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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Duranty's Pulitzer-winning articles: what the Times correspondent wrote

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Walter Duranty was one of a handful of Western journalists working in Moscow in the late 1920s and early 1930s. His dispatches from the Soviet Union held significant sway, and in 1932 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for correspondence. The award was given for a series of reports, written in 1931, that, according to the Pulitzer Prize Board, showed “scholarship, profundity, impartiality, sound judgment and clarity.”

The dispatches, written with a strong editorial tone, were published by The New York Times and carried a simple introduction. The articles would be “on present conditions in Russia,” the newspaper wrote, while Mr. Duranty, The New York Times Moscow correspondent, was “out of Russia on a holiday in Western Europe.” The paper later noted that Mr. Duranty was in Paris.

Mr. Duranty's submission to the Pulitzer Board included a total of 13 articles, 11 of which were published in The New York Times and the remaining two in The New York Times Magazine.

The articles were published in 1931 on June 14, 16, 18-20 and 22-27, while the articles that appeared in The New York Times Magazine were published on March 29 and December 20, 1931.

Mr. Duranty's articles examined the Soviet Union and Stalinism — which he made a point of differentiating from Marxism, Leninism and Communism — from an internal perspective. His articles covered the broader context of Soviet

mentality — they were not written as news stories, but rather as analysis.

“Stalin had a clearer perception of Russia's possibilities and the reserves of untapped energy in her people, hardly less ‘virgin’ than her soil. He saw, too, that the Soviet Union was not ‘one country’ in the sense in which Marx wrote, but a vast self-sufficing continent far more admirably fitted by its natural configuration and resources and by the character and ways of its population for a communist experiment than what Marx prognosticated in a compact industrial state like England,” he wrote. (It is important to note here that while a distinction exists between Russia and the Soviet Union, Mr. Duranty — like many writers of his day — used the terms synonymously.)

“Stalin is giving the Russian people — the Russian masses, not Westernized landlords, industrialists, bankers and intellectuals, but Russia's 150 million peasants and workers — what they really want, namely joint effort, communal effort. And communal life is as acceptable to them as it is repugnant to a Westerner,” Mr. Duranty wrote in his first article, “Red Russia of Today Ruled by Stalinism, Not Communism.”

Stalin abolished Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP), Mr. Duranty reported — which meant a degree of Western individualism, a spirit of personal initiative and a return to limited capitalism — “not because Stalin is so powerful or cruel and full of hate for the capitalist sys-

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Ambassador Pascual bids farewell to Kyiv, sums up three years of work

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A couple of weeks before his departure from Ukraine, United States Ambassador Carlos Pascual addressed graduates of U.S. government exchange programs in which he summed up his three years of work in Ukraine. Speaking to several hundred former students, Mr. Pascual emphasized the progress the country had made in a short period of time. He noted that, “much had changed” and said he looked at future U.S.-Ukraine relations with “optimism and caution.”

“Who would have thought when I got here that in May 2002 the secretary of Ukraine's [National] Security and Defense Council would state its intention to make Ukraine part of NATO,” said the U.S. career diplomat, while citing figures that showed that today at least 30 percent of Ukrainians support alliance with the former archenemy of the Soviet Union and another 15 to 20 percent could go either way on the question, numbers far higher than the 5 to 10 percent in favor only some five years ago.

Mr. Pascual is preparing to leave Kyiv the week of August 5 after a three-year stay in Ukraine, which began in September 2000. His replacement is John Herbst, the former ambassador to Uzbekistan, who should arrive in mid-September.

Ambassador Pascual identified Ukraine as a country of complexities and contradictions that, nonetheless, is successfully struggling to move towards European norms and values.

The ambassador stressed that, for all the changes still needed to meet requirements for joining the European Union and NATO, the quality of Ukrainian democracy and adherence to the rule of law would be decisive in whether Ukraine succeeded.

“These are two fundamental issues on which Ukraine's future lies,” explained Mr. Pascual.

The U.S. diplomat extended congratulations to President Leonid Kuchma on the decision he recently voiced not to run for re-election and expressed U.S. pleasure with the Verkhovna Rada on its compromise in resolving how constitutional reform should proceed.

