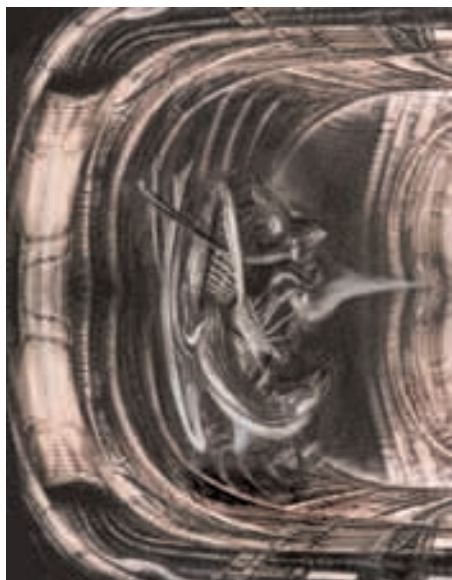
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The Museum of the Imagination is



"Desire," computer-generated image, 2002. The work will appear in the forthcoming spring issue of the Italian arts catalogue *Liberazione*, published in Turin under the auspices of the Fondazione Palazzo Bricherasio.

located in Hudson, N.Y., a town that has gained regional recognition as a growing antique and arts center in New York state's Hudson Valley region. The museum is located at 217 Warren St. Museum hours are Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m., by appointment. For additional information call (518) 851-2232 or access the museum's website at: [www.imagination.8m.net](http://www.imagination.8m.net).



"Path to Heaven," by Gennadiy Parfeniuk, computer-generated triptych based on the film design and artwork of noted Swiss artist HR Giger for the film "Alien," that forms part of "The Reaper" exhibition that opened this month at The Museum of the Imagination in Hudson, N.Y.

## Poet and literary activist receives jubilee medal

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Lydia Palij – well-known organizer of writers from Ukraine for the annual International Festival of Authors, spokesman for Ukrainian dissidents in the Canadian branch of PEN International, active member of several Canadian literary associations and a widely published essayist and poet in her own right – has been awarded a Golden Jubilee Medal.

The commemorative medal was created to mark Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee, as queen of Canada. It is being awarded to "Canadian citizens who have made an outstanding and exemplary contribution to the community or to Canada as a whole." Nominations were made by communities and organizations; Ms. Palij was proposed by the Festival of Authors organization. The medal itself is gold-plated bronze, bearing an effigy of The Queen on one side and a stylized maple leaf on the other. The Medal is worn suspended from a broad royal blue ribbon.

Ms. Palij has written: "I have always believed that our duty in the diaspora is to work to disseminate information about Ukraine in the countries where we live. In 1986 I became a member of PEN International to help imprisoned Ukrainian writers. My particular responsibility was the poet Mykola Horbal who was then in Soviet camp 398/36. I wrote letters to him, to his family and to the commandant of the camp. Although from the experience of PEN it was known that most of the letters did not reach their destinations, the fact that the regime knew that these letters were being sent did help the prisoner. At the same time I kept the Canadian press informed about the situation in Ukraine at the time,

(Continued on page 17)

## Christina Shmigel: sculpture created in response to its environment

Christina Shmigel's sculpture is often created in response to the place of its making. ... Attention to specific environments and the meditative qualities of repetitive labor are hallmarks of Shmigel's sculpture. The workmanlike quality of her art is not coincidental; she has expressed an attachment to the fire of the welding torch and to the processes of manual construction. Shmigel attended art school, and she also studied welding as a craft. She notes that while craftspeople pay close attention to connections, to the "small moments in sculpture," sculptors tend to be more interested in larger gestures, or "The big idea." Her work unites art with craft and poetry with labor.

— Robin Clark, associate curator of contemporary art, Saint Louis Museum of Art.

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Christina Shmigel's installation "The Logic of Attachment" — forged and fabricated steel, steel pipe, and plumbing fixtures — opened at the Saint Louis Art Museum as part of a series of exhibitions featuring the work of contemporary artists. Titled "Currents 87: Christina Shmigel," the exhibit, which opened on December 6, 2002, is on view through February 16.

Ms. Shmigel's work over the years developed from individual and discrete sculptures into the conceptual framework of interrelationships between pieces that depend upon their surrounding. Her current installation at the Saint Louis Art Museum sets the formal museum interior in dialogue with aspects of the psychological and physical landscape of St. Louis.

The sculptor, who learned blacksmithing in the 1990s, works with plumbing parts and forged elements. Her background in welding contributes to the workmanlike quality of her art. In the installation, all the tank forms are forged and fabricated; the plumbing parts are incorporated into the work as a sensible way to make larger pieces that disassemble. She also points out and enjoys the reference in these parts — referred to as elbows, nipples, couplings — to our bodies.

The installation is informed by the landscape of St. Louis in that the city, as noted by the artist, has "an unusual variety of industrial structures because of its history as a manufacturing city, and a lot of these forms are now antiquated..." supplying, in terms of urban archaeology, "evidence of what came before."

During a gallery talk/interview with curator Robin Clark, Ms. Shmigel defined the relation of her work to the beaux-art interior of the museum, noting that "the connection was in beauty."

"What interests me is the beauty of what is ordinary and pragmatic and easily overlooked. I think it was Le Corbusier who said, 'grain elevators are the cathedrals of America.' This kind of beauty is unsettling in a museum setting," she said.

