

INSIDE:

- Fiancé visas now available at U.S. Embassy in Kyiv — page 3.
- Michigan and Pennsylvania Ukrainians' latest activity in U.S. political life — page 4.
- Philately: Ukrainian connection to zeppelin service — centerfold.

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Duranty in the news, as New York Times deals with scandal

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The name of Walter Duranty, The New York Times' Moscow correspondent during the 1930s, has been in the news lately — and the publicity has not been positive for a venerable newspaper that currently finds itself in the midst of a scandal involving the work and ethics of its reporters.

From New York to Illinois, from Washington to Alberta, and points in between, correspondents and commentators have written about the international campaign to strip Duranty of his Pulitzer Prize. Several have cited the Duranty case in their reactions to the current scandal at The New York Times involving a young reporter named Jayson Blair, who fabricated and plagiarized numerous stories that were published in the paper.

Since the Blair case came to light, there have been revelations of other improprieties involving editorial staff members at The Times, including Pulitzer Prize-winning national correspondent Rick Bragg, who resigned on May 28.

Writing in The New Yorker on May 26, in the magazine's opening section called "The Talk of the Town," Hendrik Hertzberg comments on what he called "L'Affaire Blair."

"The Times lamented, in its special report that Blair's (and the Times's) 'widespread fabrication and plagiarism represent a profound betrayal of trust and a low point in the 152-year history of the newspaper.' Still, the harm to the common weal inflicted by Blair's banal lies amounted to rather less than, say, the harm done by the Pulitzer Prize-winning whitewash of Stalin's terror perpetrated by Walter Duranty, the paper's longtime Moscow correspondent ..."

In a sidebar to the cover story of its May 26 issue, headlined "Behind the Scandal at The New York Times: The Secret Life of Jayson Blair," Newsweek magazine also referred to Duranty. "The News NOT Fit to Print," noted: "Jayson Blair is not the first journalist to deceive readers — and he probably won't be the last. It's no wonder, then, that the profession is struggling with a credibility problem." The item then offers "A brief walk down the Hall of Shame."

Writer Karen Yourish includes Duranty on the list as follows: "Stalinist Stooze? 1930s: Walter Duranty, The New York Times Soviet correspondent, ignores the brutality of Stalin's regime, telling readers at one

(Continued on page 3)

Verkhovna Rada declares Famine of 1932-1933 act of genocide

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With little fanfare and no Communist protest, Ukraine's Parliament passed a resolution on May 15 declaring the Great Famine of 1932-1933 "an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation."

The resolution, which was formulated as an address to the Ukrainian people in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the artificially created famine, came a day after the Verkhovna Rada had held its first parliamentary hearing dedicated to the subject.

National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, explained that it was the first time that a Ukrainian state body had officially debated and passed judgment on the tragic events of 1932-1933.

"With this document we noted for the first time that we discussed openly and condemned the politics of genocide," Mr. Udovenko said.

The former minister of foreign affairs and former president of the United Nations General Assembly added that, while he was pleased with the resolution, he believed that a law firmly establishing Ukraine's position on the Great Famine as genocide against the Ukrainian nation is

needed. He noted as well that another important result of the public debate on the Great Famine was that specific plans for a memorial museum complex on the Great Famine had been decided.

The resolution that the Ukrainian Parliament barely managed to pass states that "in an independent Ukraine the terrible truth of those years must be publicized by the state inasmuch as the Famine of 1932-1933 was organized by the Stalin regime and should be publicly condemned by the Ukrainian nation and the international community as one of the largest genocides in history in terms of the number of victims."

It goes on to state that the Verkhovna Rada "recognizes the Famine of 1932-1933 as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation, based on the hellish plans of the Stalinist regime."

It further states that recognition of the Great Famine as genocide is needed to help stabilize the social-political relations within the country; correct the historical record and bring historical justice and moral healing to generations of survivors and their heirs who were not allowed to relate or reveal what had occurred; and help the country avoid future "attempts at new dictatorships and violation of the most sacred of human right, the right to

life."

Finally, the resolution expressed the need for Ukraine to have the international community recognize the Great Famine as genocide, in order that the country could finally "be considered a fully worthy, civilized nation."

The Verkhovna Rada's resolution, it should be noted, cited the conclusion of the congressionally mandated U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine that the Great Famine was a genocide of the Ukrainian nation. The commission's report was released in 1988.

While it took two votes to find the minimum 226 ayes required for passage, no lawmakers voted against the proposal, even though 183 of the 410 present abstained. The resolution passed with no prior discussion and, most surprisingly, without storms of protest from the Communist side of the gallery.

Also, unexpected and even perplexing, there were practically no broadcast or print accounts of the landmark vote. Only one press agency of note, UNIAN, reported the decision, as did the newspapers Ukraina Moloda and Chas.

The Ukrainian parliamentary body as well had paid little heed a day earlier, during the first-ever Verkhovna Rada hearing

(Continued on page 16)

NSDC recommends that Ukraine send troops to Iraq

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) unanimously recommended on May 27 that Ukraine send troops as part of the United States-led stabilization force in Iraq.

Kyiv has proposed a force of between 1,600 and 1,700 troops, which will include two mechanized divisions. However, deployment will not take place until President Leonid Kuchma issues an executive order and the country's Parliament ratifies the decision.

Ukraine was one of 10 countries that received an invitation from Washington to take part in a stabilization force it was organizing in Iraq to reduce its own presence and bring a larger coalition into the rebuilding process in the wake of the war that toppled longtime Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein from power.

While Kyiv had not refused the initial request, it said that it could not take further steps until an authoritative international body lifted sanctions against Iraq and gave permission for an international coalition to be stationed in the country.

President Kuchma, speaking during the NSDC meeting, said the U.N. resolution passed on May 15 was what Ukraine had waited for.

"This resolution gives legitimacy to the coalition forces and safeguards the stability and security of Iraq, as well as identifies the

U.N. role in the post-war rebuilding of the country," noted Mr. Kuchma.

Room for debate remains, however, on whether the Verkhovna Rada will approve a Ukrainian military deployment to Iraq. NSDC Secretary Yevhen Marchuk indicated he believed the Parliament would ratify it "after sharp and tumultuous debate."

Likewise, Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Oleksander Zinchenko said he believed that getting approval for participation of Ukrainian peacekeepers in the rebuilding of Iraq would be far easier than it was to get parliamentary approval for the deployment of the Ukrainian anti-nuclear -biological and -chemical warfare (NBC) battalion to Kuwait at the beginning of the Iraqi conflict.

Mr. Zinchenko explained that the national deputies understood that Ukraine could benefit in very concrete terms as a result of its participation, by qualifying to bid on reconstruction projects as a result of its cooperation. He also underscored that this was a peacekeeping effort and not participation in a coalition for war, which was what many lawmakers had considered the battalion's deployment to Kuwait.

However, Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko told Interfax-Ukraine on May 29 that Ukraine should not bend to U.S. demands and allow its troops to be part of the stabilization force.

"The masters of the world have let our country understand that its will must be car-

(Continued on page 3)

Rada reduces income tax to 13 percent flat rate

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Parliament finally approved a reduced income tax rate on May 22, establishing a 13 percent flat tax rate for Ukrainian workers.

While a broader, new tax code is still held up in committee as endless political maneuvering among the business elites that dominate the Verkhovna Rada continues, the new flat tax, which took several years to approve, should please employees. Some workers previously shared up to 40 percent of their income with the government, that is if they paid at all, because a large portion of the labor force has avoided taxes, aided by understanding employers.

"I believe all of society will welcome the law," explained President Leonid Kuchma upon hearing of parliamentary approval while at a meeting of Central and Eastern European leaders in Salzburg, Austria.

"People will no longer hide their wages through compensation under the table," added the Ukrainian president, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

In fact, the government is counting on just that. As First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov explained after the bill's approval, the state coffers should receive additional revenues as more people decide

(Continued on page 3)

ANALYSIS

Understanding Mykola Melnychenko

by Dr. Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

At the age of 18, Mykola Melnychenko enlisted in the Soviet Army and was later accepted for officer training, which he successfully completed. He joined the KGB and was sent to work in the Ninth Directorate in Moscow and Kyiv, the unit responsible for the security of high-level officials and analogous to the U.S. Secret Service.

In 1992 the KGB's Ninth Directorate was removed from the jurisdiction of the Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym, SBU), and renamed the Directorate of State Protection (UDO). Mr. Melnychenko continued to work in the UDO, where he rose to be a senior officer with the rank of a major in the SBU reserve.

In 1999-2000, Mr. Melnychenko secretly taped hundreds of hours of conversations in President Leonid Kuchma's office. Some of these recordings, which were subsequently transcribed and published on the Internet, suggested that Mr. Kuchma and other high-ranking Ukrainian officials might have been involved in the kidnapping and murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze or in illegal arms sales to Iraq. In November 2000 he fled Ukraine and obtained asylum the following April in the United States where he now lives in Washington.

The sensitivity of the authorities to Mr. Melnychenko is high. To the Ukrainian authorities Mr. Melnychenko is a "traitor."

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

President Mr. Kuchma blames him – not his own policies – for Ukraine's failure to be a candidate for EU membership in the European Union. "One had to not love Ukraine to take such steps," President Kuchma said in a BBC interview on April 18.

The two questions continually asked about Mr. Melnychenko are: Who is behind him (as most people do not believe he acted alone)? Are the tapes genuine? It is not surprising that those who are in opposition to the executive believe in the authenticity of the tapes (Mr. Melnychenko attempted to run as a Socialist Party candidate in the 2002 elections but he was refused registration).

Yulia Mostova wrote in the September 28-October 5, 2002, edition of the influential weekly newspaper *Zerkalo Nedeli*, which she edits, that the tapes are real and "now people not only know about them, they also believe them." Hesitant oppositionist Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko told *Ukrainska Pravda* on September 10, 2002, that he believes in the authenticity of most of the tapes. Mr. Melnychenko himself has passed a lie-detector test and suggested that Mr. Kuchma should submit himself to one as well. Portions of the tapes have also been authenticated by former FBI employees at BEK TEK and in the world's best testing laboratory in the FBI.

Not surprisingly, Ukraine's executive branch disputes their authenticity. If it did not, it would have to hold an investigation and possibly face the consequences, as happened after the Peru tape scandal in 2000 when President Alberto Fujimori fled to Japan.

(Continued on page 17)

Are the authorities in Ukraine again targeting opposition leaders?

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Newsline

In late 2001, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma issued a lengthy decree outlining measures to ensure that the March 2002 parliamentary elections would be free and fair. In his state of the nation address to Parliament last month, President Kuchma likewise promised that the October 2004 presidential elections will be conducted in a "civilized, democratic manner in full compliance with current legislation."

But, as is so often the case in Ukraine and other CIS states, reality diverges from official rhetoric. During the 2002 campaign, the presidential administration abused its administration resources to favor the For a United Ukraine bloc, and the media failed to ensure a level playing field for all candidates. A secret document from the presidential administration that outlined detailed measures against the opposition was leaked to the opposition and the election-monitoring mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Therefore, it is hardly surprising that the electorate is skeptical of Kuchma's latest claim that next year's presidential election will be democratic. A March poll conducted by the Razumkov Center found that as many as 51 percent of Ukrainians believe the 2004 elections will not be free and fair, while only 20 percent think they will be.

Mr. Kuchma's claim that he will guarantee a free and fair election is unconvincing in the light of the activities of the presidential administration, especially since Viktor Medvedchuk was named to head that body

in May 2002.

Mr. Medvedchuk is the long-time head of the Union of Ukrainian Lawyers (as well as the Social Democratic Party-United, or SDPU). Even though censorship is banned by the Constitution and Parliament recently amended the law on the media to criminalize censorship, last summer the presidential administration began sending secret instructions, known as "temnyky," to television stations advising them which political issues they should cover and which should be ignored.

Public skepticism has been reinforced by the government's seemingly selective use of corruption charges against Yuliia Tymoshenko and aides to former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko. Both Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko now head opposition political blocs. The recently filed corruption charges against Volodymyr Bondar, former vice-chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine are widely perceived as aimed at discrediting Yushchenko, who headed the NBU in the 1990s.

High-ranking Our Ukraine member Oleh Rybachuk accused the SDPU of being behind the Bondar case, which has dragged on for five years. Mr. Rybachuk claims the case is "completely political." Four of the five banking "experts" who testified in the case have never worked in the banking system.

Oleksander Yeliashkevych, a former vice-chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Finances and Banking, who was granted asylum in the United States last

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS**Ukrainian plane crashes in Turkey**

TRABZON, Turkey – A Ukrainian Yak-42 plane transporting Spanish peacekeepers from duty in Afghanistan, along with a crew of 12 Ukrainians and a Belarusian, slammed into a mountainside near the Turkish port city of Trabzon on May 26, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. None of those on board survived. The plane, chartered under a United Nations contract from a Ukrainian company called Mediterranean Airlines, was flying from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to Zaragoza, Spain. An investigation has been launched to determine the cause of the accident, with initial reports blaming heavy fog in the area. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma eliminates political slots

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has issued a decree canceling a previous order on the introduction of the post of state secretary, as well as first deputies and deputies for the Council of Ministers and individual ministries, Interfax reported on May 27. Mr. Kuchma had introduced those posts two years ago in a move the opposition said was aimed at tightening the presidential administration's grip on the Cabinet. Under the new decree, state secretaries and their deputies are to be replaced by first vice ministers and vice ministers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine to be part of Iraq's Polish sector

SALZBURG, Austria – Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski told journalists at a Central European summit in Salzburg on May 23 that Ukraine and Bulgaria have agreed to send troops to the Polish stabilization sector in Iraq, Polish Radio reported. Warsaw hosted an international conference last week on the formation of a stabilization force in the Polish sector in Iraq. Polish Radio quoted Foreign Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz as saying on May 25 that the stabilization forces in the Polish sector in Iraq will comprise servicemen from a dozen countries. Mr. Cimoszewicz added that Poland is likely to make an effort to include servicemen from Muslim states in its stabilization force. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada approves 13 percent flat tax

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 22 approved a 13 percent flat income tax for individuals as of January 1, 2004, Ukrainian media reported. On January 1, 2007, the rate will rise to 15 percent. The move was backed by 352 of the 440 legislators registered for the session. Income-tax rates in Ukraine are currently

10, 15, 20, 30, and 40 percent. Ukrainians earning more than \$320 per month are in the top tax bracket. The government hailed the introduction of the flat tax as a step toward developing a strong consumer market and reducing the country's shadow economy. "The adoption of the law is a breakthrough in implementing tax reform. The government and parliament covered a gap that has plagued our legislation for nine years," Finance Minister Mykola Azarov said, according to Interfax. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Parliament amends 2003 budget

KYIV – The Ukrainian Parliament amended the country's 2003 budget on May 22, increasing projected revenues by 5.9 percent to 52.96 billion hrv (\$9.94 billion) and expenditures by 5.6 percent to \$54.99 billion hrv, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine signs environmental accords

KYIV – The environment ministers of Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro on May 22 signed a framework convention at an ongoing international environmental conference in Kyiv on the environmental protection and sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains, Interfax reported. It was unclear why two other "Carpathian states," Poland and the Czech Republic, which reportedly back the convention, failed to sign it. Also the same day, the environment ministers of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia signed an accord on the environmental rehabilitation of the Dnipro River basin. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada OKs CIS 'joint economic space'...

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 266-51 on May 22 to back the creation of a "joint economic space" to include Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and Kazakstan, Interfax reported. The presidents of these four countries had signed a statement on February 23 declaring that their governments will prepare a draft agreement by September on the creation of such an economic bloc. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said last week that there is a "fundamental disagreement" over how those four countries view the formation of such an economic alliance. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...urges Ukraine's 'association' with EU

KYIV – The Ukrainian legislature also appealed to European parliaments, governments and societies on May 22 to unite

(Continued on page 12)

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Head of Ukrainian association in Russia speaks on diaspora problems

by **Maryna Makhnonos**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

MOSCOW – According to the head of the umbrella group of Ukrainians in Russia, the plight of Ukrainian Russians will improve only after the governments of Ukraine and Russia begin to show the will to formulate a clear policy on minorities.