Mr. Pascual also noted that Washington had no intention of supporting a particular presidential candidate in the 2004 Ukrainian elections, while asserting that the United States sees its primary objective “to maintain a level playing field” for all the candidates. He said that free and fair elections would do much to further Ukraine's claim to European membership.

He warned, however, that Ukrainian leaders must begin to “put their stake on the rule of law” and set aside rule by power. Citing similar U.S. experiences at the end of the 19th century during the era of the “robber barons,” he reminded his audience that people such as Carnegie, Mellon and Stanford helped to develop civil society and adherence to a stable rule of law after they had acquired their riches.

(Continued on page 3)

The Ukrainian Museum board reports progress in new building's construction

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK — “This is the last time we will have an annual meeting in these premises,” said Olha Hnateyko, president of the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum, speaking before an audience of members and friends of the institution, gathered for the museum's 26th annual meeting.

The meeting was held on June 1, at the museum's current location on Second Avenue in New York City. The implication of Mrs. Hnateyko's statement was not lost on the listeners, who responded with applause and cheers.

Mrs. Hnateyko was referring to the construction of the new museum facility on East Sixth Street. Without being explicit she let those present know that construction will be completed soon, and that in 2004, the annual meeting will be held in the new museum building.

For the past several years the building project has been the predominant issue of

interest and discussion during the museum's annual meetings, since the project is supported mostly with funds from the greater Ukrainian community. The project had a long and arduous journey in its progress toward completion. In December 2002 the “topping out” ceremony at the site boosted public confidence in the project's ability to attain set milestones.

During this annual meeting Nicolas Andreadis, chair of the Building Committee, seconded and defined Mrs. Hnateyko's statement. Mr. Andreadis said that the project is going according to plan and according to the “reality check” it is expected to be completed in the fall of 2003.

He described the various stages in the construction process that had occurred during the past years. He cited problems in the beginning of the construction process, which delayed the timetable by

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The exterior of The Ukrainian Museum's new building in New York City.

ANALYSIS

U.S. voices concern over criminal ties in Russian, Ukrainian energy sectors

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual expressed concern in late May over the influence that Russian organized crime was having on a gas-supply deal signed on December 5, 2002, between the Russian gas monopoly Gazprom and the Hungarian shell company Eural TransGas. A similar contract was reportedly signed by Ukrainian state gas company Naftohaz Ukraine with Eural TransGas on December 4, 2002.

Speaking at the sixth international "Energy Security in Europe" conference in Kyiv on May 28, Ambassador Pascual said, according to the Embassy's website (<http://www.usinfo.usemb.kiev.ua>):

"By the end of 2000, Ukraine had taken concrete steps to advance its gas security. An agreement with Turkmenistan covered over 38 percent of Ukraine's gas needs up until 2006, reducing Ukraine's dependence on one single supplier from Russia. It was the transporter, supplier and operator, providing Naftohaz with relative security that supplies would reach the Ukrainian border. NAK Naftohaz also agreed with Gazprom on the precise gas debt, \$1.4 billion. In 2001 Gazprom accepted that the debt would not be sovereign guaranteed. In December 2001 Ukraine signed a deal with Russia that also decreased barter-based transactions.

"Some of these successes are now at risk. In December 2002, just a few months ago, Ukraine signed several agreements that increase Gazprom's control over NAK Naftohaz and its activities. It is seen by many as a Gazprom competitor, was pushed out of the Ukrainian market and substituted for a new Gazprom intermediary, Eural TransGas. According to press accounts, Eural TransGas was registered in Hungary the day before the contract was signed with just \$12,000 in charter capital. In addition, media reports link Eural

Roman Kupchinsky is the author of RFE/RL Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch.

Exposing the Putin myth

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Newsline

The new myth being created surrounding Russian President Vladimir Putin continues a long tradition of mythologizing earlier Soviet and Russian leaders. The Putin myth has highlighted two distinct trends.

First, there are sharp differences in the way U.S. and Western European countries view Russia and myths surrounding Soviet and Russian leaders. The U.S. administration and media tend toward a literal view of Russian politics, focusing on formal processes, while downplaying the informal, and critically examining Russia's claims that it is implementing reforms.

Some European Union countries, however, take the opposite approach and are more willing to go along with a mythical view of domestic progress in the former USSR and Russia in the interests of a strategic partnership.