In her gallery talk Ms. Shmigel noted that her work has "shifted from discrete objects to pieces that depended upon their surroundings, with the sculptures including the space around them as part of themselves." This idea evolved, apart from an interest in the steel forms themselves, as a means of "energizing the space, in how the viewer moves amongst the objects."

While paying attention to specific environments, Ms. Shmigel's work has a deeply meditative quality. In speaking of the various levels of meaning in her work, the sculptor noted that "there's always a sense of longing that I am addressing. Not so much a yearning for the past, but a sense



Christina Shmigel's installation "The Logic of Attachment," which opened at the Saint Louis Art Museum, December 6, 2002, and is on view through February 16.

that things get lost and it is their absence that lingers."

She goes on to say that "the duality of isolation and belonging is very much at the core of [her] my work. Some of this comes, I think, from growing up with parents who were exiles — what was left behind was much more real to them than what was present. The work also has this displacement: it appears to be about plumbing, but it's real subject matter hovers in the air. It's something about our conflicting desire for

of sculpture at Webster University in St. Louis. She studied painting at the Rhode Island School of Design and received an MFA in sculpture from Brooklyn College and an MFA in metalsmithing from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

A native New Yorker, Ms. Shmigel grew up in New York's Ukrainian community, where she was a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and attended the School of Ukrainian Studies of the Self Reliance Society. Her first solo art

Bonsack Gallery, St. Louis (2000); and "Midnight Train," Thomas K. Lang Gallery, Vienna, Austria (1999).

Among her recent selected group exhibitions are: "Ancient Futures," Nova Scotia Center for Craft and Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia (2001); "Ironing," National Ornamental Metals Museum, Memphis, Tenn. (2000); Kunst in der Landschaft, GutGasteil Gallery, Gasteil, Austria (1999); "Bottomland," in collaboration with the poet Richard Newman and the photographer John Hilgert, Forum for Contemporary Art, St. Louis, Mo., (1998); and "Women of Iron," Asheville Art Museum, North Carolina (1998).

For a project outside of Seoul, South Korea, as part of an International Environmental Art Symposium (2000), Ms. Shmigel was offered a site near a lake that had been formed by the flooding of an ancient village. For "What Lies Beneath," Ms. Shmigel carried rocks up a steep embankment to build a stone house that was sealed except for a small niche, and there she hung reeds lined with gold leaf from tree branches to create a shimmering, ephemeral canopy. The piece was built in such a way that it would slowly erode and return to the earth.

**"What interests me is the beauty of what is ordinary and pragmatic and easily overlooked."**

separateness and connection."

In his review of Ms. Shmigel's work St. Louis Post-Dispatch, critic Jeff Daniel wrote, "[This] talented sculptor is a conceptualist of the best sort. She not only knows how to work her mind, she knows how to get her hands dirty." She brings to life the heritage of remaining structures of the industrial era. She turns the mundane and usual into what Mr. Daniel refers to "as a reminder to preserve this heritage via her own updated interpretation." He goes on to propose that "her goal is much larger, one that goes well beyond the metal cones and iron pipes on display here. She seems to be taking up the call of John Cage, the late composer, who espoused the theory that anything and everything could be music."

Ivy Cooper, writing for the Riverfront Times in St. Louis, contrasts Ms. Shmigel's current installation with "Joplin," Richard Serra's steel construction. Ms. Cooper notes that Ms. Shmigel's work never ignores its surroundings; it carries on a conversation with the two large Anselm Kiefer works visible in the adjoining galleries.

The critic concludes: " 'The Logic of Attachment' wants to tell us something about the past and the present, attachment and loss, and how we see the built environment. We'll all be better off if we listen."

When asked how she sees her work in relation to the tradition of modernist welded sculpture practiced by artists like Picasso, Julio Gonzalez and David Smith, Ms. Shmigel noted that "there is something in the weight of all that work that is too 'masculine' for me. I am much more interested in African metal work, particularly that of the Dogon people in Mali."

Ms. Shmigel's interest in African metal work has taken her on extensive travels in Africa — to Mali, Ivory Coast, Niger and Nigeria — a continent where, she observes, smiths are perceived as nearly shamanistic in their power, so they are both respected and feared."

\*\*\*

Christina Shmigel is assistant professor

exhibition was at the Ukrainian Artists' Association in New York. Ms. Shmigel is also a member of the Ukrainian National Association Branch 194.

Among the artist's recent selected solo exhibitions are: "Henry's Plumbing," Hunt Gallery, Webster University, St. Louis (2001); "Tipple: Constructions in Steel,"



Christina Shmigel at work, smithing.

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## Kostenko faction...

(Continued from page 3)

affect the behavior of the president," said Mr. Matvienko, who is a former close ally of President Leonid Kuchma, but broke with him during the 1998 election season over the way the presidential election campaign was conducted. He has stood firmly in the opposition camp since then. The Sobor Party that he founded after his split with Mr. Kuchma's supporters in the National Democratic Party, recently united with Lev Lukianenko's Ukrainian Republican Party. Both are part of the Tymoshenko Bloc parliamentary faction.

Mr. Matvienko added that, in order to broaden the national democratic spectrum, the unification process must include other political powers. The two party leaders noted that the combined support for the Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko Blocs in last year's parliamentary elections included about a third of the Ukrainian electorate, which far exceeded the electoral support for either the combined pro-presidential forces or the left in the current Verkhovna Rada.