However, that may not suffice unless the leaders of the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia, for their part, begin to rely less on emotion and more on rational and efficient efforts to present their problems to the government and to consolidate the lines of communication among the various Ukrainian groups within the vast regions of Russia.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with *The Weekly Oleksander Rudenko-Desniak*, the head of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia, urged the Russian government to establish an overall program focused on the problems of minorities in a country consisting of more than 200 ethnic groups, among them 4.5 million Ukrainians. He explained that local bureaucrats please the demands of ethnic groups only if the personal will exists to do so, and Russia lacks an overall and “consistent policy.”

“It’s time to understand that the Russian state, and first of all its society, should be interested in solving the nationalities’ issue,” Mr. Rudenko-Desniak said after the close of

the organization’s annual congress held in April. “It’s the only way towards the development of a democratic state and society.”

Giving an example of the weak cooperation between the Russian government and the Ukrainian community – the second largest ethnic community in Russia after the Tatars, Mr. Rudenko-Desniak said that the Russian Ministry of the Economy has refused to support a pilot program for the development of Ukrainian education and an information system. The ministry has explained that other ethnic groups would request the same, which would become a budget burden, according to Mr. Rudenko-Desniak.

“After the Third Congress of Russian Ukrainians last year, I wrote a letter proposing the project to Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matvienko and have not heard a response yet. I tell myself it is only because of the bad state of the postal service,” Mr. Rudenko-Desniak quipped.

From another perspective, the diaspora lacks the support of its native land inasmuch as Ukraine’s programs of cooperation with its diaspora are not serious, which damages the country’s international image, as well, he noted.

“The image of Ukrainians is awful in Russia,” he said, adding that Ukraine should invest in a public relations information campaign to present an alternative to the percep-

tion that Ukrainians are only about “salo and horilka.” He said this should include an effort to counter negative publicity against Ukraine and the creation of information programs that “would work on its image 24 hours a day.”

Mr. Rudenko-Desniak also pointed out some of the Ukrainian community’s less than ideal qualities, including its tendency to take an emotional approach to problem solving at “noisy gatherings.”

He spoke after the council of some 70 top representatives of Ukrainian communities from all Russian regions analyzed past year’s community activities.

The year had been proclaimed the “Year of Ukraine in Russia,” which in the end caused a certain disappointment among diaspora members when their hopes and expectations that more attention would be paid to their problems were not realized.

“‘The Year of Ukraine in Russia’ revealed the great cultural, spiritual and social potential of the Ukrainian community ... but it also revealed great fundamental problems,” Mr. Rudenko-Desniak said.

Instead of acting on their emotions, the leader urged his associates to respect pragmatism and discipline in meeting needs and mastering the art of interaction with officials and lobbying.

“Confrontation between the diaspora and state authorities offers no hope ... and that’s why we should look for cooperation with official authorities,” Mr. Rudenko-Desniak said. “You should search for allies in politics, because opponents will always appear on their own.”

Another current problem Russia’s Ukrainians face is a lack of modern information technology. Only half of local Ukrainian

organizations have access to e-mail or the Internet. The rest continue to use the postal service and remain apart from the global information network – a problem that this congress set out to resolve as priority No. 1.

“We have a favor to ask our friends in Ukraine and in foreign countries further afar, which is to help in this matter if possible: we need computers or the means to purchase them,” Mr. Rudenko-Desniak said, enthusiastically specifying that 25 computers would suffice to unite all the local Ukrainian communities of Russia via the Internet.

Speaking passionately in a tiny one-room office situated in the Ukrainian Cultural Center on the historic Arbat in downtown Moscow, Mr. Rudenko-Desniak seems to be one of the few activists who are truly inspired to work on behalf of the cause of Ukrainians in Russia. In addition to duties as leader of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia, he also heads the diaspora’s information department and has organized a Ukrainian cinema club.

Mr. Rudenko-Desniak, 66, was born in Chernihiv and worked for more than 20 years as a journalist, in addition to being a cinema and literary critic as well as a translator of Ukrainian poets. In an effort to defend minorities’ rights, he became active in Russian politics as a member of the Consultative Council of National Cultural Autonomies, whose chairman is Vladimir Zorin, Russia’s minister of ethnic affairs.

The Consultative Council works in cooperation with members of the Russian State Duma on legislation to increase government responsibility and response to the needs of its ethnic minorities, something that Mr. Rudenko-Desniak is eager to see realized.

Rada reduces...

(Continued from page 1)

that they should no longer risk avoiding the required income tax when it is now a relatively affordable sum – not worth the risk of fines and jail time. Mr. Azarov said he believes the additional revenue will easily offset the larger payments that were made by fewer people. Government estimates have put the rate of non-compliance with the earlier tax law at well over half the working population.

“In the future the main source of government revenues should not be from large factories but from individual workers,” explained Mr. Azarov.

The new tax will go into effect on January 1, 2004, and remain in effect until 2007, after which it will rise to 15 percent. There were several other tax measures approved in the bill, among them a 5 percent tax on interest income on bank deposits.

For those at the bottom of the income scale, those who earlier were required to give up 10 percent of their income in taxes, the Rada’s move is, in effect, a tax increase. However, the minimum wage in Ukraine is scheduled to rise to 237 hrv from its current 185 hrv on December 1 of this year, which should more than compensate for the additional money the state will be taking after the New Year.

In addition, eventually the government will not tax the first 237 hrv of any income. However the exemption will come into force in a graduating scale, with 30 percent of the exemption not taxable in 2004 and the full exemption not subject to taxation by 2007.

The decision by the Verkhovna Rada to implement a 13 percent flat tax on income follows a similar decision made last year in Russia, which many experts agree has helped to bring taxpayers out of the shadows and increase government revenues.

Duranty in the news...

(Continued from page 1)

point that no one in Ukraine is starving when, in fact, millions were dying.”

The Calgary Sun of May 20, published an article headlined “Stalin’s apologist: New York Times scandal sparks memories of far worse.”

Paul Jackson, associate editor at the newspaper, writes that what Duranty “did fully 70 years ago was convince most of the world that allegations claiming Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin engineered the mass starvation of as many as 12 million Ukrainian peasants and farmers was simply anti-communist propaganda.”

“We now know this appalling crime of genocide – akin to the Nazi persecution of the Jews of Europe in Adolf Hitler’s death camps – was true,” he adds.

Mr. Jackson continues by noting that the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association has launched a campaign to have Duranty stripped of his Pulitzer Prize. At the same time, “The New York Times is now embroiled in yet another huge scandal of one of its staff members [Mr. Blair] plagiarizing and fabricating stories over a long period of time. ... In comparison to Duranty’s betrayal, Blair is rather small fry.

But what should anger all of us is that the lib-left New York Times is perhaps the most arrogant and egotistical daily newspaper in the U.S.”

In conclusion, Mr. Jackson writes:

“For his falsifications, Jayson Blair has been banished from The New York Times, but Walter Duranty paid no penalty for his outrageous behavior. The Times and the Pulitzer Prize Committee still claim Duranty received his award for work before his sham reporting in the Soviet Union in 1932-1933. This is like suggesting an apologist for Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime should still be honored for earlier endeavors.

“Ukrainians the world over deserve justice, and the Times should give them that justice by stripping Duranty of his Pulitzer Prize now. Right now.”

Other news media that recently have published information about the Duranty case include: National Review Online (commentary by contributing editor Andrew Stuttaford, May 7); Daily Chronicle of DeKalb County, Ill. (news story by staff writer Dan Campana, May 6); and The Kingston Whig-Standard, Kingston, Ontario (news story by Arthur Milnes, May 1); and The Washington Times (news story by Natalia A. Feduschak, March 29).

NSDC recommends...

(Continued from page 1)

ried out not only economically and financially, but politically as well,” said Mr. Symonenko.

The Ukrainian peacekeepers will work in one of three zones into which the United States has divided Iraq under a force directed by Poland; roughly the zone encompasses the area between Basra and Baghdad. U.S. and British forces will retain control over the other two sectors.

The Ukrainian contingent will have responsibility for safeguarding the territorial integrity of Iraq; protecting local governing bodies and supporting their development; protecting of government buildings, factories, plants and oil refining facilities; and, finally, maintaining order and the separation of conflicting sides, should violence break out within or among the various ethnic and religious groupings.

Mr. Marchuk said the duration of the Ukrainian force’s stay will depend on international agreement or a decision by the interim Iraqi authority, but would be a minimum of six months.

The head of the NSDC noted that Ukraine would absorb the costs of transporting and maintaining its contingent in Iraq, but was expecting that either the United States or Great Britain would provide compensation for the expenses to be incurred. He added that, in any case, Ukraine would benefit far more if its trade relations with Iraq, which at one time were \$300 million to \$350 million annually, returned to the earlier level.

Mr. Marchuk also said negotiations were being held on whether the NBC battalion still stationed in Kuwait could be transferred to Iraq.

The Verkhovna Rada is scheduled to consider ratification of the deployment of the Iraq stabilization force on June 5.

U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to process fiancé visas

KYIV – Beginning Monday, June 2, the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv will begin processing fiance visas (K1 visas). This move will eliminate the need for these applicants to travel to Warsaw for their interviews. It also is the first step in moving all immigrant visa cases for Ukrainian citizens from Warsaw to Kyiv.

Additional immigrant visa processing is expected to begin in early 2005.

This service will apply only to new applicants, not those with pending petitions. If an applicant’s petition has already been sent to Warsaw, that case will not be transferred to Kyiv.

Those just beginning the fiancé visa process are advised to consult the Embassy’s website at www.usembassy.kiev.ua for information, instructions and downloadable application forms. Further

questions may be e-mailed to the Embassy at ivkiiev@state.gov.

The Embassy noted that the Department of State and the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services are the most reliable sources of information on how to process fiancé visas. Private companies that charge a fee for their services are not affiliated with the U.S. government, and it is not required that applicants go through an agency to obtain a fiancé visa.

In addition, applicants are advised to be aware that the petition needs to be filed in the United States, not at the U.S. Embassy. Petition approval may take several months to obtain, but the Embassy in Kyiv will contact the applicant to schedule an interview once it receives the approved petition.

Michigan Ukrainian Americans attend NATO ceremony at White House, hold meetings on Capitol Hill

by Borys Potapenko

WASHINGTON – In response to an invitation from the White House, representatives of the Ukrainian American community in Michigan participated in the NATO expansion ceremony held in the East Room of the White House on May 8.

Bohdan Fedorak, president of the Ukrainian Cultural Center (UCC) in Warren, Mich., and past president of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU), and Borys Potapenko, vice-chairman of the ODFFU and director of the UCC, as well as Judge Bohdan Futey of Washington, were the only Ukrainian American representatives present among the nearly 100 guests.

Among administration officials accompanying President George W. Bush to the event were Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Also present were leaders of both parties in the U.S. Senate: Majority Leader Bill Frist; Chairman Dick Lugar and ranking member Joe Biden of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Sen. Carl Levin, ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; Sen. George Voinovich.

Other dignitaries and the foreign ministers of the seven countries to be admitted into NATO – Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia – also were among the participants of the ceremony.

In his address President Bush hailed the unanimous vote in the Senate, held earlier in the day, to admit the new members into NATO. He noted: “These heroic nations have survived tyranny, they have won their liberty and earned their place among free nations. America has always considered them friends, and we will always be proud to call them allies.”

President Bush also called for NATO expansion beyond the new members: “Nearly two years ago, in Warsaw, I urged the enlargement of NATO to all of Europe’s democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and all that lie between, so that people in those countries would have the same chance for security and freedom enjoyed by Europe’s older democracies,” he said.

In his Warsaw speech, President Bush made direct reference to Ukraine when he stated: “The Europe we are building must include Ukraine, a nation struggling with the trauma of transition. Some in Kyiv speak of their country’s European destiny. If this is their aspiration, we should reward it. We must extend our hand to Ukraine, as



Rep. Candice Miller (R-Mich.) is flanked by Borys Potapenko (left) and Bohdan Fedorak.

Poland has already done with such determination.”

Significantly, Secretary of State Powell, in an address before the Foreign Affairs Association the night before the White House ceremony on NATO expansion, made direct reference to President Bush’s statement when he said: “All of Europe’s democracies from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between should have the

same chance for security and freedom and the same chance to join the institutions of Europe. ... “That, too, is part of the transformation of the Alliance. Our vision for Europe encompasses all of NATO’s new partners, including Ukraine and countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Ukrainian American representatives had the opportunity to briefly speak with Sen. Levin and Dr. Rice about their community’s support for the administration’s and Congress’ re-engagement with Ukraine, especially as this pertains to NATO and democratic and economic reforms.

While in Washington, Messrs. Fedorak and Potapenko invited George Nesterchuk, chairman of the Policy Council of the ODFFU and president of Nesterchuk and Associates in Washington, to join them in meetings with members of the Michigan delegation to Congress.

Meetings were held with Rep. Candice Miller, (Republican 10th District), Rep. Sander Levin, (Democrat, 12th District), and Sen. Carl Levin (Democrat). Among the issues of importance to Ukraine and Ukrainian Americans that were discussed were NATO/Ukraine relations, prospects for graduating Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanick amendment, the status of the Ukrainian national democratic movement and the upcoming presidential election in Ukraine.

Although she is a first-term member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Miller is no stranger to the Ukrainian American community in Michigan. In welcoming the community representatives to her new offices, she recalled that in her capacity as secretary of state in Michigan she was a frequent visitor to the Ukrainian Cultural Center (UCC) in Warren, and a strong supporter of Ukrainian American issues. In fact, Rep. Miller launched her successful election campaign for secretary of state at the UCC.

In their discussions with Rep. Miller and her chief of staff, Jamie Roe, the three Ukrainian American representatives elaborated on the work of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, a bipartisan group of House members dedicated to promoting U.S.-Ukraine relations, and encouraged the congresswoman to join the caucus.

They also briefed Mrs. Miller about the Ukrainian community’s support for graduating Ukraine from the Jackson/Vanik amendment, an anachronism of the Cold War era, the principal purpose of which was to facilitate immigration from the USSR, particularly for those of the Jewish faith.

Moreover, in light of Rep. Miller’s membership in the Armed Services Committee in the House, the importance of the successes of U.S.-Ukraine cooperation on defense issues and the significance of convening the NATO-Ukraine conference that took place earlier in the week in Washington, were dis-

(Continued on page 13)

Rep. Weldon addresses Ukrainian American Federation



At a meeting in Philadelphia hosted by the Ukrainian Federation of America (from left) are: Dr. Zenia Chernyk, Rep. Curt Weldon, Vera M. Andryczyk, Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Bohdan Korzeniowski, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka and former Rep. Charles F. Dougherty.

PHILADELPHIA – Over 200 members of the Ukrainian American community gathered at the recent general membership meeting of the Ukrainian Federation of America at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia to greet Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Ambassador Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.).

The program for the meeting was part of the federation’s ongoing activities in developing and maintaining positive relations between Ukraine and the United States, and between the Embassy and the diaspora.

In prepared comments, Ambassador Gryshchenko, who was introduced by Dr. Albert Kipa, the moderator for the program, noted many positive things that are occurring in Ukraine, including three years of positive economic growth; the creation of a good environment for small business, industry and agriculture; the success of the multi-party system in Ukraine, and the presence in the Persian Gulf of the Ukrainian anti-nuclear, -biological and -chemical (NBC) unit positioned to support coalition forces in case of an attack or incident.

He acknowledged the need by the Ukrainian government to address civil rights concerns and foreign policy issues that trouble the United States and the European Union. He concluded his remarks by stating that the government is aware of these concerns and is fully committed to a democratic, economically stable and civil society.

Rep. Weldon, who had just recently returned from a visit to Ukraine, was introduced by former Rep. Charles F. Dougherty. Having had extensive meetings with Ukrainian government officials, including two private meetings with President Leonid Kuchma and extended meetings with leaders of the Verkhovna Rada, Rep. Weldon was upbeat about Ukraine and the potential for better U.S.-Ukraine relations.

The congressman echoed the sentiments of the ambassador, but added that there was a lot more work to be done in developing democracy in Ukraine.

Rep. Weldon noted the positive signs he saw in Kyiv during his visit and said that the opportunity exists to re-establish a warm relationship between the U.S. and Ukraine governments. He concluded his

remarks by advising the federation membership of his commitment to establishing an ongoing relationship between the U.S. Congress and the Verkhovna Rada and noted that he would be hosting a visit to Washington this summer by a delegation from the Ukrainian Parliament. He urged Ukrainian American to get more involved in America’s political system as a way of making their collective voice heard in Washington and impacting, in a positive way, U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Following Rep. Weldon’s remarks the Ukrainian Federation of America presented both Rep. Weldon and Ambassador Gryshchenko with a set of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine published by the University of Toronto Press. The ambassador took this opportunity to then present the honors of a grateful nation upon two of Ukraine’s leading ladies of the stage. Liza Chepil and Vira Levytska were honored for their contributions to Ukraine’s dramatic theater.