Second, a mythical positive transition

Dr. Taras Kuzio is a resident fellow at the Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto, and a former visiting fellow at the European Union Institute for Security Studies, Paris.

TransGas with organized-crime figure [Semen] Mogilevich, who was recently indicted in the United States.

"The Gazprom deal to purchase all of Turkmenistan's natural gas production capacity and more starting in 2007 would once again make Ukraine fully dependant on Gazprom for its natural gas imports. If Ukraine wants to strengthen its competitive position on gas transit, it should consider several steps:

"(1) Approach Gazprom to renegotiate the Eural TransGas transit arrangements given recent revelations about the nature of this company. Both Gazprom and NAK Naftohaz should find it in their interests to revisit.

"(2) Explore whether Ukraine can offer Turkmenistan a more compelling alternative than a deal that would seal Turkmenistan's dependence on Russia. Turkmenistan does not have the technical capacity to achieve the Turkmen-Russia deal without major investment. If Ukraine can offer Turkmenistan a long-term reliable market, Turkmenistan would also be better off having more than one customer. Ukrainian consumers would benefit from a competitive market involving multiple suppliers."

The Ukrainian media avoided any mention of this portion of Ambassador Pascual's speech. When RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service interviewed a spokesman for NAK Naftohaz Ukraine on June 3, he told the station that the U.S. ambassador "should not teach Ukraine how to go about doing business." Replying to the question of whether there was in fact a contract between Naftohaz Ukraine and Eural TransGas, the spokesman refused to divulge any information and stated that this was "confidential company information."

Mr. Mogilevich, presently living in Russia, has been placed on the FBI's "most wanted" list for alleged securities fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud and money laundering. He is characterized as "armed and dangerous and an escape risk."

The United States and Russia have no mutual extradition treaty.

record in Russia is contrasted with a negative one in Ukraine, when in reality the opposite is true. Contrast the mythical Western favorable impression of President Putin with that of the highly negative view of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Freedom House's 2003 "Nations in Transit" study gives Ukraine a better score than Russia on democratization. Ukraine also receives a better score than Russia in the 2002 Reporters Without Borders Index of Media Freedom and the 2002 Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom. (Yet only Russia, not Ukraine, has been granted market economic status by the EU in 2002.) The June 2003 Pew Global Attitudes Project gives Ukraine a better score than Russia in democratization, freedom of the press, a fair judiciary, freedom of speech, free elections, and safety from crime and violence.

The mythologizing of Soviet leaders goes as far back as the 1930s. Its most recent manifestations began under Yurii Andropov, who came to power in 1992 and was welcomed with a sigh of relief after Leonid Brezhnev's "era of stagnation."

Some Western commentators inferred

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ukrainian NGOs to receive USAID grants

KYIV – Thirteen Ukrainian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) carrying out projects to further civil society within the framework of the Ukrainian Community Action Network (UCAN) will receive grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Interfax reported on July 17. The grants range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The same day, grant agreements were signed between NGOs and UCAN in Kyiv, marking the end of the first year of the UCAN grant program. Some 250 Ukrainian NGOs competed for grants in late January under that program. USAID awarded grants to projects aimed at agricultural reform, the defense of women's and children's rights, transparency in the work of Parliament, the improvement of regional economic policy, and housing and utilities reform. USAID intends to provide 60 Ukrainian NGOs with grants totaling \$1 million. (RFE/RL Media Matters)

Kuchma issues FATF-approved decree

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree intended to counteract money laundering and the funding of terrorism from the proceeds of criminal activity, Interfax reported on July 23. The decree obliges the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Bank of Ukraine to ensure the introduction of 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) that were approved by FATF last month. The Cabinet is to create an integrated information system for the prevention of money laundering and the funding of terrorism by unifying the existing information resources and databases of ministries, government agencies and state committees by January 1. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Grain import duty temporarily abolished

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed into law a recently approved bill eliminating the duty on grain imports until the end of this year, Interfax reported on July 22. Ukraine's grain shortfall is reportedly expected to reach 2.8 million tons in 2003-04. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Military export agreement is signed