A press release the two party leaders jointly issued underscored that unless the leaders of the various political organizations making up the democratic right work to temper their individual ambitions, the coalition will again fracture and split as it did in the early 1990s, when the movement was most popular. It called on Mr. Yushchenko of Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous political organization to become political partners.

## Ukrainian airline...

(Continued from page 3)

President's Club or United Airline's Red Carpet Club.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, Valeriy Kuchinsky, seemed pleased by the announcement. "This is a historic event," the ambassador said, "a Ukrainian carrier has to happen - a carrier from the capitol of Ukraine that would fly to other major Western cities has to happen."

Aerosvit officials said their plans for the future include a development program that would create "a convenient connection between cities in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Russia and North America."

Currently Aerosvit uses a fleet of seven Boeing aircraft, including a recently purchased Boeing 767-300ER for transcontinental flights, with the purchase of a second Boeing 767-300ER planned in May.

Aerosvit first opened for business in 1994 with flights from Kyiv to Tel-Aviv, Israel; Odesa, Ukraine; Thessaloniki and Athens, Greece; and Larnaca, Cyprus.

Aerosvit's newest office, which opened for business on January 27, is located at 420 Lexington Ave., Suite 2930, New York, NY 10170, and can be reached by phone, (212) 661-1620; or fax, (212) 661-1602.

Aerosvit Airlines is a closed joint-stock company with 62 percent of its shares owned by Ukrainian shareholders. Twenty-two percent of those shares are held by the State Property Fund of Ukraine and 40 percent are held by the Ukrainian travel agency CJSC-Aerotour Agency for Air Communications and Tourism. The remaining 38 percent belong to a Dutch investment company. As of the beginning of 2002 Aerosvit had 650 employees scattered throughout offices located in Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Greece, Thailand, Hungary, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Russia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Sweden, Bulgaria, Israel, Malta and Poland.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

the principles of such unification. According to Mr. Kostenko, the Udovenko faction suggested that the Ukrainian National Rukh disband itself and that its members join the National Rukh of Ukraine. The previously monolithic Rukh split into the Kostenko and Udovenko factions in 1999. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Ukraine, NATO publish action plan

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry and NATO on January 22 published on their official websites the text of the Ukraine-NATO Action Plan adopted by the NATO-Ukraine Commission at the NATO summit in Prague in November (see <http://www.nato.int/docu/basicxt/b021122a.htm>), Ukrainian media reported. "The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify clearly Ukraine's strategic objectives and priorities in pursuit of its aspirations towards full integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures, and to provide a strategic framework for existing and future NATO-Ukraine cooperation under the Charter," the text says, adding that the plan will be reviewed periodically. The plan lays out jointly agreed-upon principles and objectives in five sections: political and economic issues; security, defense and military issues; information protection and security; legal issues; and mechanisms of implementation. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Ukraine sees first sanctions

KYIV – The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) has confirmed that the United States and Canada introduced sanctions against Ukraine because of the country's flawed legislation to fight money laundering, ITAR-TASS reported on January 22, quoting FATF spokeswoman Helen Fischer. FATF in

December recommended that its 29 member-states scrutinize financial transactions before any business is done with Ukrainian companies or individuals, regularly report on transactions with Ukrainian businesses and bankers, and follow stringent procedures in opening foreign branches of Ukrainian banks. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Minister: money-laundering law sufficient

KYIV – Justice Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych said on January 23 that Ukraine has met all the demands of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) regarding legal measures to combat money laundering, Interfax reported. On November 28, 2002, the Verkhovna Rada passed an anti-money-laundering law; on December 24, it amended the law following criticism from FATF; and on January 16 lawmakers adopted amendments to the Criminal Code toughening penalties for money laundering. Some FATF member-states have introduced sanctions against Ukraine, citing the country's flawed anti-money-laundering legislation. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Gas supplies to energy producers cut

KYIV – Haz Ukrainy, a component of the Naftohaz Ukrainy oil and gas supplier, has decided to cut gas deliveries to Ukraine's power-generating and distributing companies to 16 million cubic meter per day as of January 24, which means a 50 percent reduction of the current supplies, Interfax reported on January 24. The company said the move was prompted by the fact that power producers now pay for just 5.6 percent of the gas they consume. Last year, the power-generating companies accumulated more than 77 million hrv (\$14.4 million) in debt to Haz Ukrainy. Moreover, they have not yet paid for 1.3 billion cubic meters of gas delivered to them in 1999-2001. (RFE/RL Newline)



Coloratura Soprano, Pedagogue, Fashion Designer, and Community Activist Dies

VERONICA BRONISLAVA (nee DROZDOWSKA)  
CEHELSKY

Family here in America, as well as in Ukraine mourn the loss of a beloved sister, mother, grandmother, great-grand mother, and aunt. Born in Lviv, Ukraine on March 15th, 1911, Mrs. Cehelsky, wife of the late Dr. George Cehelsky, died peacefully and without medical intervention at nearly 92 years of age on January 10th, 2003. Her unexpected death came as a surprise to the medical staff of Mifflin Center, a nursing home in Reading, Pennsylvania. Only minutes before, they had heard her strong operatic voice carrying from her room into the halls, as so many times before. These were her final triumphant notes, but not understanding Ukrainian, the staff cannot tell us which song she chose as her last. As told by the staff of Mifflin Center, this event has left an indelible mark on its administration, its employees and on anyone who has heard the heartwarming tale of the singer who passed on, with the echoes of Ukraine still resounding.