The membership of the Ukrainian Federation of America had the opportunity to meet with both the congressman and the ambassador during the reception following the March 8 meeting.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Chicago District votes to join local UCCA

CHICAGO – The Chicago UNA District Committee met on Saturday, April 5, and took up membership in the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America as the first order of business.

Invited to address the meeting was Orest Baranyk, president of the Chicago branch of the UCCA. He distributed leaflets that reviewed the work of the UCCA and its affiliates over the past 20 years.

Also addressing the meeting was Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, author of "Ukrainian American Citadel: The First One Hundred Years of the Ukrainian National Association."

"I was elected vice-president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Committee when it was first established in 1983," explained Dr. Kuropas. "Our future looked bright. We sponsored a commemoration of the Great Famine in Washington that year which involved some 18,000 participants from 11 states. And then unfortunately, the UACC began to decline. Instead of increasing the UACC membership base during the past 20 years, we lost members. The UNA also lost members. The UNA had almost 90,000 members in 1980 when we



At the Chicago District Committee meeting are: (front row, from left) Stefko Kuropas, Michael Kuropas (UNA advisor), Orest Baranyk, (president, UCC, Chicago), Andrij Skyba (UNA advisor), Bohdan Kukuruza; (back row) Paul Banderiwsky, Myron B. Kuropas, Joseph Stawnyczy, Evhenia Lushchak, Roman Zacaj, Olha Berejan, Teodor Turchyn and Myron Lushchak.

withdrew from the UCCA; today we have less than half that number. The UCCA, meanwhile, has prospered. It's time to cut bait and to rejoin the UCCA."

After a short discussion, a motion to rejoin the UCCA was made. The vote was

(Continued on page 16)

Home Office works toward revitalizing UNA

The Ukrainian National Association's national secretary, Christine Kozak, has taken a pro-active role in revitalizing the UNA. The focus of the initiative is to capitalize on UNA participation in locally sponsored events, which provide a forum for UNA executive officers to meet the community and introduce the UNA to the widest of audiences.

To accomplish this goal, UNA district committees and branch secretaries were given the directive to organize a fraternal activity in conjunction with their district meeting. It is not cost-effective for a representative to attend the district meetings without a planned organized event, and it is the desire of the UNA Executive Committee to work hand-in-hand with the secretaries.

The promotional effort put forth by UNA Home Office for its branches included:

- the 2003 Organizing Plan;
- the launch of a new product line;
- flyers and brochures ("Short-Term Annuities," "Life Insurance Protection for Women");
- a list of suggested fraternal activities;
- a referral program for secretaries and UNA members; and
- two life insurance applications mailed to each branch for enrolling new members.

Additional support from UNA Home Office provided the following:

- two newsletters since January 2003;
- monetary incentives – commissions paid are the highest they have ever been in UNA history;
- articles in both Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly ("Why I need to purchase life insurance," "What is an annuity?"); and
- the 2002 and, most recently, the 2003 Standard's Independent Comparative Report on the UNA.

The UNA's organizing initiative has been successful in the areas where branch secretaries responded to the call for cooperative effort. Below are two districts, demonstrating different results. The numbers speak for themselves.

	Albany	Chicago
No. of branches in district	5	15
New member quota	40	95
New members		
2002	41	7
2001	35	25
2000	38	21
Loss of membership 2002	48	140
New quota for 2003 determined by each district	32	15

In order to analyze their membership and identify opportunities, UNA branch secretaries receive the following on a monthly basis:

- branch assessments showing the status of all active members – paid to date, etc.;
- a list of lapsing members, whom secretaries are directed to contact in order to conserve business; and
- a list of members whose policies will be maturing or expiring in the next quarter (this represents potential sales).

- UNA Executive Committee

"We're taking our dad out to "Suzy-Q" for Father's Day! Hope to see you there too!"

The Ukrainian National Association
congratulates all Fathers, Grandfathers and Great-grandfathers,
and wishes each and everyone

MNOHAYA LITA!

Come celebrate the UNA's 19th annual

"Father's Day"

Sunday, June 15, 2003

10:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church

1:00 p.m. – Special Father's Day Luncheon

3:00 p.m. – STEFAN KACZARAJ – UNA President – WELCOME

LYDIA KULBIDA – Master of Ceremonies – journalist, TV anchor, and music director of National Public Radio affiliate WBFO-FM

OLEH CHMYR – Baritone; whose most recent appearance was with the New Jersey State Opera in Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci."

ZOREPAD Dance Ensemble of Watevliet, N.Y., under the artistic direction of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

HOLY TRINITY DANCE GROUP, under the artistic direction of Elaine and Andrew Oprysko

The GENERATIONS Shepko Family Vocal Ensemble: featuring three generations of singers – mother, Hanya; daughter, Halyna; and granddaughters, Roxolyana and Zoya.

For reservation to the luncheon please call SOYUZIVKA at (845) 626-5641

For bus reservations from New Jersey and New York;
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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The "History" Channel

Frankly, we expected better from The History Channel, regardless of its pop approach to relating history – an approach that, we must admit, attracts viewers and works well to tell a story.

However, when presenting its much-advertised two-part program titled "Russia: Land of the Tsars," The History Channel just went too far in "simplifying" things and in dressing up the presentation to make it more interesting. It was a show that The New York Times reviewer Alessandra Stanley aptly described as "fixed on the peaks of death, disaster and repression," "bristl[ing] obligingly with pinnacles of bad behavior," "a pop-up textbook of grisly moments brought to lurid life in heavily costumed and scored re-enactments."

As noted on The History Channel's website, the series covers "the leaders of Russia from the Vikings in 862 to the Revolution in 1918." (OK, now, take a deep breath...) Yes, The History Channel's program claims Kyivan Rus' was Russia. Yes, the program said our Volodymyr the Great was the Russian ruler Vladimir. And, oh yes, here's a bit of real news: according to The History Channel, Vladimir chose among several faiths – including Catholicism and Orthodoxy – when he was seeking a religion for his realm. Oh well, fact-checking's obviously not needed for a pop-history show. Does it really matter to the viewer that neither Catholicism nor Orthodoxy even existed as the schism within Christianity had not yet occurred? Apparently, The History Channel thinks it doesn't.

But, wait, The History Channel takes itself seriously! The classroom study guide that appears on the channel's website (www.historychannel.com) suggests many topics for discussion or research, including this gem: "Why did Prince Vladimir make his subjects convert to one religion? Research the different faiths he considered, and make a chart comparing their central beliefs. Why do you think Prince Vladimir chose the Eastern Orthodox Church to be the church of Russia?"

A summary of the program, also online, tells us that, after choosing "Orthodox Christianity," in 988 Vladimir "forced all Russians to convert to Christianity as well." It also tells us that "one direct result of the Mongol invasion [in the mid-13th century] was the downfall of Kiev as the pre-eminent Russian city."

Need we go on? This History Channel presentation is a wake-up call and demonstrates to us yet again that our nation's struggle to preserve what is rightfully its own history continues.

(Turning from the lamentable to the laughable, we should note the device of using Russian-looking mirror-image English letters and typefaces that render certain letters to look Russian is quite silly. Thus, Peter became ПЕТЕРЯ, Ivan became ИВАИ, Catherine became КАТЕРЯИИС. Ouch! Design, too, says something about the seriousness of a presentation.)

To conclude, let's just state that entertainment and history, in this case, seem to be mutually exclusive. Though some might have found "Russia: Land of the Tsars" to be interesting viewing, it certainly did not pass as history, never mind that it aired on something called The History Channel.

June
4
2000

Turning the pages back...

In 2000, Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau wrote a feature about Myroslav Medvid, the Ukrainian sailor, who had jumped ship 15 years earlier near New Orleans, and thanks to U.S. bungling, was forced to return to Soviet custody.

"In 1985 the Medvid affair transfixed the Ukrainian American community and much of America," wrote Mr. Woronowycz. "His plight caused anger, demonstrations and, finally, tears. ... Today Myroslav Medvid is alive and well and living in Ukraine, a man changed by the years – but most dramatically by his tribulations in the United States. He is a parish priest of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church [he was ordained in December 1990] with a wife and children living in the city of Chervonohrad, about an hour's drive north of Lviv."

The Rev. Medvid agreed to The Weekly's requests for his first exclusive interview with a Western publication. He said he felt no bitterness, neither toward the U.S. officials who sent him packing in 1985, nor towards the Soviet henchmen who intimidated and roughed him up during and after his return. In retrospect, he was thankful, he explained, because what he suffered had turned him to God and religion. "What I lived through was my first step to the Lord." He then added, "I would like to meet the person who decided that I must be returned to tell him that I forgive him."

The young priest said he likens his travails to the biblical parable of the wayward son, who returns to his father's home after a long and difficult time seeking his own fortune. Before New Orleans he was hardly a spiritual person, even though his grandmother tried to instill in him a Catholic base. He was a member of the Communist Youth League, but a disaffected one, who belonged because that was the only path to opportunity for a person with any ambition whatsoever. Even then he held strong Ukrainian nationalist beliefs, he had learned to conceal them.

The Rev. Medvid was reluctant to give details of what he experienced on the Marshal Koniev as it waited in the Gulf of Mexico for permission to leave port while U.S. officials decided what to do with the Soviet seaman who jumped ship in U.S. waters. He said he did not know whether he was drugged, even though U.S. psychiatrists concluded after meeting with him a day after his return that he was probably under the influence of halidol and thiorazine, two strong mind-altering drugs. As for signing a statement that he wanted to return to the USSR, he said he did so willingly, explaining that his mental state after his ordeal was such that he saw no other recourse. "I understood what was going on and why."

Source: "Myroslav Medvid sees his 1985 ordeal as a positive life-changing experience," by Roman Woronowycz, Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, June 4, 2000, Vol. LXVIII, No. 23.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Exhibition reveals brutality of Communist regime in Ukraine

by Helena Lysyj Melnitchenko
and Eugene Melnitchenko

WASHINGTON – Few in the diaspora doubt that the Soviet Union was an evil empire. Yet, documentation to support what everyone knew either from personal experience or oral history was not available to the public until the fall of communism. The museum exhibition "Not to be Forgotten," brought from Kyiv to Washington on April 10 provided a plethora of documentation.

Seventy large panels illustrated the hidden history of Ukraine under Soviet communism, from 1917 as the fledgling independence was crushed to 1991 when it became a reality. This independence was won by the martyrdom of millions of Ukrainians tortured, starved and executed. The exhibition was effectively documented with archival documents of orders of arrest and execution, photographs of excavated mass graves, and the lists of the executed in the executioners' own handwriting.

Many were responsible for bringing this exhibition to life. It required careful study and reflection to be fully comprehended, and the viewers in Washington studied it long and hard. It is difficult to do justice to this fascinating and important exhibit in a brief review.

While Ukraine was not the only country exploited and ruled with cruelty, its population was dealt with particular brutality because of its size, the centuries of repression by Imperial Russia and its historical quest for freedom. Three famines, (1921-1923, 1932-1933, 1946-1947), massive arrests and executions, and a high proportion of Ukrainians among the prisoners of the gulag attest to the severity of the persecution.

Fifteen additional panels illustrated the fortress on the White Sea, the Solovetsky Islands, or the dreaded Solovky as the Ukrainians called them. Ukrainians and Solovky have a long history dating back to the 18th century when Catherine II imprisoned the last Zaporozhian otaman. His name was Petro Kalnyshevsky and he died on the islands at the age of 112, after having served his 31-year sentence.

However, longevity was not an option for the Solovetsky prisoners in the 20th century. Writers, priests, teachers, peasants and workers were imprisoned and killed on these islands. In the fall of 1937 alone, over a thousand prisoners were executed there.

In all 233 concentration camps despoiled the map of the Soviet Union, shown in the first panel of the exhibition. Several visitors studied the map carefully, murmuring "Ah, yes, here it is! Uncle (or grandfather) died in this awful place," the names of the camps bringing a jolt of recognition. During some years, some 5 to 10 percent of all Ukrainians were interred in those camps.

The Yezhov era (1936-1938) was particularly brutal. Almost a million people were arrested. As the camps filled with prisoners, the Soviets thought it necessary to make room for more. In the summer of 1937, nearly 37,000 Ukrainian prisoners were shot.

After suffering the German occupation during the second world war, the Ukrainian populace continued to suffer at the hands of the Soviets. In Ukraine famine struck again as its grain was sent to Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Communist republics. The Soviets sent 17 divisions to destroy the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). Prisons continued to be filled with returning forced labor civilians and POWs.

Stalin, on hearing of the capture of his son Yakov by the Germans, was reputed to have said, "I have no son!" While in the United States the returning POWs were welcomed as heroes, under the Soviets the POWs' crime was to be captured.

After Stalin's death, the persecution of Ukrainians continued under Khrushchev and Brezhnev.

Unlike the previous panels, which are in somber black and white, the very last panels have color in the form of blue-and-yellow flags as Independence is declared.

There is no doubt in our minds, that more "mohyly" (burial sites) will be excavated in Ukrainian cities and the countryside. This exhibition reminds us that independence was won by the blood and tears of many Ukrainians. We need to honor their memory.

To hear about the horrors of the Soviet regime has been hard enough; to see it so effectively documented made it difficult to walk away without being emotionally drained.

The non-profit, non-governmental exhibit is permanently housed at the Kyiv City All-Ukrainian Memorial Society of Vasyl Stus, vul. Mykhaylo Stelmakh St., 6a, Kyiv, Ukraine, 03040.



Roman Krytskyk, one of the organizers the exhibition, speaks at the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine in Washington.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contact the media re Duranty cover-up

Dear Editor:

The Ukrainian Weekly is right on about recent scandals at The New York Times and if readers ever wanted to do something about the Ukrainian Holocaust, now is the time. For years we have been trying to right this wrong, but with the recent scandal at the Times making the news every day, now is the time to prove that this goes all the way back to the infamous Walter Duranty and his cover-up of the crime of the century.

Are you frustrated that your letters in the past have been ignored? Well, now is the time because other news outlets will publicize how deep is the problem at the NY Times. And publicity is absolutely necessary to get this Pulitzer Prize turned over to the proper recipient – namely someone who covered what was really perpetrated by Stalin “Uncle Joe.”

Spend a few minutes to get the facts – reread the May 18, editorial of The Ukrainian Weekly and check out two other great sites at www.ucca.org and <http://www.nationalreview.com/stuttaford/stuttaford050703.asp>.

Also, contact shows that you might listen to: Sean Hannity, ABC Radio: seanshow@abc.com; Bob Grant Show: bobgrant@wor710.com; CBS Radio Network: <http://www.cbsnews.com>; National Public Radio: <http://www.npr.org/contact/>.

Also, contact the newspapers you read: New York Daily News: voicers@edit.nydailynews.com; New York Post: editor@nypost.com; The New York Times: letters@nytimes.com; The New York Times Syndicate: nytsf@nytimes.com; Newsday: letters@newsday.com; and Wall Street Journal: nywireroom@dowjones.com

The pen is mightier than the sword. If not for Duranty’s lies, millions of lives might have been saved in Ukraine. And were it not for Stalin’s ability to pull off the crime of the century, perhaps Hitler, Mao and the Khmer Rouge might not have been emboldened to have slaughtered 100 million more! These despots carried out crimes that obliterated major portions of the world’s inhabitants – and it all started with Duranty and The New York Times.

Russ Chelak
Morristown, N.J.

Old Soviet habits never seem to die

Dear Editor:

Regarding the eighth Ukrainian World Congress (May 4), it seems that some old Soviet habits never seem to die. In the past, visitors from the West were forced to pay exorbitant prices for hotels, food, transportation, etc. while visiting the former Soviet Union.

It is interesting that the registration cost for the eighth Ukrainian World Congress follows this same old pattern. Delegates from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Belgium, France and Germany must pay \$250 (U.S.). Delegates from South America and candidate countries to the European Union are being charged \$50 (U.S.), and delegates of countries from the former Soviet Union will pay only \$10 (U.S.). There is no mention of the cost for delegates from Ukraine.

If I were a delegate, which I am not, I would definitely question this cost. Do they really want your participation and input to

the agenda, or only your American dollars?

I have attended many conferences during my professional career, and have never seen such a scam; if anything, members always paid less than non-members.