YALTA, Ukraine – Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Kasyanov, signed an agreement in Yalta on July 18 on cooperation in military exports to third countries, Interfax and ITAR-TASS reported. "Russia and Ukraine will not hamper one another in third countries'

markets," Mr. Kasyanov said of the deal. The men also discussed the planned creation of a Ukrainian-Russian gas consortium and the joint construction of the AN-70 cargo plane. Contrary to expectations expressed in some Ukrainian media, the prime minister did not sign a prepared 15-year agreement on the transit of Russian oil through Ukraine. Russia is ready to sign the agreement only after Ukraine agrees to allow Russian oil producers to use the Odesa-Brody pipeline, Interfax reported, citing Mr. Kasyanov. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko greets reform bill's withdrawal

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko on July 19 welcomed President Leonid Kuchma's suggestion that he might withdraw the constitutional-reform bill he submitted to the Verkhovna Rada last month, Interfax reported. But Mr. Yushchenko also expressed concern over Mr. Kuchma's possible intention to defer the presidential election in 2004 in a proposal to elect Parliament, local councils and the president in the same year for five-year terms. Mr. Yushchenko said that provision is not of primary importance for constitutional reform in the country. He stressed that a proportional general election is a priority because the so-called first-past-the-post system "has proven undemocratic." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Journalist killed in car crash ...

KYIV – On July 16 the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called on the Ukrainian government to thoroughly investigate the cause of a July 14 road accident that resulted in the death of Vladimir Efremov, newspaper and TV editor. Mr. Efremov's car collided with a truck near the eastern town of Verkhniodniprovsk. The Internal Affairs Ministry's local representative has been named to head the investigation. Mr. Efremov, a correspondent for the press freedom organization Institute of Mass Information in Dnipropetrovsk, was editor of the newspapers Sobor and Dnipropetrovsk and founder of the regional television station TV 11, which supports former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, an opponent of President Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Efremov had agreed to testify at Mr. Lazarenko's August 18 trial in the United States. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...had been threatened, pressured

KYIV – Vladimir Efremov, in the offi-

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Prime minister lays the blame for rise in Ukraine's grain prices

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich laid responsibility for the recent steep rise in grain prices in the domestic market on several government ministries and asked for the resignation of three oblast chairmen during a special Cabinet of Ministers session on July 23.

Meanwhile the Procurator General's Office announced the same day that it had opened some 270 criminal investigations against various grain traders.

Speaking at the start of a session called to address the ongoing agricultural crisis in the country, Mr. Yanukovich called the grain price increases "artificially stimulated" and said that proper diligence by government officials could have averted the situation.

Grain traders blamed

The prime minister laid specific blame on grain traders as well, who he said had thought they could silently "take some cream off the top," with the onset of a grain shortage, but didn't foresee that the matter would become politicized.

"The commercial structures became instruments in the hands of forces opposed to the government openly or in a hidden way," explained Mr. Yanukovich in a statement that tried to portray oppositionist political groups as at least partly responsible for the grain debacle.

"I state today: let those who wish to do so – the political opponents that are content with what they helped to create – express glee with the current situation. I admit that we lost this time. We should not have allowed it to come to this. But I believe that we need to overcome this crisis together," Mr. Yanukovich added.

Ukraine has experienced a sharp rise in prices for wheat and other primary grain commodities after prolonged spring frosts and a bad winter harvest brought to light that the country had insufficient stocks for domestic consumption. The situation was aggravated by the lack of rain in May and June, which has made the outlook for the fall harvest equally pessimistic.

In addition, many stores have kept oatmeal, buckwheat and other grain products off shelves, creating consumer shortages for staple products while anticipating higher prices.

Harvest figures overstated

During an initial investigation ordered by President Leonid Kuchma in February, it was determined that some oblast governors had overstated their harvests from the previous fall by as much as 50 percent. That harvest, officially thought to have been around 40 million tons of grain, at the time was considered the best in 12 years of independence and a sign that the agricultural sector was finally back on its feet.

During a meeting that lasted more than five hours, Prime Minister Yanukovich received support from the Cabinet to call for the dismissal of the Chairmen of Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava and Chernivtsi Oblasts, subject to the approval of President Kuchma. In addition, he fired the director of the State Department of Procurement, the director of the Department of Pricing in the Cabinet of Ministers and several oblast vice-chairmen.