Surviving are her sister Maria Marko, along with her daughter Christine Hordijenko, and son Stefan Marko; her daughter Anisia Kowalchuk with her husband Roman, and their children Roman, George, and Anna Maria, with their families; and daughter Olga Maria Cehelska.

Requiem services were celebrated on Saturday, January 18th, at 12 noon at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jenkintown, Pa., followed by burial at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery at Fox Chase. Presiding over the requiem services was Father Petro Semenych.

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests to honor Veronica Cehelsky with a donation to the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society, or to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. Those wishing to donate, please contact Dr. Olga Cehelska, 2313-103 Beach Haven Drive, Virginia Beach, Va., 23451, or phone (757) 496-3560, or Anisia Kowalchuk, 12 Seven Springs Drive, Reading, Pa., 19607, or phone (610) 775 7593.*



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 16 січня 2003 р., по короткій недузі відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий і незабутній ЧОЛОВІК, БАТЬКО, ТЕСТЬ і СВАТ,

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**ВАСИЛЬ ПИЛИПЮК**

Нар. 28 жовтня 1922 р. в селі Тростянець, Івано-Франківської області. Син Федора й Анастасії (з дому Гайсанюк); наймолодший брат Григорія, Анни, Миколи й Параскеви. До початку війни працював два роки на Азовському морі, звідки втік додому, відмірявши власними стопами рідну землю зі Сходу на Захід. Служив у І-й Українській Дивізії Української Національної Армії.

Після звільнення з полону одружився 1947 р. з Анною Власенко. Того ж року емігрував з Італії до Ліми, Перу. Разом із сім'єю переїхав до Чикаго в 1961 р., де працював звичайним робітником. А з 1990 р. жив з дружиною біля дочки та зятя в Едмонтоні. Щедро дарував на благородні цілі, зокрема на освіту.

Залишилися в глибокій жалобі:

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сваха – НІНА ІЛЬНИЦЬКА,  
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У пам'ять покійного буде заснований стипендійний фонд для студентів української мови та літератури при Альбертському університеті. Замість квітів просимо ласкаво складати пожертви на:

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## Poet and literary...

(Continued from page 12)

established links with reporters, some of whom occasionally still turn to me for information."

"When Ukraine was launched on its road to independence, I turned to another project. Thanks to my acquaintance with the director of the International Festival of Authors, I was able, after two years of trying and many difficulties, to have Ivan Drach read at the festival. This was 1989, Drach had just become president of Rukh and he not only acquainted the

Toronto literati with Ukrainian literature but made a political splash. In subsequent years, I was able to facilitate invitations and find financial resources so that many other Ukrainian writers could take part in the festival: Ihor Kalynets, Vasyl Horoborodko, Mykola Vorobiov, Oksana Zabuzhko, Yuri Andrukhovych and others."

With the support of the Writers' Union of Canada, in 1995, Ms. Palij delivered a shipment of over 600 English-and French-language books to the Vernadsky Library in Kyiv, travelling there with six other Union members.



Sarmite Bulte (right), parliamentary secretary to the minister of heritage and member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park presents Lydia Palij with the queen's jubilee medal during a ceremony organized by the MP's office in November 2002.

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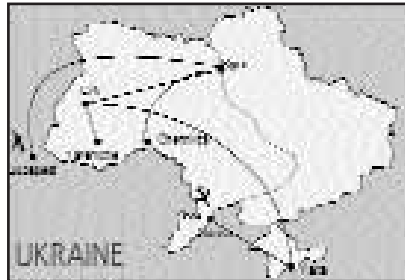
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## \$250,000 or bust...

(Continued from page 1)

scored in the 90th-95th percentile (the average for the period 1990-2002) on standardized achievement tests, and its graduates are sought by the top private high schools in New Jersey, with a significant number receiving scholarships. The admissions director at the prestigious Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, N.J., recently commented: "We have had an endless stream of excellent students from this school."

As for the Ukrainian character of the school, it is worth noting that the Ukrainian language is taught daily as a subject, the music program encompasses choral singing in Ukrainian, and myriad school programs underline and reinforce the Ukrainian heritage, from Taras Shevchenko Day concerts and assemblies commemorating the historic events of November 1, 1918, in Ukraine to St. Nicholas Feast Day programs and the annual Christmas concerts performed for the community at large.

### Parents take the lead

As a result of a general parish meeting held on December 15, 2002, parents and parishioners agreed to discuss the creation of a board to find ways to preserve the school, and an ad hoc committee composed of parents, alumni, teachers, parents of future students, and supporters of the school began holding weekly meetings.

At the most recent meeting, on Friday, January 24, concerned activists decided to formally establish the Committee for the Development of St. John's School and elected the following to its executive committee: Myron Martynetz (chairman), Rostyslaw Robak, Bohdan Duchnycz, Volodymyr Stashchysyn, Volodymyr Kovbasniuk, Lesia Frazier and Kristina Rak-Brown.

During the course of that meeting, the determination to save the school was palpable as speaker after speaker noted the special nature of St. John's School and the unique opportunity it offers for children to be educated in the Ukrainian Christian tradition. Mr. Martynetz, a parent of three current students and one alumnus of St. John's, spoke of the school's "incredibly caring and nurturing environment" and how that benefits the children who are part of its extraordinary community.