Jerry Zinyecz
Venice, Fla.

Thanks for printing story from Georgia

Dear Editor:

Just a note to thank you for publishing the little article and photo about our small Ukrainian community in Georgia.

It’s taken over 20 years of collecting names, convincing people and clerics, and determination to accomplish what we have. Instead of just a listing in the phone book we now have a place, and the church, as always, is the foundation of the community.

The Weekly, understanding that it is the “link” to those who are not in large communities, played its part in our development. You’ll hear a lot more from us in the future.

Stephen Holutiak-Hallick
Duluth, Ga.

Bush’s politics and the war in Iraq

Dear Editor:

I strongly disagree with Roman Golash on why we should attack Iraq. First of all, it was the United States that supplied Saddam with WMD (weapons of mass destruction) during the Iran-Iraq war. He was our friend and ally. He used all the mustard gas on the Iranians, and we were only too happy to have the Muslims fight amongst themselves.

Second, how was Saddam Hussein involved with 9/11? It has been proven beyond a doubt that Saddam had nothing to do with 9/11 by our CIA and Israeli intelligence. As a matter of fact, Saddam and Osama bin Laden hated each other.

Thirdly, the only surviving Communists and their lackeys are in Ukraine and that is what we should be concerned about.

Fourthly, Bush used 9/11 as an excuse to invade Iraq and get at its oil. After all, his family made its fortune in the oil business; I’m sure they will secure another one there.

Last but not least, didn’t the Bush administration accuse Ukraine of selling the Kolchuha system? Where is it? Russia is supplying Iran with nuclear technology. But Bush calls Putin “my friend.” Why doesn’t Bush liberate Cuba, Ukraine and Belarus? That’s where the Communists and oppressors have power.

Now here is what should concern us. If Mr. Putin decides that there are “terrorist activities” in Ukraine, he will do exactly as Bush did in Iraq and call for a regime change. And Mr. Bush will call him “my friend” and look the other way! As someone who worked at the World Trade Center, witnessed the horrors and survived, I take exception to Mr. Bush’s comments.

By the way even though we won in Afghanistan, the early reports are that warlordism is prevailing there and that new members are being recruited by the Taliban. They will start to recruit even more in Iraq and other parts of the Middle East. That certainly doesn’t make me feel secure.

Ronald Reagan managed to unite the whole world, topple communism and secure a Pax Americana. George W. Bush by his actions in Iraq has managed to make us despised, detested and isolated.

Bohdan Pylypiw
New York

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



The rise and demise of Nikita

In “Khrushchev: The Man and His Times,” William Taubman paints a fascinating portrait of a simple, poorly educated, blustering buffoon who rose to power through guile, treachery, peasant wit and charm.

Nikita Sergeievich Khrushchev wore many masks during his lifetime: a mercurial, intriguing opportunist who insinuated himself into the inner circle of the most savage of all the savages who once ruled Russia; a hail-comrade-well-met funny man, consistently underestimated by his colleagues; an intriguing metalworker who became Communist Party boss in Moscow and later in Ukraine; an insecure self-doubting, quixotic leader who postured as an expert in agriculture, the arts, literature, industry, foreign affairs and practically anything else his indefatigable energy allowed.

Removed from office in October 1964, he left little of lasting value, except, of course, his historic condemnation of Joseph Stalin at the 20th Party Congress in 1956. This single, undoubtedly heroic act transformed the USSR from a terror state – where one was punished for what one was, rather than for what one did – to a totalitarian state, where life became more bearable and survival more predictable. “The fact that during the years of his rule,” writes Mr. Taubman, “about 20 million people were rehabilitated – granted, many of them posthumous ... alone outweighs all of Khrushchev’s faults and mistakes.”

My dad and I traveled to Soviet Ukraine in 1963 and family members there were optimistic about the future. They believed life would get better. When I returned with Lesia in 1974, the mood had changed dramatically.

In retirement, the former Soviet leader of lived a lonely, abandoned life on the outskirts of Moscow, secretly penning his memoirs. Published in the West, they were a sensation, despite Soviet claims of forgery. When Nikita died in 1971, he was denied a state funeral. No Soviet leader attended his burial. No headstone was permitted until 1975.

Nikita’s wife, Nina Petrovna, née Kukharchuk, was an ethnic Ukrainian who spoke the language flawlessly. Although Nikita, an ethnic Russian, often wore an embroidered Ukrainian shirt, he was a life-long foe of Ukrainian national aspirations.

Comrade Khrushchev’s mentor was the notorious Lazar Kaganovich, a Ukrainian Jew who became Ukrainian party leader in 1925. Nikita’s rise was meteoric. From Stalino (now Donetsk) to Kharkiv, to Kyiv, to Moscow – all in a year and a half. To get there, he was complicit in Stalin’s elimination of old Bolsheviks. At the height of Stalin’s 1930 terror campaign, writes Mr. Taubman, “Khrushchev gave violent, bloodcurdling speeches rousing the ‘masses’ to join in the witch hunt.” By the end of the decade, Nikita was part of Stalin’s inner circle. He survived by posturing as the “court jester,” the butt of Stalin’s jokes and cruel humor during late-night drunken orgies at Stalin’s dacha.

Nikita Khrushchev served as secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) twice, from 1938 to 1941 and again from 1944 to 1946. “Khrushchev conducted Russification with a vengeance,” writes Mr. Taubman. “In 1938 he lashed out at ‘Polish-German agents and bourgeois nationalists’ who,” he said, “did everything they could to exterminate the Russian language in Ukraine” and at ‘bastards who did everything to toss out Russian from Ukrainian

schools ... We must conduct the battle with enemies, provocateurs and slanderers decisively,” he announced at the 14th Ukrainian Party Congress in June 1938.” The following year in Moscow, Nikita boasted about having extirpated “‘vermin’ during his first year in Ukraine.”

Ukraine experienced a blood bath under Khrushchev. “All members but one of the Ukrainian party Politburo, Orgburo and Secretariat were arrested ... The entire Ukrainian government was replaced, as were party leaders and their deputies in all 12 Ukrainian provinces and virtually all Red Army corps and division commanders. Of 86 Central Committee members elected in June 1938, only three remained from a year before, while half of all party members in Kiev [sic], and up to 63 percent in one district, were denounced.” After this, the pace slowed somewhat. “In 1939, ‘only’ 12,000 are reported to have been arrested, and in 1940 about 40,000.”

When the Soviets invaded western Ukraine, it was Khrushchev who engineered the Soviet incorporation of western Ukraine. “Khrushchev’s ostensible mission was to protect his fellow Slavs in western Ukraine. His actual task was to conquer and Sovietize, to expropriate and collectivize, to organize new party and state institutions and make sure they opted ‘voluntarily’ to join the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.” Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians were arrested and deported.

When Nikita returned to Ukraine in 1944 his brutality was focused on the Ukrainian Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which bravely fought the Soviets until 1950. Spetsgrupy (black operations) militia scoured the countryside for Ukrainian nationalists and their supporters, eliminating them mercilessly. Writes Mr. Taubman: “Between February 1944 and May 1946 the Soviet military and police reported killing 110,825 ‘bandits’ and arresting 250,676 more. As many as 600,000 may have been arrested in western Ukraine between 1944 and 1952, with about a third of that number executed and the other two-thirds imprisoned or exiled.”

Though he often mentioned “God,” Nikita had no use for churches. As premier, he began a campaign that reduced the number of Orthodox parishes from more than 15,000 in 1951 to less than 8,000 in 1963.

As his days were ending, Nikita was asked what he regretted about his past. “Most of all the blood,” he replied. “My arms are up to the elbows in blood. That is the most terrible thing that lies in my soul.”

My focus in this column has been on Mr. Taubman’s relatively accurate and sympathetic treatment of Ukraine. His well-documented 870-page book, however, offers much more for the interested reader. Of particular interest are Khrushchev’s confrontations with two American presidents and with Vice-President Richard Nixon over the Captive Nations Resolution, the Cuban missile crises, his trip to the United States and his total misreading of the United States.

Nikita once predicted that the grandchildren of Americans of his day would live in a Soviet America. Today, his son, Sergei Khrushchev, lives in Providence, R.I., where he is a fellow of the Thomas Watson Institute of Brown University. Nikita’s granddaughter Nina received a Ph.D. from Princeton University in comparative literature and now lives and works in New York.

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

New notecards aim to raise funds to combat breast cancer

KYIV – In an effort to raise awareness about the dangers of breast cancer and the need for early diagnosis, a group of Ukrainian women's organizations united their efforts last year in a campaign called "Because Life is Beautiful."

Breast cancer is the No. 1 killer of women in the world, and Ukraine is one of the countries with the highest breast cancer incidence rates in Europe, with 15,000 new cases diagnosed annually. The incidence rate has doubled over the last 10 years.

The fund-raising campaign, which was launched in the summer of 2002, began with the sale of notecards (packets of eight) by Ukrainian women artists to raise money to produce public education materials on how to do breast self-examinations and to purchase medical equipment for the detection of breast cancer.

Another aspect of the campaign includes a traveling fashion show, featuring women designers from Ukraine: Anna Babenko, Victoria Gres and Oksana Karavanska, who will present their fall/winter 2004 collection in Chicago (May 30); Detroit (May 31); Toronto (June 1); Washington (June 5) and New York (June 7).

Seven prominent Ukrainian women artists, including Olena Pryduvalova, Lesia Dovzhenko, Nina Denysova, Tetiana Kolechko, Iryna Yeremeyeva, Iryna Kudina and Vera Kuleba-Barynova donated their works to create

the notecards. The eighth artist in the group is a 10-year-old girl and aspiring artist, Yaroslava Kutsay, who learned about the initiative and wanted to help with this public awareness campaign and donated her latest work, titled "Ukrainian Girl."

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on this campaign include the Ukrainian Women's Fund, Center for Ukrainian Reform Education, Women's Health and Family Planning Charitable Foundation, Ukrainian Section of IAAC (International Association of Art Critics), the National Council of Women of Ukraine and Winrock International, a USAID contractor in Ukraine that works on women's issues.

Close to 1,000 sets of notecards have already been sold and have done much to attract public attention and to focus on the health concerns of Ukrainian women. Interestingly, a majority of the notecards have been acquired by concerned American women who are not of Ukrainian ancestry.

The packaged cards come with a message that they are part of the educational campaign "Because Life is Beautiful." The packaging explains that by purchasing them, buyers are helping the Ukrainian Women's Fund acquire medical equipment for the early detection of breast cancer and its successful treatment in Ukraine.

The notecards, which come in attractive packages of 8, may be obtained in the United States and Canada by sending a donation of \$10 to Public Education International, 6819 N. Algonquin Ave., Chicago, IL 60646. PEI is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with tax-exempt status.

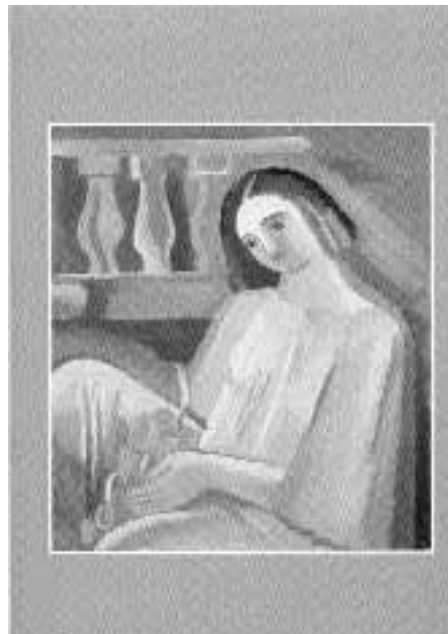
The notecards will be available for purchase at the venues in the five cities where the breast cancer awareness campaign has scheduled its traveling fashion show.



"Ukrainian Girl" (2002, gouache) by 10-year-old Yaroslava Kutsay.



"St. Sophia Street" (1997, gouache) by Olena Pryduvalova.



"Memories in Marble" (1990, oil) by Lesia Dovzhenko.



"Blessed Harvest Apples" (1997, enamel and copper) by Tetiana Kolechko.

Need a back issue?

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DATELINE NEW YORK: Olympic star prepares to shine again

by Helen Smindak

After a two-year hiatus, Olympic gold medalist and world figure skating champion Oksana Baiul is making a comeback into the realm of professional figure skating. Now in training in Virginia, she plans to return to the professional skating circuit in September, joining Katarina Witt and her friends in Bridgeport, Conn., to prepare for the November start of Ms. Witt's new touring show.

Speaking to me by phone from Richmond, Ms. Baiul sounded excited yet poised about the prospect of going out on the ice and thrilling fans again.

"I'm working my butt off, I want to be as good as I can," she said, "and I've got my coach from 1994 – Valentin Nikolayev – supervising my training. I'm continuing to design my skatewear fashions, for which a new catalogue has just been published, and I'm looking forward to a very exciting time."

She's also engaged, she told me, to "a wonderful guy from Ukraine who's in the sportswear business. His name is Gene Sunik, he's from Kharkiv, he's the owner of North-Sportif outerwear in New York, and he's also helping me with my designs."

The two met at a Christmas party in Bayside, Queens, when Mr. Sunik's childhood friend invited him to the party and a co-worker brought along Ms. Baiul. So far, there are no definite wedding plans – "hopefully, next summer," according to Ms. Baiul.

Ms. Baiul made a preliminary re-start in show business in April, when she shared the ice with Olympic champions Brian Boitano and Ekaterina Gordeeva and a large cast of champion figure skaters at the Mother's Day celebration sponsored by Hallmark Cards in Colorado. A portion of the live performance was televised on the CBS Network on May 3.

One of the two numbers she skated was titled "My Life," referring to "the tough times I've had in my life – I lost my mom when I was very young."

Although she's been working out in Virginia since 1998, New York City is her home base. "I live in a New York apartment; I like New York very much. I moved from Connecticut after rehab, after the tough times I had. (At 19, drinking caused her to crash her Mercedes convertible, and she spent three and a half months in rehab.)"

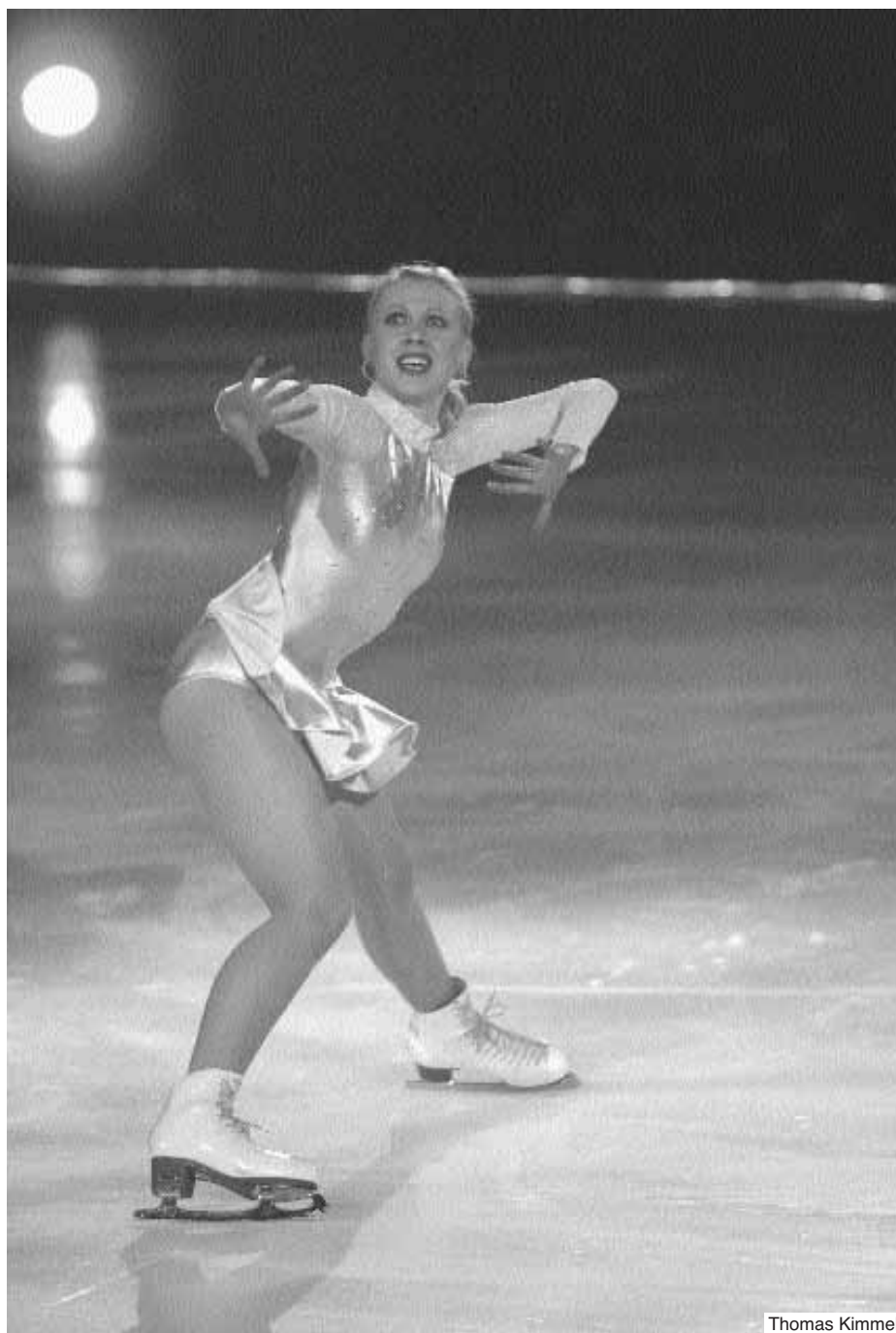
"The Oksana Baiul collection is sold in pro shops, it's very successful," she said. She wants to take it further, hoping other stores will pick up the line.