As fifth grade teacher Robert Sanzari, who has been with St. John's for three years, put it: "If [Parish] Council members came to my class they would see that each kid is special and they would be fighting to save the school."

Ms. Rak-Brown, a graduate of St. John's School, told The Weekly she will fight to save the school because, "I recognize that St. John's School provides its students with an outstanding Ukrainian Catholic education that is culturally and spiritually rich."

"My biased opinion aside, secondary schools throughout New Jersey also recognize St. John School's academic quality and actively recruit its graduates. The facts speak for themselves," she continued. "Many of the school's alumni are now successful professionals and productive members of society. St. John's is a unique educational institution that is absolutely worth saving. It is incumbent upon every member of the Ukrainian American community to support St. John's School."

### Schoolchildren involved

The schoolchildren, too, are contributing to the effort to save their school. They have taken their traditional Christmas concert on the road to neighboring parishes in Whippany and Elizabeth, N.J., and are scheduled to perform in Jersey City's Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church this Sunday and afterwards possibly in

Passaic, N.J.

At the first concert, held on January 12 in the hall of St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, Jarema Rakoczy of the school's Fathers' Club introduced the program and informed the audience that there have been reports the school may be closing. "But we will not let this happen," he underscored.

The children received a warm welcome from Whippany's parishioners. Their pastor, the Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Roman Mirchuk, concluded the program by thanking the children for their extraordinary gift to his parish of beautiful and unusual Ukrainian carols, and by announcing a contribution of \$1,000 from the parish and his own donation of \$500 toward the school fund – this despite the fact that the Whippany congregation is now fully involved in its own fund-raising activities for a new church and cultural center. "We hope that your school will continue to educate our children," stated Father Mirchuk.

This week, during the nationwide Catholic Schools Week, St. John's schoolchildren celebrated what Catholic schools have to offer. In addition, the Rev. Lukie spoke with students in their classrooms about the painful decision that might have to be made regarding the future of their school.

Father Lukie related: "We had the kids ask questions – it was a chance for them to share concerns. ... I told the seventh graders what a wonderful education they had already received during their eight years (beginning with kindergarten) at St. John's." Father Lukie said he also underscored how much the school's teachers had contributed. "Every teacher has given \$25,000 per year just by choosing to teach here. They could easily be making \$25,000 more elsewhere."

### Contacts with Philadelphia Archeparchy

That the school was in dire financial straits was evident already at the beginning of the current academic year.

Father Lukie told The Weekly that in the autumn of 2002 he had written a letter to Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, the primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, requesting financial assistance in the amount of \$50,000 to help the school get through the 2002-2003 academic year. He said he has yet to receive a response.

Then, in November he authored a message that he said was "painful to write," notifying parishioners and the community at large that 2002-2003 might well be the last year for St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School.

Meanwhile, according to the Philadelphia Archeparchy's newspaper, The Way (issue dated December 8, 2002), a meeting of what was referred to as "the newly established Catholic Schools Commission of our Philadelphia Archeparchy" was held on October 18, 2002. The commission comprises pastors and principals of the archeparchy's seven parochial schools – three in New Jersey: St. Nicholas in Passaic, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy and St. John's in Newark; and four in Pennsylvania: St. John the Baptist in Northampton, St. Josaphat in Philadelphia, St. Nicholas in Minersville and Transfiguration of Our Lord in Shamokin – as well as St. Basil Academy and Manor College, both located in the Philadelphia suburbs. Participants of the commission's meeting reportedly discussed "recruitment of a development officer to assist in searching and applying for grants available for school operations and student programs."

The brief news item in The Way also noted that the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Education Fund supports the

(Continued on page 20)

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## \$250,000 or bust...

(Continued from page 19)

efforts of the archeparchy's Ukrainian Catholic schools and encouraged donations to this cause. [A Weekly editorial of December 22, 2002, had encouraged donations to this fund or directly to local schools to help "provide tangible help to this essential but struggling facet of our community."]

The Weekly contacted the chancery of Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka on Friday, January 24, in hopes of getting an interview with the metropolitan and more information both about the Sheptytsky Fund, which was established back in November 2001, and about the Archieparchial School Commission. We were informed by the metropolitan's secretary that we should send our questions in writing, which we did immediately, via fax. As of Tuesday morning, January 28, The Weekly had received no response.

After another call to the Metropolitan's Chancery we learned that the hierarch was too busy to respond to our questions and that we should not expect to receive a response anytime soon as the metropolitan would be leaving town later that week and would be unavailable until mid-February, when he would be back for several days and then would be traveling once again.

A follow-up fax sent on Wednesday, January 29, nonetheless asked Metropolitan Soroka if he would like to make a brief comment on the threatened closing of St. John's School. As of press time there was no response.

### Concerns date back to 1995

The concerns of St. John's Church regarding the deficit of its parochial school were first spelled out in a letter dated June 30, 1995. A body called the Tuition Financial Committee noted that the school's 1994-1995 deficit was more than \$60,000; appended was a report from the

two parish trustees who indicated that in order to preserve the "financial integrity" of the parish, "starting with the 1995-1996 school year the parish must limit the amount of money it contributes to cover the deficit associated with the operation of the school to \$35,000." Any shortfall, the trustees noted, would have to be made up by the parents, whether by tuition increases or fund-raising, or both.

In succeeding years, the Fathers' and Mothers' clubs, as well as various school committees worked hard to increase enrollment, and thereby income, as well as conducted a variety of fund-raising activities, ranging from big-ticket raffles and solicitations of donations from alumni, to bake sales, dances and other special events. In addition, there were campaigns to raise funds for financial assistance to newly arrived immigrants from Ukraine whose children were enrolling in increasing numbers at St. John's. At the same time, increases in the price of tuition were instituted.

In 1998 a special appeal was addressed to parishioners seeking their donations to the school and assistance in recruitment efforts, as well as sponsors for the growing number of students who needed financial assistance.

Enrollment increased in the 2000-2001 academic year to 103 students – an increase of 20 students from the previous year – portending a bright future. However, the next two years saw enrollment drop to 93 students in 2001-2002, and 79 for the current school year. Simultaneously, the costs of operating the school were increasing.

According to the Rev. Lukie and the current parish trustees, George Dolinsky and Joseph Wynarczuk, over \$600,000 has been spent by the parish to subsidize the school in the past six years alone.

### A painful announcement

Via the parish bulletin of Sunday, November 3, 2002, and an e-mail message sent out to a group list of several hundred names that evening, the Ukrainian

American community learned from the Rev. Lukie that "St. John's Ukrainian Catholic School, which has faithfully served our Ukrainian community so gloriously over the past 63 years and has successfully educated thousands of our children, is on the verge of becoming part of our recorded history. The possibility of closing its doors at the end of the 2002-2003 school year is very real and may be tragically unavoidable." (A similar message appeared in The Weekly on November 24, 2002.)

The message went on to note that the parish "must budget for approximately \$680,000 this year to maintain our church and school. Already as of last Sunday, October 27, we are burdened with a deficit of \$84,721.00 for this year alone. By the end of the year [2002], all our liquid assets and savings will barely amount to \$200,000. Truly within two years our church could sadly face bankruptcy." A general meeting was announced for December 15, 2002, in order to allow the school and parish community to come together and share ideas.

A follow-up message the next Sunday again encouraged all to attend the general meeting. It also referred to the fact that St. John's is "not unique in facing this painful problem" and went on to note the closings in the last 15 years of Immaculate Conception Cathedral School in Philadelphia, St. Volodymyr School in Elizabeth, N.J., and Ss. Peter and Paul in Jersey City, N.J.

Most recently, on January 26, the Rev. Lukie announced in the parish bulletin that \$250,000 must be raised in the next few weeks if St. John's is to open in September 2003.

The latest projections for the year 2003-2004 at St. John's foresee a deficit of \$221,800 based on an enrollment of 70 students. That number takes into account the number of students graduating or otherwise leaving, plus an incoming class of kindergartners, but does not foresee any increase in enrollment despite the development committee's plan to intensify recruitment efforts. It must be noted that the total deficit is \$20,000 higher than figures

released just five days earlier as the new projection appears to take into account discounts for families with more than one child, plus the reduced tuition paid by those families considered hardship cases – primarily members of the Fourth Wave of immigrants to this country.

In a separate letter to the parents of schoolchildren, the Rev. Lukie noted: "The Parish Council has seriously and realistically assessed the financial/student situation and has made a difficult and painful decision. This decision has been conveyed to the Metropolitan Archbishop, [Stefan] Soroka, in Philadelphia, and His Grace acknowledges that this is the closure of another sad chapter in our Ukrainian Church."

### Immediate action needed

But this chapter will not end if the parents and friends of St. John's School have anything to say about it. Parents simply refuse to give up without a fight, arguing that their children's well-being is worth fighting for. Supporters say that, if the school shuts its doors, the closing of the parish won't be far behind.

Among the immediate actions that the newly created Committee for the Development of St. John's School intends to take are: a phone-a-thon targeting alumni of St. John's School, mailings to Ukrainian American community members, and a recruitment drive to enlist more students.

Most pressing, of course, is the April 15 deadline, by which time the committee must raise \$250,000 to ensure that the school exists next year. However, its chairman, Myron Martynetz emphasized that executive committee members already are looking ahead to the development of their beloved school beyond the 2003-2004 academic year.

Donations may be made out to Committee for the Development of St. John's School and sent to: Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, 734 Sandford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106. For information, readers may telephone Volodymyr Kovbasniuk at the credit union, (973) 373-7839.

## Ukrainian delegation...

(Continued from page 1)

The senior leadership of the delegation also includes Serhii Yermilov, who heads the Fuel and Energy Ministry, and Oleksander Shlapak, deputy director of the National Bank of Ukraine.

Even though he did not make it to Washington in person, Mr. Azarov, in a by-lined article published in the January 26 issue of The Washington Times, underscored the areas in which Ukraine has tried and will continue to strive to improve its economic and trade relationship with the United States. As examples, he cited the enactment of "some very stringent intellectual property protections" and "open competitive market procedures" in steel and metals exporting (in response to U.S. sanctions against rampant CD piracy and steel dumping practices), as well as "significant strides" in

bringing Ukrainian anti-money-laundering laws into compliance with the international Financial Action Task Force guidelines (following the implementation by a number of Western countries of stringent restrictions on financial transactions with Ukraine).

Ukraine welcomes the U.S. government's statements about the need to finally dispense with the Soviet era Jackson-Vanik Amendment restrictions on Ukraine, Mr. Azarov said in the article, but "would like to see a little bit more" in this direction and would like to see Washington elevate Ukraine into the "market economy" country status.