As a story in Women's Wear Daily points out, Ms. Baiul, with an office in the Empire State Building and a fiancé wise to Seventh Avenue, is determined to maintain control of her latest business venture. An earlier licensing deal with GK, a gymnastics apparel maker, did not work out. Nowadays, she sketches the line, selects models for her catalogue, wear-tests products and goes to fashion shows.

The glossy catalogue that arrived on the "Dateline" desk a few days after our conversation shows a svelte, sophisticated Ms. Baiul in dozens of skating costumes. Most of the fashions are modeled by the green-eyed skater, blond hair pulled back in a sleek chignon or caught in a jaunty ponytail, looking demure, or coquettish, or sexy as befits the costume.

There are bare-shouldered styles and long-sleeved, high-neck fashions, with short pleated or ruffled skirts, as well as some smart warm-up jackets and pants. Though the line is geared mainly for skaters, select items such as a black catsuit with a lacy-sleeved jacket should appeal to women in general.

At 16, the petite figure skater from Ukraine took the gold at the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994. Nine years later, Oksana Baiul appears to



Oksana Baiul

be headed for success in two fields, as a fashion designer and a figure skater.

Another Ukrainian star?

Figure skater Sasha Cohen has been turning the heads of judges and skating fans in the past year as she keeps popping up among the top three winners in leading national and international competitions (she has won several medals this season, including Grand Prix Gold). Ms. Cohen, 18, whose birth name is Alexandra Pauline Cohen, cuts an amazingly graceful figure as she glides and turns through compulsory figures and free skating.

Media reports about her triumphs invariably mention that "Sasha's mother is Ukrainian." To check on the accuracy of this information, I contacted the U.S.



Sasha Cohen

Figure Skating Association, which asked me to submit three or four questions that would be relayed via e-mail to Galina Cohen, who was born in Odesa, Ukraine.

Though weeks have passed, and I queried USFSA a second time, there's been no response from Mrs. Cohen. USFSA said that Mrs. Cohen "seemed a bit frazzled at the idea of another interview." She had just returned from "a visit to Russia – where she was a very popular woman, due to her background."

I can only conclude that Galina Cohen has no wish to respond to a reporter who asked, among other things, "Is your ethnic identity Ukrainian, Russian or Jewish?"

Sasha Cohen's parents – attorney Roger Cohen and Galina Cohen – and her sister Natasha moved from California to Avon, Conn., in order to keep the family together while she's training in nearby Simsbury with coach Tatiana Tarasova.

An eye-opener art exhibit

The first art exhibition held in the newly renovated third-floor galleries of the Ukrainian Institute of America evoked compliments from many quarters, but brought gasps of surprise and lifted eyebrows in some die-hard Ukrainians. The show is an eye-opener for all visitors, both in content and in price tags.

Anton Skorubsky Kandinsky's huge canvases of surrealistic scenes and portraits, all recent works from 1999 to 2003 that range in price from \$5000 to \$300,000, reveal a profound talent. But the choice of blood red fabric draped extensively over podiums and the use of the same color in several of the paintings inevitably calls to mind the Soviet regime.

It could be viewed as a papal red, but die-hard Ukrainians are prone to see it as Soviet-inspired.

UIA program director Walter Hoydysh corrects this view by pointing out that red is a common color in traditional Ukrainian apparel and footwear. "Think of the Kozaks' 'sharavary' and 'zhupany' and hats, of men's and women's red boots, of red sashes. Red was the color our hetmans used – it is a very common color in Ukraine."

He points out as well that Mr. Kandinsky and his art student, Vitaly Bohaievsky, who collaborated in a couple of the works, see the color as a "new" red – a red that is the color of love and happiness.

Once the proliferation of red has been digested and set aside, there is a great deal to admire and study in the 25 oils in the exhibit. A five-foot-high work titled "Eternal," a Kandinsky-Bohaievsky piece, depicts a torch topped by flames which, on further study, show a trident shape. "Kozak Yasha's Ladder" is a finely detailed traditional Ukrainian landscape centered with a black-and-white photograph, a head shot of a Kozak.

A panoramic view of the Big Apple, filled with abstract representations of Manhattan skyscrapers and landmarks, is fittingly titled "I Love New York." The painting "Lawyer" shows a white-haired, white-bearded gentleman whose kindly face and slight smile reveal honesty and benevolence.

Slashes of paint resembling deep gashes figure prominently on a simple blue-and-yellow canvas (top half blue, bottom half yellow), a Kandinsky-Bohaievsky collaboration titled "Pain of Ukraine." An abstract representation of a trident, depicted by three pointed vertical columns, is seen in the Kandinsky painting "Ukraine 4-Ever."

Other works, whose meaning or symbolism eluded this writer, include husky bears, a painting with blobs of bright primary colors against a background of spherical shapes, and a piece centered around a stream of red liquid seemingly passing in mid-air from one champagne goblet to another.

Mr. Kandinsky has a penchant for precious stones, evinced in the remarkably lifelike three-dimensional jewels that appear in many paintings (they look as though actual jewels have been glued onto the canvas), in particular "Money Tree," composed of row upon row of red stones. Two paintings titled "Malevich dedication, Red" and "Malevich dedication, Green" are simply black backgrounds centered with a gleaming red or green jewel.

The pièce de resistance, covered at the opening reception by a red cloth carrying a simple note in Ukrainian that read "A Kozak should fear nothing in this world," was finally unveiled. Above the inscription "Harmony Brings Happiness" was a triptych of large portraits of New York Mayor Bloomberg, President George Bush and former Mayor Rudy Guiliani, all three sporting red shirts under their business jackets. The work is priced at \$150,000.

Mr. Kandinsky and Mr. Bohaievsky draw a parallel between the freedom-loving Kozaks of the Zaporozhian Sich, who made their home on the island of Khortytsia on the Dnipro River, and the freedom-loving people who have come from all over the world and make Manhattan Island their home.

The artists believe that the concept of Kozak courage and bravery has acquired new qualities of justice and true humanism, as expressed in the culture, politics and mentality of Manhattan.

In their opinion, the Kozaks who were able to "realize" themselves best in

(Continued on page 14)



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

Ukrainian connection on zeppelin service

by Inbert J. Kuzych
and George V. Kedrowsky

The majestic, silver airship Graf Zeppelin (Count Zeppelin) ruled the uncluttered skies of the late 1920s and early 1930s like no other monarch could. The sight of the sleek, silent ship gliding overhead brought crowds of people streaming from their homes and into the streets. No other aircraft in history has been the focus of so much admiration by so many people.

The Graf Zeppelin was Dr. Hugo Eckner's crowning achievement in the concept of the zeppelin. Even though the later Hindenburg and the Graf Zeppelin II would be technologically superior to the Graf Zeppelin, no other airship was so beloved by nearly all the world.

The pioneering flights of the giant German airship made front-page news around the world. The dirigible became the first commercial aircraft to span the Atlantic Ocean in 1928 and it set other aeronautical records in subsequent years. Before being decommissioned in 1937 and dismantled in 1940, it had traveled further than any zeppelin before or since: 590 flights, more than a million miles and 144 ocean crossings.

Two collectors of Ukrainian background sought to have mails transported on this new aerial conveyance. The renowned collector Eugene Vyrovjy and the stamp dealer Katherine E. Shattuck (later spelled Shutock) were philatelic associates who set up a trans-Atlantic correspondence. Both were members of the Society of Ukrainian Philatelists in Vienna, Austria (numbers 13 and 41, respectively).¹ While he was a Ukrainian living in Prague, Czechoslovakia, she was an American-born Ukrainian (both mother and father having emigrated from Chernivtsi in 1902).² The U.S. address on several of the covers that appear in this article was also the address of Miss Shattuck's ECHO Stamp Co. Both parties conducted many successful and unique stamp exchanges over a number of years.

Mr. Vyrovjy and Miss Shattuck would address and send envelopes to each other – in quantity cancelled at special events. Subsequently, a received portion of the envelopes would be returned to the other in normal mail.

Figure 1 is a cover from the Graf Zeppelin that traveled on the return (second) leg of the first round trip between Germany and the U.S. The airship first arrived in Lakehurst, N.J., on October 15, 1928, after a 111-hour flight from Germany. It left the U.S. on October 30 bearing a great deal of commemorative flight materials, including the illustrated cover, which was mailed by Miss Shattuck to Mr. Vyrovjy. The envelope carries 6 cents airmail franking and a special violet commemorative marking that proclaims: "First Flight Air Mail Via Graf Zeppelin, United States –

Germany."

The return flight was much faster, since the aircraft was now riding the prevailing westerly winds. The cancels on the reverse reveal that the ship arrived at its home base of Friedrichshafen on November 1 and was delivered to Krale Vinohrady in Czechoslovakia two days later.

Figures 2 and 3 are a postcard and envelope both highlighted with the same round blue cachet that in German states: "The Airship Graf Zeppelin, First America Trip [of] 1929." (This flight was the aircraft's second trip to America.) Both items were mailed by Mr. Vyrovjy to Ms. Shattuck on or about May 16, 1929 (note special black "Luftschiff Graf Zeppelin" [Airship Graf Zeppelin] cancellation). However, 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) into the flight engine trouble developed and the ship became unmanageable. The Graf Zeppelin drifted a considerable distance in a short time. Finally, with the assistance of a ground force, it landed at Cuers, a French military airport. It took several days for temporary repairs to be made, after which the Zeppelin headed home, landing safely at Friedrichshafen.

All the mail that was on the zeppelin was overprinted with a red, one-line, German inscription that stated: "Conveyance delayed because of a break in the first American journey." Mails received subsequently, while the Zeppelin was being repaired at its home hanger, did not carry this marking. Consequently, mail with this overprint has a greater value, for fewer items were carried on the original aborted flight.

On August 1, 1929, after the engines had received extensive repairs, the zeppelin again departed for its second Atlantic crossing, this time completing the trip without further incident.

The Graf Zeppelin's subsequent excursion was its most ambitious to date: a journey around the world. This trip was as big a global news story as the moon landing 40 years later. Carrying 16 passengers and a crew of 37, the airship left Lakehurst in the early morning hours of August 8, 1929. It made only three stops on her 19,500-mile trip. The first destination was its home base in Germany. Figure 4 is of a pre-stamped 5-cent airmail cover (with 1 cent stamp added), mailed by Miss Shattuck to Mr. Vyrovjy and carried on the first leg of this historic trip from the U.S. (postmark is New York on August 7, 1929) to Friedrichshafen (arrival cancel of August 10). The item was subsequently forwarded to Prague, arriving two days later.

From Germany the ship flew over Siberia to Japan, where it made its second stop in Tokyo. It next proceeded westward over the Pacific to Los Angeles for its final stop and then returned to Lakehurst on August 29, having journeyed for 21 days, seven hours, and 26 minutes – a new record for around-the-world travel. More amazing was the fact that only about 12 of those days had been spent in the air. The round violet cachet on the cover proclaims "First Round-the-World Flight, U.S. Air Mail" and lists the three stopover sites of the flight as well as Lakehurst, the beginning and end point.

Figure 7 is of a postcard traveling in the opposite direction, once again making a groundbreaking journey – this time a Europe-Pan American tour. The German message in the round, light red cachet reads: "Airship Graf Zeppelin, South America Trip

(Continued on page 11)

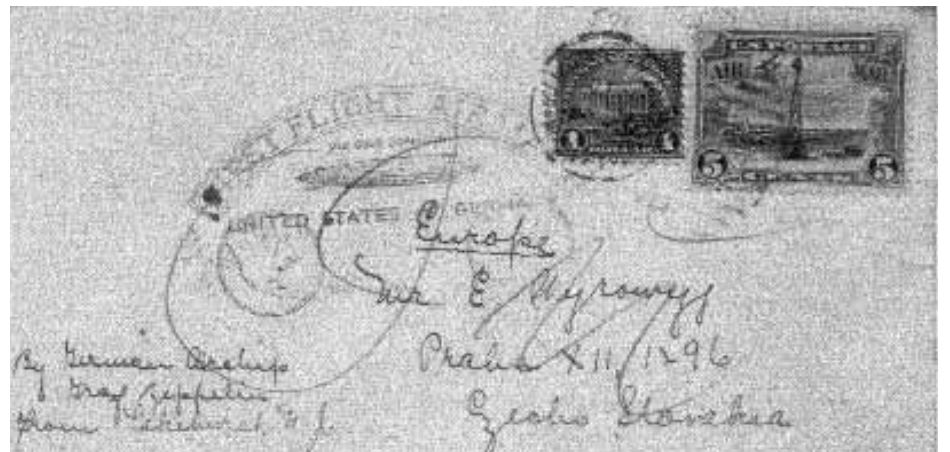


Figure 1. Zeppelin airmail cover postmarked from New York on October 29, 1928, and addressed to Prague on the return leg of the first trans-Atlantic flight of the Graf Zeppelin.

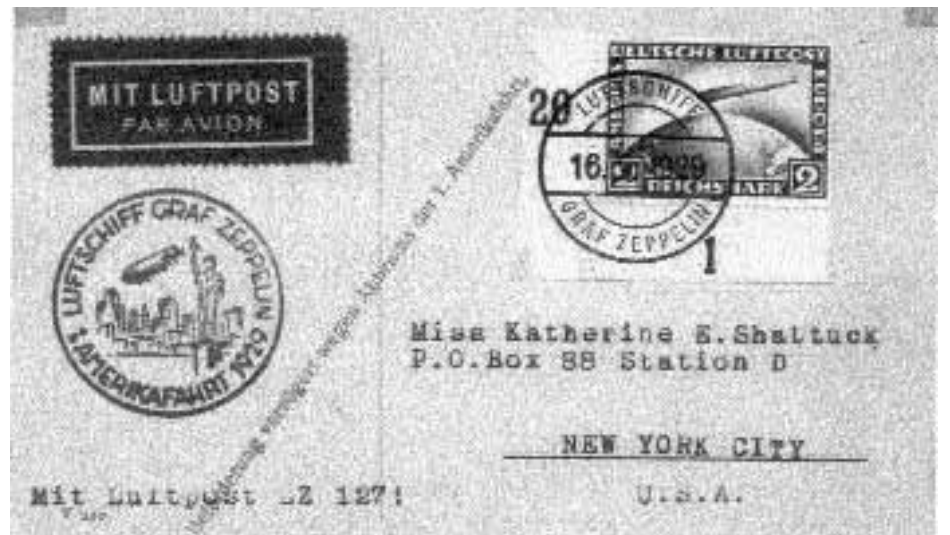


Figure 2. Postcard sent via zeppelin from Germany to the United States. The card took over 11 weeks to arrive at its New York destination due to a break in the flight.



Figure 3. Zeppelin letter from Germany to the United States. As for Figure 2, this item was delayed in arriving.

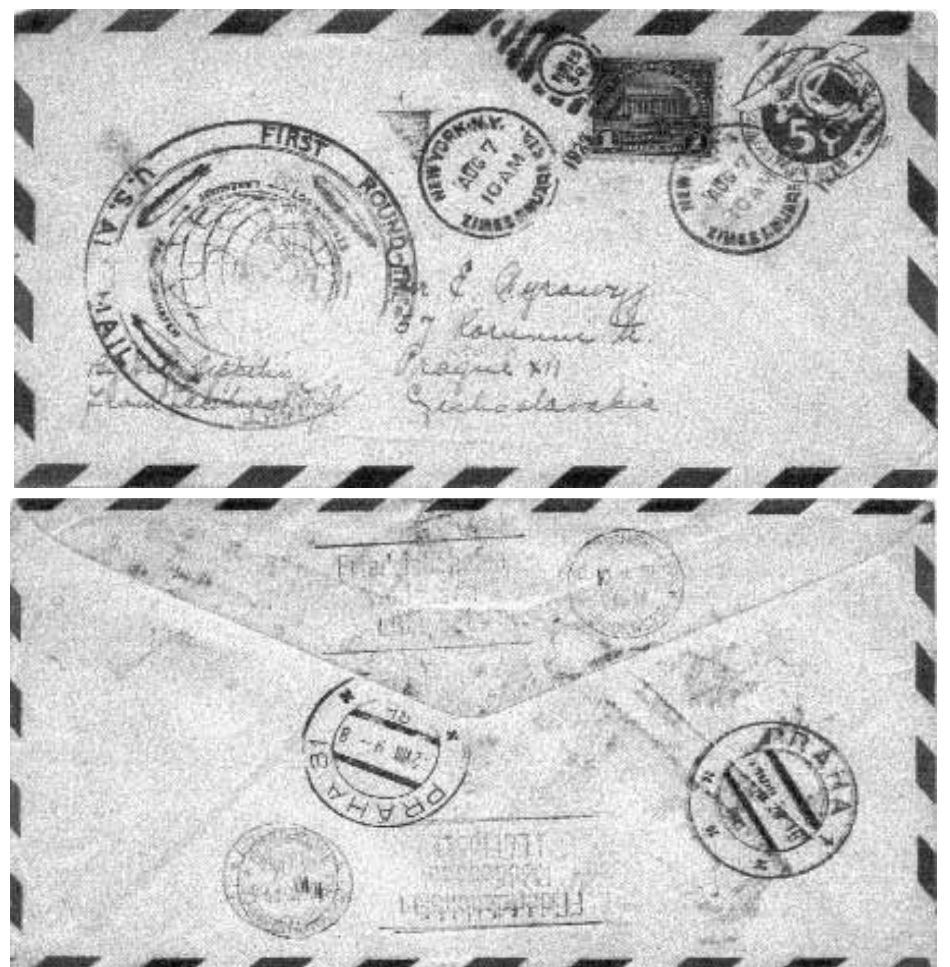


Figure 4. Letter carried on the first leg of the Graf Zeppelin's around-the-world flight.

¹ The Society of Ukrainian Philatelists functioned from 1925 to 1939 when it folded due to the political situation in German-occupied Austria. Following World War II, several members of the original organization who now found themselves in the U.S. joined with other Ukrainian Americans to form a new Society of Ukrainian Philatelists. In 1972 the name of the organization was changed to the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS). Today the UPNS remains the largest Ukrainian collecting organization outside of Ukraine.

² Katherine Shattuck married Volodymyr Kedrowsky, former Ukrainian ambassador to the Baltic states, in 1932. An article about Mr. Kedrowsky appeared in April's "Focus on Philately."



Figure 9. An unmailed letter with an even more valuable \$1.30 U.S. Graf Zeppelin stamp.

Ukrainian connection...

(Continued from page 10)

1930." This time Mr. Vyrovyj used a type-writer to print out Miss Shattuck's address, as well as a short inscription under the cachet: "By Airship Graf Zeppelin to Lakehurst."

His Ukrainian message on the back contains instructions for his philatelic partner. It reads:

Prague May 14, 1930
Highly Esteemed Miss Shattuck!

I am sending you three cards and four letters. If you like, keep for yourself one card and one letter and return two cards and three letters to me in a registered letter. If you like, you may retain one additional letter. Please also send me two-three letters by zeppelin, franked only with airmail stamps and not with some others. Sincerest greetings and I wish you all the best. E. Vyrovyj

P.S. [In the left margin] In another letter I inserted a prepared addressed envelope.

On May 18 the Graf Zeppelin left for Seville, Spain – the first stage of its Europe-South America-North America flight – and arrived the following day. Note the cancellation dated the 19th, which was undoubtedly applied in flight. Shortly after midnight of the morning of the 20th, the airship departed for a long (6,400-kilometer, or 4,000 mile) flight to Pernambuco, Brazil, arriving on May 22 after a flight of 61 hours. On the 27th, a short flight was made to Rio de Janeiro. After 70 minutes on the ground, the zeppelin returned to Pernambuco. The following morning, the aircraft proceeded northward on its historic trek, heading for Havana. Because of the weather, the ship skipped this rendezvous and continued on to Lakehurst, arriving at daybreak of May 31. The ship returned to Friedrichshafen by way of Seville, Spain.

Figures 8 and 9 are items apparently prepared by Miss Shattuck, but never carried on the last leg of this journey. The applied stamps were quite high-value for their time and were part of a three-stamp set released by the U.S. Postal Service in the spring of 1930. The stamps were specifically issued for use on mails carried on the first Europe-Pan-America round-trip flight of the Graf Zeppelin in May of 1930. Relatively few of these stamps were issued and today they are among the most valuable of all U.S. airmail stamps. The stamp in Figure 8 might be worth about \$200, while the one in Figure 9 about \$400. Why these two items were never mailed remains a mystery.

More about the U.S. Graf Zeppelin stamps

In February of 1930, Hugo Eckener, the pilot of the Graf Zeppelin, went to Washington to receive the National Geographic Society's Gold Medal for his around-the-world flight. He used this occasion to lobby for and convince the U.S. Post Office to issue a set of zeppelin stamps.

The stamps, valued at \$.65, \$1.30 and \$2.60, were quickly designed and placed on sale initially at the Washington post office and the Philatelic Agency on April 19, 1930. Two days later, they began to be sold at other post offices. This was about a

month before the airship's next scheduled big flight, from Europe to South America and then North America. The stamps were withdrawn from sale at post offices on June 7, 1930, a week after the arrival of the aircraft in the U.S. The stamps continued on sale at the Philatelic Agency for the benefit of stamp collectors until June 30, 1930. Subsequently all remainders were destroyed (incinerated).

The \$.65 and \$1.30 values were used for postcards and letters respectively carried on the last leg of the journey from the U.S. to Seville, Spain and Friedrichshafen. The \$1.30 and \$2.60 values were used for post cards and letters respectively carried on the round trip flight Friedrichshafen to Friedrichshafen or Seville. These latter items were delivered to Germany by boat and forwarded to Friedrichshafen for the start of the trip.

Very few of these Graf Zeppelin stamps were sold. The U.S. and the world were still in the throes of the Great Depression and the \$4.55 value for the set represented a week's food allowance for a family of four. One million copies of each stamp were printed, but less than 8 percent survive and they remain the smallest U.S. issue of the 20th century (only 229,260 of these stamps were ever purchased). Despite this fact, the U.S. Post Office was able to present Dr. Eckener with \$100,000 raised towards the expenses of the trip.

About Count Zeppelin and the flight around the world

Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin (1838-1917) was a retired German brigadier general who developed the rigid dirigible, a lighter-than-air vehicle that became known as the zeppelin. His first craft was completed in 1900. Despite many setbacks, Zeppelin persevered and continued his research to modify and improve his designs; in 1910, one of his airships was able to provide the first commercial air service for passengers. One of Zeppelin's closest associates from 1906 was Dr. Hugo Eckener. After World War I and Zeppelin's death, Dr. Eckener became the chief propo-



Figure 6. A postcard showing Dr. Hugo Eckener, the pilot of the Graf Zeppelin.



Figure 7. Postcard carried from Germany to Spain to Brazil and finally the U.S. on the Graf Zeppelin's first Europe-Pan-America round-trip flight.

nent of dirigible travel.

Even with all its novel design innovations and the excitement and support of the German people, getting the Graf Zeppelin built was slowed by the lack of money. It had taken a plea to the German people by Dr. Eckener to raise most of the funds to have it built and more arm-twisting in the government to get enough monies to finish

the ship. Finally christened on July 8, 1928, the ship was launched on September 18, 1928, but further financial support was needed to keep it flying. Such support was found by way of an American businessman and airship supporter, William Randolph Hearst.

Hearst put together a shrewd deal with (Continued on page 13)

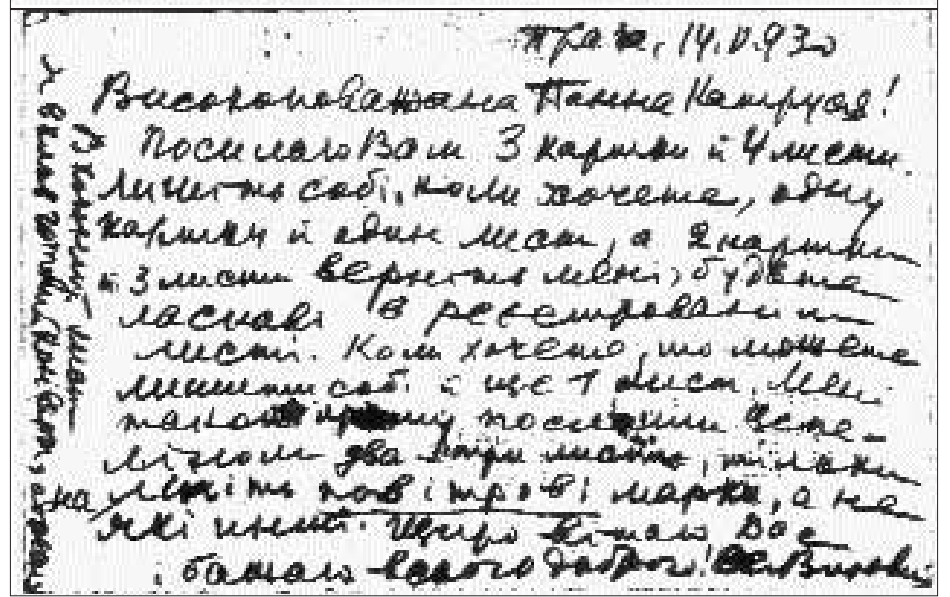
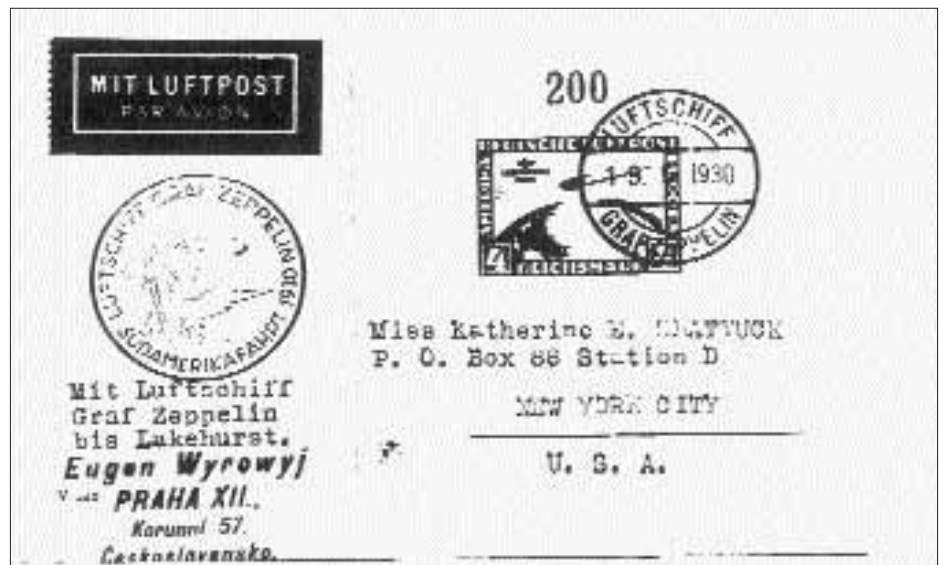


Figure 8. Unmailed postcard carries a very valuable 65-cent United States Graf Zeppelin stamp. This is one of two cards prepared by Miss Shattuck but never mailed.

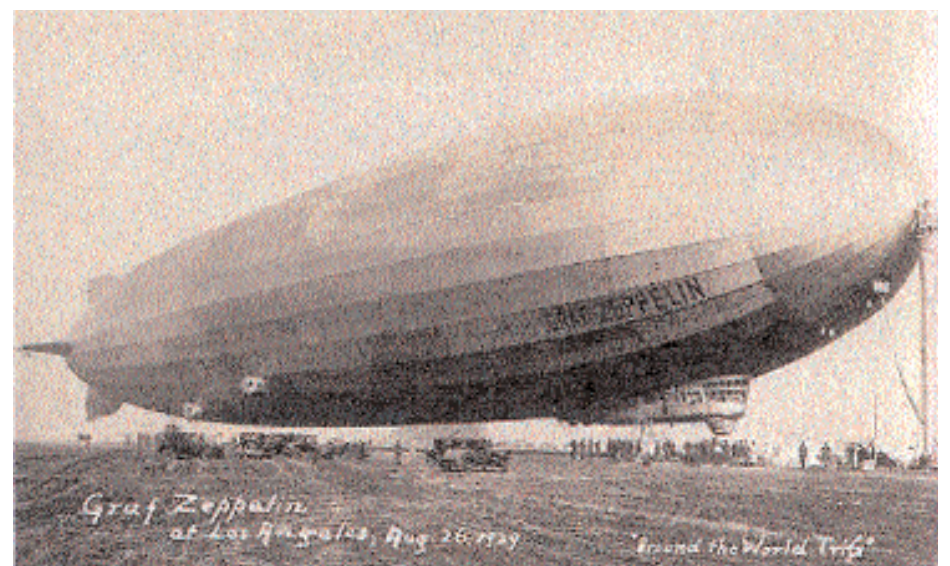


Figure 5. The Graf Zeppelin docked in Los Angeles (August 26, 1930) during its around-the-world trip.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

efforts to implement the socioeconomic
and environmental goals mapped out by
the Johannesburg World Summit on
Sustainable Development in 2002,
Interfax reported. The appeal, endorsed by
371 deputies, also includes an assertion
that there are already "objective grounds"
for transforming relations between
Ukraine and the European Union to "a
qualitatively new level - from partnership
to association." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian firm to build Turkmen pipeline

ASHGABAT - Ukraine will pay off a
portion of its debt for Turkmen natural-gas
supplies by building a stretch of a pipeline
that is to transport Turkmen gas to Europe,
the Turkmen State News Agency and turk-
menistan.ru reported on May 21. The proj-
ect, which envisions building a section of
pipeline across the Kara-Bogaz Inlet on
stilts and which is valued at \$16 million,
will be carried out by the Ukrainian compa-
ny Petrohazaziya under an agreement with
Turkmenneftegaz, the Turkmen state oil
and gas firm. The 1-kilometer elevated sec-
tion of pipeline across Kara-Bogaz will be
new, but the project also includes carrying
out repairs and modernization to expand the
capacity of the Soviet-era pipeline that
transported Turkmen gas to Moscow. The
Kara-Bogaz section is to be completed next
year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Borzov sworn in as national deputy

KYIV - Valerii Borzov was sworn in as
a Verkhovna Rada deputy on May 20,
Interfax and UNIAN reported. Mr. Borzov,
who ran in the 2002 parliamentary election
in the nationwide, multi-seat constituency
on the Social-Democratic Party (United)
ticket, replaces lawmaker Mykola
Pesotskyi, who was appointed to head the
State Reserves Committee and gave up his
deputy's mandate. Mr. Borzov, now chair-
man of the Ukrainian Track and Field
Federation, won two gold medals at the
Olympic Games in Munich in 1972, run-
ning the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes
for the Soviet Union. The Verkhovna Rada
currently has 449 deputies. The Central
Election Commission scheduled a by-elec-
tion for June 8 in a constituency in
Chernihiv Oblast after lawmaker Valentyn
Melnichuk was appointed chairman of
Chernihiv Oblast and surrendered his par-
liamentary seat. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Parliament in turmoil again

KYIV - Lawmakers from the Yulia
Tymoshenko Bloc blocked the Verkhovna
Rada rostrum on May 15 to protest the
refusal of prison authorities to release two
former United Energy Systems (UES) exec-
utives, Hennadii Tymoshenko and Antonina
Boliura, UNIAN reported. On May 13 a
court ordered a stop to all criminal cases
launched by the Procurator General's Office
against opposition leader Ms. Tymoshenko
and four former UES executives, but the
Procurator General's Office subsequently
appealed the ruling. According to National
Deputy Andrii Shkil, eight lawmakers from
the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc were beaten by
police on May 14 while trying to enter the
Kyiv prison where Ms. Tymoshenko's
father-in-law and Ms. Boliura are being
kept. Ms. Tymoshenko demanded that
Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun
appear in Parliament to explain why the
former executives are still in custody, and
Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn
reportedly pledged to summon Mr. Piskun.
(RFE/RL Newsline)

ROC nixes proposed papal visit ...