Since bilateral trade is a "two-way street," Mr. Azarov said, Ukraine is ready to "engage in constructive talks" about further protection of intellectual property rights, market access to American poultry producers, and "various problems" experienced by American investors.

## The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com), the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.



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## Ukraine and Russia...

(Continued from page 1)

Sea of Azov should be drawn at the sea bottom, while Ukraine has urged that it be enforced at the surface as well. At issue here are rich fishing resources in that body of water, most of which are located near the Ukrainian coast.

The Russian leader echoed the Ukrainian president's remarks after the historic signing ceremony, stating that the Russian intention is for close, but equilateral relations between the two countries.

"I wish to stress once again that Russia has made this step consciously, because we must resolve all questions that could cause any doubt as to Russia's intention to build its relations with Ukraine on equal footing," said Mr. Putin.

President Putin's plane landed in Kyiv the evening of January 27 and he was quickly whisked off by motorcade to the Ukraina Palace of Culture for the opening of the Year of Russia in Ukraine ceremonies and a jubilee concert by Russian performers initiating a series of cultural events in Ukraine over the next 12 months. The ceremonial year is aimed at bringing the two countries closer.

At the concert hall he joined President Kuchma in lauding the necessity and inviolability of the Ukraine-Russia partnership. While Mr. Putin said that the Year of Russia in Ukraine would "strengthen the old friendship," which he called "one for the ages," Mr. Kuchma said the two countries needed each other to prosper in a globalized world.

"They are being taught by the past how to build the future, and they are ready to respond to the challenges of the new millennium, to demonstrate the nobility of their intentions and the grandeur of their aspirations to the world," said Mr. Kuchma.

However, many of the more than 500 demonstrators who stood outside the Ukraina Palace of Culture would undoubtedly have disagreed with the two state leaders. The crowd, consisting of members and supporters of the democratic right political forces of the Our Ukraine parliamentary faction and the National Rukh of Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Party and the Sobor-Republican Party chanted, "Go Home Putin," while holding placards that announced: "No one has been forgotten, nothing has been forgotten"; "Moscow Church Out"; and "UOC-MP: Nest of Moscow's Special Intelligence."

Representatives of these political forces and members of Ukraine's intelligentsia, including Social Democratic Party (United) leader and first Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, along with fellow National Deputies Ivan Pliusch, Borys Tarasyuk and Viktor Yushchenko, and former Minister of Defense Kostiantyn Morozov signed an open letter to President Kuchma enumerating their concerns over the "dangerous tendencies" that could result from the project. Among the various issues raised they accented the inability to resolve current problems associated with dominance of the Russian language in Ukraine and the failure to re-establish Ukrainian as the dominant language as well as problems in establishing Ukrainian-based cultural and educational curriculums in Ukraine's schools.

At one of several press conferences held in the days around the Putin visit, Prof. Roman Trofymov of Kharkiv University commented that a special year in Ukraine dedicated to Russia is superfluous and even absurd.

"Why do we need a special year of Russia in Ukraine, when every year has been Russia's year in Ukraine," explained Prof. Trofymov, alluding to 350 years of Moscow's political and cultural hegemony over Ukraine, which the country shook off only after the downfall of the Soviet Union

in 1991.

Prof. Trofymov stated that even though political control from Moscow has been shunted aside, the Russian language still dominates the country. He noted that for every 56 books published in Ukraine in the Russian language only one is published in Ukrainian.

Critics have given other reasons for not proceeding with the Russia in Ukraine project. Some have emphasized the immorality of proceeding with a special year dedicated to Russia in Ukraine during the same year the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine is to be commemorated. Others have said that Ukraine's leadership continues to engage in far too much Moscow-gazing, as exemplified by a separate presidential commission established to oversee commemorations of the upcoming 350th anniversary of the fateful Pereiaslav Accord – which Russia has claimed for centuries as the legal document for its control over Ukraine. They also point to the project to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the birth of Volodymyr Shcherbytsky, one of the last leaders of the Ukrainian SSR.

During a full day of talks on January 28, while other CIS leaders were still arriving in Kyiv, Presidents Kuchma and Putin addressed specific issues of mutual concern, mostly regarding the economic sphere and trade development between Russia and Ukraine. President Putin noted that while economic cooperation is growing stronger, problems remain.

He noted that the documents for a Ukraine-Russia energy consortium to handle the transfer of Russian gas and oil through Ukraine to Western and Central European markets would soon be ready for signing. He held out that German participation through private entities remained a distinct possibility, as did participation by other energy-producing states in the Caspian Sea region.

Over the course of the last decade, the acrimonious relations between Moscow and Kyiv at the economic level have centered on Ukraine's oil and gas debt to Russia, as well as the movement of Russian energy sources through Ukraine to other parts of Europe. Recently Ukraine completed a new oil pipeline from Odesa to Brody, in addition to an oil terminal in the Black Sea port to store the black gold. It also agreed to allow Russia some control over its natural gas pipeline in return for Russian financing to update the pipeline and expand its capacity.

The two sides downplayed the fact that, even with closer relations between businessmen from both sides of the new border, trade turnover between Russia and Ukraine in 2002 fell by 6 percent – from more than 10 billion hrv to a little over 8 billion hrv – after a 20 percent increase the previous year. And, even though Mr. Kuchma hailed the ever more intimate economic relations between Kyiv and Moscow, he did not address the fact that it was the fall of Ukraine's exports to Russia by more than 8 percent last year – while Russia's exports to Ukraine were rising by two percent – that led to the decline, according to Polityka and Kultura magazine.