MOSCOW - The Moscow Patriarchate
of the Russian Orthodox Church has issued

(Continued on page 13)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

a statement saying that a proposed brief visit to Russia by Pope John Paul II later this year cannot take place, newsru.com reported on May 19. According to the Vatican proposal, the pontiff was to stop off in Kazan on his way to Mongolia in order to return to Russia the Orthodox Church's most sacred icon, the Kazan Holy Mother of God, which is in the Vatican's collection. The Patriarchate's statement said an analysis by the Culture Ministry determined that the Vatican's icon is "an 18th-century work by a provincial icon painter," and not the original 16th-century masterpiece. Because the Vatican's icon is just "one of many icons illegally removed from Russia, it cannot serve as the pretext for a visit to Russia by Pope John Paul II," the statement reads. The statement further notes that there have been no talks between the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church concerning the proposed visit, and added that improving relations between the two Churches depends on the Vatican's willingness to curtail proselytizing among Orthodox believers and improving conditions for Orthodox believers in western Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... criticizes creation of Kazakstan dioceses

MOSCOW – The Moscow Patriarchate condemned a recent Vatican decision to create new Roman Catholic dioceses in

Kazakstan, newsru.com reported on May 19. This step was taken without consulting the Russian Orthodox Church although "most Christians in Kazakstan belong to its canonic jurisdiction," the statement noted. The Vatican's decision is a serious blow to relations between the Churches, according to the statement. The Moscow Patriarchate has decided to create a new metropolitan for Kazakstan, NTV reported on May 19. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Poland get EU funds for pipeline

KYIV – Ukraine, Poland and the European Union on May 27 signed a declaration to work toward extending the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline to the Polish port of Gdansk in order to transport Caspian oil to Europe, Ukrainian and Polish news agencies reported. The European Commission will contribute 3 million euros (\$3.6 million) for a feasibility study of the Odesa-Brody-Gdansk pipeline. Polish Deputy Prime Minister Marek Pol told PAP that construction of the Polish section of the pipeline can be financed only on commercial terms. "We have decided to set up a working team including representatives from Poland, Ukraine and the EU who will coordinate work on the project," he said. A Brody-Plock-Gdansk stretch that is expected to take three to five years to build and to cost some 500 million euros (\$589 million) is needed to complete the pipeline. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian connection...

(Continued from page 11)

Dr. Eckener that would benefit both the Zeppelin Company and Hearst's newspaper companies. Hearst would put up the money for a global flight of the Graf Zeppelin that would gain it the publicity it would need to form a solid reputation for dependability. In return, he would get exclusive U.S. rights to the story. Dr. Eckener, having been a journalist and writer before going to work for Count Von Zeppelin, knew how to make the most of this publicity and did so at every opportunity. The global flight would begin in Friedrichshafen and proceed to Lakehurst, N.J. Lakehurst would then mark the official starting point of the journey, as stipulated in the contract drawn up by Hearst.

Although the Graf Zeppelin was not the first aircraft to circle the globe, it was by far the fastest. What took months for a British military heavy bomber to do, with many breakdowns and hardships along the way, the Graf did in three weeks in comfort and style with a full passenger load over much previously uncharted land (Figure 5). The trip was a complete success and the world, particularly the U.S., caught "Zeppelin Mania." Once safely moored at Lakehurst, Dr. Eckener was treated to a tickertape parade in his honor in New York City and the newspapers dubbed him the "Magellan of the Air" (Figure 6).

Ingerit Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or at his e-mail address: ingert@starpower.net.

Michigan Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 4)

cussed.

The meeting with Rep. Levin focused on the Jackson-Vanick amendment. The congressman is the ranking Democrat on the Trade Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee and has been a strong advocate of graduating Ukraine from the amendment. With the support of the Ukrainian American community, he sponsored a bill in the previous session of the House of Representatives to remove Ukraine from the list of countries to which the amendment applies.

It was clear from the discussions that members of Congress are concerned about the impact that graduating Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik will have on the political situation in Ukraine, particularly in light of the upcoming presidential elections. However, it was not ruled out that graduating Ukraine could still take place this year. Also, in discussing the presidential elections in Ukraine in 2004, Rep. Sander Levin demonstrated his interest in and vast knowledge about the situation in Ukraine and his dedication to facilitating democratic and free market reforms in the country.

His brother, Sen. Carl Levin, ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, has for many years been a leader in the Senate on Ukrainian issues, including Ukraine's integration into

Euroatlantic defense structures. During his meeting with the community representatives, in which his chief of staff, David Lyles, also participated, he expressed the hope that the NATO/Ukraine conference would further facilitate Ukraine's efforts on military and democratic reforms.

On the Jackson-Vanik amendment, Sen. Levin reaffirmed that he, too, is committed to graduating Ukraine from the amendment and that it is a matter of language and timing as to when it will take place.

In his capacity as a member of the board of the Library of Congress' Russian Leadership Program, Sen. Levin reaffirmed that the Board had endorsed the creation of such a Program for Ukraine. The Ukrainian Leadership Program, originally proposed to Congress by the ODFFU, will bring government and other representatives from Ukraine for extended visits to the United States to work alongside their American counterparts in acquainting themselves with government operations and life in America.

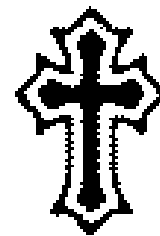
Earlier this year, at the urging of the Ukrainian American community in Michigan, Sen. Levin met with Viktor Yushchenko, former prime minister and leader of the Our Ukraine bloc in the Parliament of Ukraine. Sen. Levin expressed a keen interest in next year's presidential election in Ukraine and in assuring that the election campaign process is fair and equitable.



Helen Babchuk (née Wierchowski) Monterey, IN

Helen Babchuk (née Wierchowski), age 79, of Monterey, IN, passed away Thursday, May 22, 2003, at St. Anthony's Hospital in Crown Pointe, IN. She was the beloved wife of William Babchuk (Monterey, IN), the loving mother of Dr. George Babchuk, married to Michelle Brown (Crown Pointe, IN) and Dr. William Babchuk, married to Kathleen Good (Kokomo, IN), and the proud grandmother of Lauren and Jennifer Babchuk (Kokomo, IN) and Valerie and George William Babchuk (Crown Pointe, IN).

Helen was born in Poltava, Ukraine, on August 4, 1923, to Semen and Olha Wierchowski. She was a member of Ss. Vladimir and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church of Chicago, IL, and the Ukrainian Woman's League of America. She also was the treasurer of the Condominium Association of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Village of North Port, FL.



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 Pawlo Prynko, UNA Advisor
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE
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 Pawlo Prynko, Secretary
 Nicholas Prysylak, Treasurer
 Ivan Skoczylas, Honorary District Chairman

Dateline...

(Continued from page 9)

Manhattan are such noted artists with Ukrainian roots as Kazimir Malevich, Alexander Archipenko, Andy Warhol and Mark Rothko.

Mr. Kandinsky was born in Crimea in 1960 into a family that has produced several generations of artists, including his great-grandfather, Wassily Kandinsky, the abstract painter and theorist generally regarded as the originator of abstract art. Following studies at the Art College in Crimea and the Ukrainian Art Academy in Kyiv, he taught briefly at the academy before opening his own studio in Crimea, where he created an experimental cultural center for progressive post-Soviet art.

He founded a studio in East Germany before coming to the United States in 1999 and now resides in New York. A multi-faceted artist who works in various art techniques, he is proud to note that his paintings are found in private collections throughout Europe and North America, including a recent addition to the gallery of England's Queen Elizabeth.

Mr. Bohaievsky, born in Kyiv in 1975, has followed his family's diplomatic assignments through the years and accompanied his parents to New York in 1996. Since his graduation from Baruch College of the City University of New York in 2000, he has held internships in financial and internet firms, worked for a major real estate firm in Manhattan, and helped estab-

lish a consulting firm in organizational psychology. He has been a private art student of Mr. Kandinsky since 2002.

Also on view at the Institute are Oleh Denysenko's finely drawn surrealist black-and-white etchings and Marko Shuhan's immensely sized abstract oils. For information on all art exhibits, call 212-288-8660.

Abstract works in cedar

In the Chelsea area, Galerie LeLong is running an exhibit of Ursula von Rydingsvard's massive wood sculptures. "Primitive Jarring," her fourth solo exhibition at Galerie LeLong, includes four abstract works of hacked and chiseled cedar that invite touching, even caressing.

The artist explores childhood experiences and chronicles emotional attachment to one's environment and the dignity of hand labor and hand tools. Following forms which are familiar in everyday life – bowls, jars, stairs – she has created a 14-foot bowl, a colossal staircase and a multi-footed vessel with a top that opens and shuts with a weighty thud, producing a sense of restrained emotion and repetitive labor.

Her fourth work in this show is a relief sculpture "Lace Medallion," in which she integrates drawing with cedar sculpture.

She creates her sculptures from the ground up from beams of milled cedar that are clamped together before she begins battering, scoring, chiseling and gashing the whole into a shape.

Ms. von Rydingsvard was born in Deensen, Germany, in 1942 to Polish and Ukrainian parents, and spent her childhood in one refugee camp after another before the family emigrated to the United States. She often reveals her ethnic roots in the names she gives to her creations.

Exhibiting steadily since 1977, Ms. von Rydingsvard is in the front rank of contemporary American sculptors. Her pieces have been acquired by the Metropolitan, Whitney, Brooklyn and Nelson-Atkins museums, the Walker Art Center, the Storm King Art Center and Microsoft.

At the Galerie LeLong opening on May 9, the tall, lean-limbed artist greeted visitors in the milling throng in a sporty black shirt and pants and a short-cropped boyish hairdo that belied her 60 years. Her exhibition will run through June 21. (Galerie LeLong, 528 W. 26th St., 212-315-0470)

Around town

The Daytime Emmy Awards, televised live by ABC from Radio City Music Hall on May 16, saw Alex Trebek of the popular "Jeopardy" show named Outstanding Game Show Host for the third time in the past 10 years. Holding his trophy aloft, Mr. Trebek declared "This may well be the biggest surprise of the evening!" Among nominees for the award were Pat Sajak of the "Wheel of Fortune" show and "Dr. Phil." During the ceremonies, "Jeopardy" received its ninth award for Best Game Show.

Character actor John Spencer, who plays chief of staff Leo McGarry in "The West Wing," NBC's dramatic series about a fictional White House, took part in the annual AIDS Walk in New York's Central Park on May 18. Prior to the walk, he appeared in several commercials touting the event and was interviewed by Felicia Taylor on NBC on May 17.

Mr. Spencer is currently appearing in the Off Broadway play "The Exonerated," which opened at the 45 Bleecker St. Theater on May 20 and runs through June 1. Described as "thoroughly involving theater," the play is an artfully edited anthology of interviews with six death row prisoners who were all discovered to be innocent. The theater is located at 45 Bleecker Street in the West Village, (212) 253-7017.

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

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Are the authorities...

(Continued from page 2)

year, has evidence that Messrs. Kuchma and Medvedchuk (at the time first vice-chairman of the Rada) made the decision to relaunch the Bondar case in February 2000, only three months into the Yushchenko government.

Ms. Tymoshenko has also been targeted by the authorities since 2001. In a May poll conducted by Sotsiopolis that asked which parties are the most influential in Ukraine, Ms. Tymoshenko's eponymous bloc ranked first with 31 percent. Polls for the 2004 elections give Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko a combined rating of approximately 35 percent. This is far higher than the very low pre-election ratings for potential pro-presidential candidates such as Mr. Medvedchuk or current Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Mr. Tymoshenko's husband, Oleksander, was arrested in August 2000 as a way of pressuring his wife, who was then vice prime minister for energy issues, to halt her energy-sector reforms. Those reforms returned billions of dollars from the oligarchs to the state budget, where the money was used by the Yushchenko government to repay wage and pension arrears.

In June 2002 four former executives of Unified Energy Systems (EES), which Tymoshenko headed under Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko (who fled to the United States in 1999), were extradited from Turkey. The Ukrainian authorities also sought Russia's assistance in the Tymoshenko case, and a criminal case was launched against Col. Gen. Georgii Oleinik, former chief financier of the Russian Defense Ministry, on charges of accepting bribes from Ms. Tymoshenko when she headed UES.

The authorities first attempted to pin a corruption charge on Ms. Tymoshenko in mid-February 2001, when she was arrested and spent several weeks in prison. She was released in late March 2001 under a court ruling subsequently by the Supreme Court. In April 2002 a Kyiv district court ruled that four counts brought against her be dropped,

along with three of the counts brought against her husband.

In March, the same district court ruled the Procurator General's Office had acted unlawfully, and on April 9 the Kyiv Municipal Appeals Court dismissed all the charges against both Ms. Tymoshenko and her husband. The Procurator General's Office has appealed these decisions and continues to ask Parliament to strip Ms. Tymoshenko of her immunity as a parliament deputy.

The driving force behind Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun's campaign against Ms. Tymoshenko is the presidential administration. Since becoming the chief prosecutor in July 2002, Mr. Piskun has issued 100 appeals on the Ms. Tymoshenko case, and since January 2003 he has held 12 briefings. Even though the case has repeatedly been thrown out of court, the Procurator General's Office has itself – in pro-presidential media outlets – pronounced both Tymoshenkos guilty as charged.

A vote to lift Ms. Tymoshenko's immunity is unlikely to obtain the necessary 227 votes. The only time this has happened was in early 1999 in the case of Lazarenko. Even pro-presidential oligarch Oleksander Volkov, whose oil-importing business was destroyed by the Yushchenko-Tymoshenko government, opposes the removal of her immunity. Although Mr. Volkov uses legalistic arguments, he, like some of his allies, is aware that if deputies were to lift Ms. Tymoshenko's immunity, they might act the same way with regard to other prominent officials.

According to Ms. Tymoshenko the authorities have offered on many occasions to drop the case against her and her family completely if she agrees not to contest the 2004 elections in an alliance with Mr. Yushchenko. In that event, the authorities would provide her with access to the media, thereby dividing the opposition and enabling a pro-presidential candidate to break through to the second round. At present, opinion polls show that it is more likely that Yushchenko would face Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko in a presidential runoff.

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<p>LOWEST airfares from JFK-KYIV on AEROSVIT</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> <td style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">13 June - 15 Sept. -</td> <td style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">14 Sept. 31 Oct.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEW YORK-KYIV</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$840+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$635+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEW YORK-Lviv</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$910+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$765+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Symferopil, Iv. Frankivsk, Donetsk, Dnupropetrovsk</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">To KYIV from:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atlanta, Boston</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$940+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$635+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pitt., Phila., Wash.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$880+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$635+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chicago</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$850+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$650+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dallas</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$1000+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$850+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orlando, Tampa</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$990+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$650+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Los Angeles, San Francisco</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$990+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$760+tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>San Diego, Seattle</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$990+tax</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$760+tax</td> </tr> </table>		13 June - 15 Sept. -	14 Sept. 31 Oct.	NEW YORK-KYIV	\$840+tax	\$635+tax	NEW YORK-Lviv	\$910+tax	\$765+tax	Symferopil, Iv. Frankivsk, Donetsk, Dnupropetrovsk			To KYIV from:			Atlanta, Boston	\$940+tax	\$635+tax	Pitt., Phila., Wash.	\$880+tax	\$635+tax	Chicago	\$850+tax	\$650+tax	Dallas	\$1000+tax	\$850+tax	Orlando, Tampa	\$990+tax	\$650+tax	Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$990+tax	\$760+tax	San Diego, Seattle	\$990+tax	\$760+tax	<p>AEROFLOT to KYIV from JFK-Wash. \$600 'til 15 June \$750 15 June-31 Aug. San Fran.-LA-Seattle \$740 'til 15 June \$930 16 June-31 Aug. + taxes</p> <p>YOUTH FARES Ages 12 to 24 \$680+tax</p>
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Irene Zabytko to be featured panelist at Printer's Row Book Fair in Chicago

CHICAGO – Irene Zabytko, critically acclaimed author of the novel, “The Sky Unwashed,” and the recently released, “When Luba Leaves Home, Stories” (both published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill) will be a featured panelist at the Chicago Tribune 19th Annual Printer's Row Book Fair to be held June 7-8.