The two sides signed nine other agreements during Mr. Putin's three-day stay in Kyiv, mostly in the educational and medical spheres, including an accord to establish branches of Ukrainian universities in Russia and Russian institutions of higher learning in Ukraine; and documents on cooperation to promote contacts among youth organizations, and educational establishments and organizations involved in policy-making directed at the youth. Representatives of the two health ministries also signed agreements on cooperation to promote the exchange of information and technology in health care and the establishment of direct links between health care institutions.

## Ukraine's president...

(Continued from page 3)

believed that with the creation of a CIS free trade zone there would be no further need for inter-regional international economic organizations such as GUUAM, which consists of Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Moldova – and has been the subject of some scorn from Moscow – along with the Eurasian Economic Union proposed by Russia, which Ukraine has resisted.

Voices in Kyiv, particularly on the democratic right, have questioned the legality of Mr. Kuchma's election to head the CIS. National Deputy Borys Tarasyuk, formerly minister of foreign affairs in the government of Viktor Yushchenko and currently a member of the Our Ukraine faction in Parliament, noted that Ukraine has neither signed nor ratified the CIS charter and as such is not a full member. Mr. Tarasyuk explained that one reason Mr. Kuchma received the post was to draw Ukraine closer to the CIS.

"Russia wants to tie Ukraine to the Eurasian space, to change its announced strategic foreign relations objectives, specifically European and Euro-Atlantic integration," Mr. Tarasyuk explained.

Other leading figures in the Our Ukraine faction, including Viktor Pynzenyk, Hennadii Udovenko and Yurii Kostenko have expressed a similar position and have also noted that Ukraine's closer involvement in the CIS would lead to a transfer of Ukraine's limited budgetary resources in support of CIS projects.

Ukraine's Minister of Justice Oleksander Lavrynovych defended Mr.

Kuchma's election. Appearing on Ukrainian television on February 29, he explained that President Kuchma had every legal right to assume the chairmanship of the Council of State Leaders of the CIS because Ukraine was not only a member of the council, but also a founding member of the CIS – even though it subsequently did not sign the charter developed by the other member-states.

Ukraine currently holds membership in the CIS Council of Heads of State, Council of Heads of Government, the Economic Council and the Parliamentary Assembly, but is merely an observer in the CIS Military Council and the Customs Council.

During the two-day summit, which maintained an informal character, the 12 leaders met in one-on-one sessions as well. While economic matters remained at the center of discussions, the state leaders also addressed the Transdnier problem, the Abkhazia conflict and the development of the Russia-Ukraine energy consortium. President Kuchma said that the Russian president also briefed the body on details of the Iraq debate as it was occurring within the United Nations Security Council. Russia is one of five permanent members of that body.

Ukrainian officials originally had designated the city of Ivano-Frankivsk as the meeting place, with Mr. Kuchma's winter home near the village of Huta as the center of activity. But after identifying the requirements of the 12 member-states, their leaders and entourages, organizers determined that the Ivano-Frankivsk area lacked airport facilities and hotel accommodations, as well as transport and communication capabilities for such an international meeting, and the site was moved to Kyiv.

### SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'S

## 52-nd Annual Membership Meeting

Will take place on  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2003,  
AT 2:00 P.M.**

In the  
**St. George Academy Auditorium  
215 East 6th Street, New York City**

#### Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
3. Reports:
  - Financial Management
  - Credit Committee
  - Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion
5. Election of 3 members to the Board of Directors
6. Miscellaneous
7. Adjournment

*Board of Directors*

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Zabava – Dance to the tunes of Montage, 10pm-2am  
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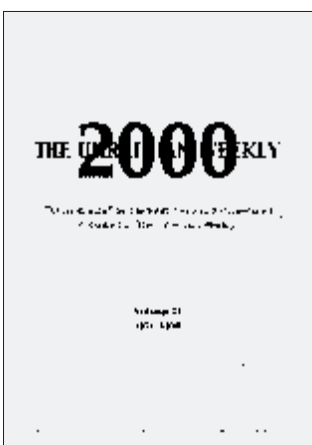
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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 8

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society is sponsoring a presentation by Dr. Svitlana Shlipchenko, research fellow at the Institute of Art History, Folklore and Ethnography at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and currently a Fulbright Fellow at Penn State University, on "Gender and National Imagery: Looking at Contemporary Urban Landscapes." The presentation will be held at the Shechenko Scientific Society's headquarters, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For more information call the society's headquarters, (212) 254-5130.

Sunday, February 16

**PHILADELPHIA:** The Ukrainian Federation of America will host a meeting and reception with Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko to be held at 3:30 p.m. at the Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia. Ambassador Gryshchenko will brief the community on current social and political issues in Ukraine. A short question and answer session will be moderated by Dr. Albert Kipa. A reception with the ambassador will follow the meeting. For information call (610) 539-8946.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

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

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

## Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past two years, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's 2003 debutantes in its March 30 issue. The deadline for submission of materials – photos and stories – is March 17.

## Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
- Deb in February.
- Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- Tabir in July.
- Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Oktoberfest at Verkhovyna in October.
- Morskyi Bal in New Jersey in November.
- Koliada in December.

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