Ms. Zabytko will read from and discuss her latest book, “When Luba Leaves Home,” a collection of short stories based on her Ukrainian Chicago neighborhood on the “Chicago Stories” panel, June 7, at 1-2 p.m. in the Nelson Algren Room, Harold Washington Library Center on Dearborn.

“When Luba Leaves Home” centers around the life of a young Ukrainian displaced person who yearns to fit into the American mainstream beyond her ethnic neighborhood in Chicago, and realizes where her soul belongs.

Ms. Zabytko was invited by the Printer's Row Book Fair Committee to discuss her book and its origins. The Chicago Tribune has also interviewed her for an upcoming

feature about immigrant and ethnic literature in America.

The Chicago Tribune Printer's Row Book Fair is considered to be the largest free outdoor literary event in the Midwest, drawing more than 75,000 book lovers to the two-day showcase. It is located in the historic Printer's Row neighborhood in Chicago (once the city's bookmaking hub). Booksellers, publishers, literacy and cultural organizations sell and promote books and book-related merchandise. For more information access the website: www.chicagotribune.com/extras/printersrow or call (312) 222-3986.

Chicago District...

(Continued from page 5)

unanimous in favor of the motion. Following this historic vote, the meeting continued with the usual order of business. In keeping with a directive from the UNA Home Office in Parsippany, N.J., a membership quota was assigned.

There was a brief discussion of the future of Soyuzivka, as well as the future of the UNA in general. Most members agreed that from their perspective there were no new initiatives from the Home Office that could assist them in organizing new members.

Members present then voted to make donations to the following worthy causes: an ad in the book to be published by Hrymovytsia, a Chicago-based Ukrainian dance group that is preparing to go on tour to Ukraine; a donation to the Memorial Society's book chronicling Soviet crimes in Ukraine.

Following reports by district committee executives, the board of auditors voted to grant “absolutorium” to the outgoing executive board.

Re-elected for another year were: Stefkou Kuropas, chairman; Andrij Skyba, secretary; Bohdan Kukuruza, treasurer; and Paul Banderiwsky, Myron Lushchak and Teodor Turchyn, auditors.

The meeting ended with a luncheon, compliments of UNA's Chicago District Committee.

Verkhovna Rada declares...

(Continued from page 1)

on the matter, when Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk told a nearly vacant parliamentary session hall that at all echelons of the state leadership of Ukraine today there is full recognition that the Famine was a planned attempt to extinguish a portion of the Ukrainian nation by starvation. He called on a Verkhovna Rada-led effort to have the United Nations recognize the Great Famine as genocide, on par with the Holocaust committed against the Jewish nation.

The few Verkhovna Rada members of the Communist Party of Ukraine present at that hearing were the only ones to voice dissent, with one Communist lawmaker plainly stating, “There was a hunger [holod] caused by natural circumstances, but it was not death by forced starvation [holodomor].”

Today it is generally recognized that from 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians died in 1932-1933 as a result of a deliberate Moscow policy to force the peasants of Ukraine into submission and onto collective farms through confiscation of grain and other foodstuffs. At the height of the Famine, when the Soviet Union was selling wheat for hard currency, there were reports of cannibalism in many parts of Ukraine.

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Understanding...

(Continued from page 2)

The actions of the authorities since the tapes were first revealed in Parliament by Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz in November 2000 contradict their claims of innocence. At first the authorities denied Mr. Melnychenko had even been employed in the UDO (in a statement dated March 31 in response to an article in RFE/RL Newline on the same day the SBU continued to deny that Mr. Melnychenko had ever worked for them). They also initially denied that the tapes existed. Later they adopted the argument that the tapes were "doctored" to incriminate President Kuchma.

Mr. Melnychenko has been warned on three separate occasions by the FBI that his life was in danger from unknown individuals who were trailing him, which is odd if he is a fraud. He has been offered sums ranging from \$3 million to \$7 million for the tapes by emissaries from the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) who wished to ingratiate themselves with Mr. Kuchma so their leader, Viktor Medvedchuk, would be chosen as President Kuchma's successor in the 2004 elections. Again, why bother if the tapes are doctored? The Dnipropetrovsk-based Labor Ukraine clan paid Kroll Associates \$1.5 million to prepare a report whose only aim was to discredit Mr. Melnychenko.

Mr. Melnychenko conjures a wide mixture of emotions among all sides attached to, involved in, or writing about contemporary Ukraine. Late last year the Canadian government refused him a visa, claiming he might remain, which is unlikely as Mr. Melnychenko has U.S. refugee status. That decision is also at odds with the policy of the United Kingdom and Belgium, both of which have granted him visas.

Recent arrivals from Ukraine in the West often disbelieve that anybody, such as Mr. Melnychenko, could be "patriotic" in the SBU or similar structures. This is a reflection of crisis levels of distrust towards state institutions, where 31.4 per-

cent of Ukrainians, according to an April poll, do not trust either the authorities or the opposition. Mr. Melnychenko claims that other people like him do exist in the SBU and the UDO.

Within the Ukrainian diaspora also there are mixed feelings towards Mr. Melnychenko. Some prefer to keep their distance because they are suspicious he is part of a Russian plot to undermine Ukrainian independence (Mr. Kuchma and his allies say the opposite; namely, that Mr. Melnychenko was part of a U.S. plot to replace Mr. Kuchma with Mr. Yushchenko). Others in the diaspora are more interested in the intrigue of who is behind Mr. Melnychenko, rather than what is on the tapes.

Ultimately, the main problem for many in the diaspora is that the image of Ukraine found on the tapes is too difficult to accept, after many decades of waiting and agitating for Ukrainian independence. The same is true of its unwillingness to believe that Rukh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil's "car accident" in March 1999 was not an accident (Mr. Melnychenko is 99 percent certain it was not an accident). To the younger generation of the diaspora in the media, think-tanks and policy making, Mr. Melnychenko provides proof of what they had long suspected about Ukraine. Indeed, some of them may even have assisted in Mr. Melnychenko's departure from Ukraine.

Although Mr. Melnychenko has been criticized for releasing only fragments of his hundreds of hours of tapes, he is transcribing them with a grant from Russian oligarch Boris Berezovskii, who is exiled in London. He is also currently working with another recent defector from Ukraine, Oleksander Yeliashkevych, to thwart the ability of the authorities to falsify the 2004 elections. Both Mr. Melnychenko's tapes and Mr. Yeliashkevych, who checked voting in the 1999 election and 2000 referendum on behalf of Parliament, claim there were falsifications on both occasions.

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The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear on June 22, 2003.

For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by June 10, 2003.

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

Also welcome are anniversary and engagement announcements and greetings

Rates for announcements and greetings:

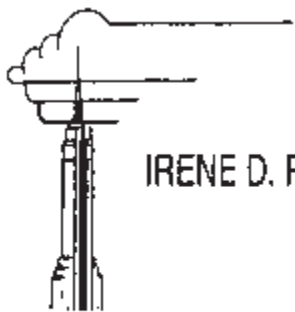
One-column wedding announcement: \$100

Two-column wedding announcement: \$200

Wedding greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 (Maria).

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



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THE ARTS SCENE

Paintings by Viktor Tsapko exhibited in Edmonton museum

EDMONTON – An exhibition of recent paintings by Viktor Tsapko, titled "My Angel," was presented by Sofia Skrypnyk in an exhibition held March 28-30 at the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum.

A recent émigré to Toronto from Ukraine, Viktor Tsapko was born in 1956 in the Kherson region. Upon the completion of his art studies in Odesa, he moved to St. Petersburg where he continued his work at the time of perebudova, before

emigrating to Canada and settling in Toronto.

A characteristic feature of the artist's work, as noted in an introduction at the exhibition opening by Dr. Anatoliy Kruglashov of the Chernivtsi National University and visiting professor of history and political science at the University of Alberta, is their not fully articulated quality which leaves the act of completion or co-creation up to each individual viewer.



MY ANGEL
Viktor Tsapko

The invitation to an exhibition of recent paintings by Viktor Tsapko held at the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum in Edmonton.

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Conference on Ukrainian Subjects scheduled to begin on June 21

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, ILL. – The 22nd annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects will be held at the Illini Union of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on June 21. It is being organized by the Ukrainian Research Program under the chairmanship of Dmytro Shtohryn and will be held within the framework of the Summer Research Laboratory on Russian and East European Countries.

The main theme of this year's conference is "Ukraine Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," and its speakers will tackle a wide range of questions dealing with development of Ukrainian historiography, culture, economics, politics and church activities in Ukraine and the diaspora.

The Program Committee of the conference comprises the following scholars: John Fizer (Rutgers University at New Brunswick), Assya Humesky (University of Michigan), Taras Hunzak (Rutgers University at Newark), Mirosław Labunka (Ukrainian Catholic University), Jaroslav Rozumny (University of Manitoba), Bohdan Rubchak (University of Illinois at Chicago) and Leonid Rudnytsky (Ukrainian Free University).

Over 55 distinguished scholars will speak to some 100 conferees from Canada, Germany, Poland, South Korea, Ukraine and the United States. From Ukraine alone, the organizers expect about 35 educators, scholarly researchers and people of letters who are to attend the conference; among them Ivan Drach, a poet and member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; Dmytro Pavlychko, a poet and former ambassador of Ukraine to Slovakia and to Poland; Georgii Pocheptsov, head of the Office of

Strategic Initiatives in the Office of the President of Ukraine: Volodymyr Yatsenyuk, minister counselor of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, Oleh Romaniv, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv; as well as rectors of five national and state universities in Ukraine.

About 50 papers will be given in Ukrainian or English. They will be included in 12 thematically designed sessions and two roundtables. The conference evenings will be devoted to presentations of new publications and poetry readings by their authors.

The conference is dedicated to the memory of George Y. Shevelov (1908-2002), life member of the Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian Research Program at the University of Illinois. Thus, one of the first sessions of the conference proceedings will be devoted to Prof. Shevelov's life and work. The papers at this session will be presented by Andriy Danylenko, Dr. Fizer, Prof. Rubchak and Oksana Solovey.

On Sunday, June 22, a group of the conference participants will meet the Ukrainian community of Chicago. The event will be sponsored by the Foundation for the Advancement of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Illinois under its president, Raisa Bratkiv. The meeting reception will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2242 W. Chicago Ave.

For more information regarding the conference contact Prof. Shtohryn at (217) 356-9195 or shtohryn@uiuc.edu; regarding the reception in Chicago, contact Ms. Bratkiv at (847) 477-2150 or raisa@bratkiv.com.

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Pickup sites will depend on a number of participants from that area.

Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10 a.m.
Concert – 3 p.m.

Additional information will be published in the upcoming issues of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

Bus reservations and checks, written out to Northern New Jersey District Committee, should be mailed to:

U.N.A.-NNJ District Committee
Attn: Walter Honcharyk
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Tel.: (973) 292-9800 ext. 3041

Eugene Oscislawski - District Chairman

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 130

As of June 1, 2003 the secretary's duties of Branch 130 were assumed by Mr. Alex Redko.

We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Alex Redko
84-12 Penelope Ave.
Middle Village, NY 11379
(718) 326-2619

NEW YORK DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES

cordially invites

UNA members, their families and friends

to

CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY AT SOYUZIVKA

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2003

Bus departure from 98 Second Avenue, New York City at 7:30 a.m.
at

Return departure from Soyuzivka at 6 p.m.

At Soyuzivka – 10 a.m. Holy Liturgy
3 p.m. Concert

Round Trip Bus Transportation – \$20.00 per person
FOR RESERVATIONS please call:

Oksana Lopatynsky, Selfreliance Assoc., (212) 777-1336
Seats will be guaranteed upon full pre-payment. Make check or money order payable to:

NY UNA DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Mail payment to Selfreliance Assoc., Attn: Mr. John Choma,
98 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003

Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|--|--|
| June 2-5
Clergy Retreat, Stamford
Eparchy | Barabolya and Ron Cahute |
| June 8-13
UNA Seniors Week | August 2, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava
with BURYA |
| June 15, Sunday
Father's Day and Kick-off
of the Summer Heritage
Concert Series with Zorepad
Dance ensemble of Watervliet,
NY, and Holy Trinity Ukrainian
School Dance Group of
Kerhonkson, N.Y. and the vocal
ensemble, "Generations." | August 3, Sunday
UNWLA Day |
| June 21-July 3
Tennis Camp | August 3-8
Soyuzivka Scuba Diving Course |
| June 22-29
Day Camp, Tabir Ptashat No. 1 | August 9, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava with
NA ZDOROVYA
Art Exhibit with Ducia
Hanushevsky; ceramics
and the paintings
of Anatolij Burtovyj
Ulster County Caesar Salad
Festival |
| June 28, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava
with VIDLUNNIA | August 10-16
Club Suzie-Q Week |
| June 29-July 6
Day Camp, Tabir Ptashat No. 2 | August 10-23
Traditional Ukrainian Folk
Dance Camp with Roma
Pryma Bohachevsky |
| July 4-6
Fourth of July Weekend and
Zabavas with MONTAGE,
TEMPO and Philadelphia Funk
Authority (10-piece funk dance
band).
Music with Philadelphia Funk
Brothers (five-piece funk band) | August 16, Saturday
Miss Soyuzivka Weekend and
Zabava with
FATA MORGANA |
| July 6, Sunday
Summer Heritage Concert No. 2 | August 17, Sunday
Summer Heritage Concert No. 4
featuring Dumka Choir |
| July 6-19
Boys' and Girls' Recreational Camp | August 23, Saturday
Ukrainian Independence Day
Celebration – Dance Camp
Recital and Zabava |
| July 12, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava | August 25- September 1
Labor Day Week |
| July 13-18
Chemney Camp, Session No. 1 | August 30-31
Labor Day Weekend – Zabavas
with FATA MORGANA and
TEMPO.
Summer Heritage Concert with
UKRAINA Dance Ensemble
from Canada. |
| July 19, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava with
VORONY
Children's Weekend - Bounce
House and Games for Kids | September 8-11
Regensburg Reunion |
| July 20-25
Chemney Camp, Session No. 2 | September 12-14
KLK Weekend and Annual Meeting
Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion |
| July 20- August 2
Sports Camp | September 18-21
Reunion of Salzburg Gymnasium |
| July 26, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava
with SVITANOK | September 26-28
Conference of Spartanky
Plast Sorority |
| July 27, Sunday
Summer Heritage Concert No. 3 | September 28-30
Reunion of Mittenwald
Gymnasium |
| August 1-3
Soyuzivka Sports Jamboree
Weekend.
Softball, Soccer, Volleyball and
Hockey/Rollerblade
Tournaments
Music by Ihor Bachynskyj, | |



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 141
216 Foordmore Road • P. O. Box 529
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, June 8

BOSTON: Members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization invite the Ukrainian community to join them for a picnic to celebrate their branch's 50th anniversary. The picnic will be held on the grounds of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church at 11:30 a.m., immediately following the 10 a.m. liturgy. For more information contact danylo007@yahoo.com or call (603) 886-3339.

CHICAGO: The season premiere of The

Ukrainian Artistic Center Chamber Orchestra concert series, under the direction of Zeonid Modrytskyj, will take place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., at 1 p.m. The program comprises: retro music of Bohdan Wesolowsky, as orchestrated by Myroslav Skoryk, with Ostap Zorych, soloist; works by Skoryk, Kos-Anatolsky and Kropyvnytsky, as well as Vivaldi and Rossini, as performed by Myroslava Kuka, soprano; R. Kalakunyak, clarinet; and J. Rudnytsky, violin. Tickets: \$15; seniors and students, \$10.

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.

Being Ukrainian means:

- Malanka in January.
- Deb in February.
- Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- Wedding of your roommate in June.
- Tabir in July.
- Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Morskyi Bal in November.
- Koliada in December.

If you checked off more than one of the above,
then you know what you're doing to your brain cells.
Now, how about doing something for your mind?

Subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly.

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PHONE (optional) _____

UNA member subscription price — \$45.00/yr. Non-member subscription price — \$55.00/yr.

UNA Branch number _____

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