Mr. Yanukovich blamed the State Anti-Monopoly Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of the Economy and European Integration for

inadequately tracking the situation in the grain market as it developed and failing to find an appropriate remedy before it reached crisis proportions. He warned Vice Prime Minister for Agricultural Affairs Ivan Kyrylenko and Minister of Agricultural Policy Serhii Ryzhuk that their jobs now hang by a thread. He gave them three months to alleviate existing problems with respect to inflated grain prices and grain shortages.

"If we see that they are not able to fulfill their responsibilities, we will make our decision even before October. But let us allow them to correct the situation," said the prime minister.

Threat of more dismissals

Mr. Yanukovich explained that in addition to Dnipropetrovsk, Chernivtsi and Poltava, the oblasts of Sumy, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zaporizhia, and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea had either allowed for the artificial inflation of grain prices or falsified harvest figures and misled government authorities. He warned the chairmen of these regions that they, too, could be dismissed if matters did not improve.

Assistant Procurator General Tetiana Korniakova said during a press conference the same day that the Procurator General's office is pursuing 270 criminal cases associated with the grain crisis. She said the cases involve matters of illegal privatization in the agro-industrial complex, unlawful use of state funds and abuse of authority. She said violations of grain storage laws and procedures for use of state grain reserves also are under investigation. The Ukrainian prime minister said he would pursue all criminal cases to conclusion.

"None of the cases will be dropped," Mr. Yanukovich understated, "especially since law enforcement officials have uncovered that such operations took place with the knowledge of certain local government leaders, regional leaders and, unfortunately, involved some central government officials, as well. By their actions they artificially triggered the panic purchasing of foodstuffs among the population."

Government steps in

In the last weeks the government and the state have taken several steps to improve the situation in the grain market, which has resulted in prices falling somewhat and grain products beginning to reappear on store shelves.

On July 9 the Verkhovna Rada passed a law, signed by President Kuchma on July 22, which freed imported grain commodities from import duties through the end of 2003. Then on July 17 Vice Prime Minister Kyrylenko announced that Ukraine would import about 600,000 tons of grain to tide the country over until the fall harvest is collected. He said the import amounts would remain limited because mid-summer deluges had saved the summer wheat crop.

Market experts disagreed, however. Interfax-Ukraine reported that most maintain that Ukraine will need to import at least 2.5 million tons and more likely 2.8 million tons before the end of the year. Ukraine's domestic demand stands at 6 million to 6.5 million tons, while the Ministry of Agricultural Policy has forecast domestic availability from this year's harvest at 4.5 million to 4.7 million tons.

Last year Ukraine was the world's sixth largest wheat exporter. This year's harvest forecast has been reduced to about 25 million tons.

Ukraine's economy continues to exhibit strong growth in first half of 2003

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Mid-year economic figures in Ukraine continued to show strong and expanding growth for the country with the gross domestic product (GDP) developing at a robust 7.5 percent for the first six months of the year.

Numbers released by the State Statistics Committee on July 17 showed an 8.2 percent expansion in the Ukrainian economy for June following an 8.3 percent growth in May. The construction sector led the continued surge in economic growth by expanding at a rate of 21.8 percent, followed by light industry at 13.3 percent, utilities at 10.5 percent, transport at 9.2 percent and wholesale and retail trade at 8.3 percent.

This is the fourth consecutive year that the Ukrainian GDP has shown economic growth, and it is nearly double the 4.4 percent figure recorded last year.

Salaries also grew, up by 15 percent since the beginning of the year, while inflation remained under control at an annual average of 6 to 7 percent. For the first six months of 2003 Ukraine recorded a restrained 4.6 percent inflation, with a minuscule 0.1 rise in June. Meanwhile, the National Bank of Ukraine reported that hard currency levels had exceeded \$6 billion – a new record for the country.

During a farewell speech on July 21 (see story on page 1), U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual applauded the strong growth of the Ukrainian economy over the last three and a half years.

"If I had told anybody in Washington that Ukraine would have three consecutive years of growth, they would have said that I was crazy," said an unusually glib Mr. Pascual.

The U.S. envoy said the continued strong performance in the previously dormant economy was due to strong grassroots economic initiative; macroeconomic stability over the last several years; an end to an extensive system of barter that had previously ruled the economy; timely payment of utility bills by corporations as well as wages and salaries; and stirring in the agricultural sector after the reform initiative of 1999.

"People are spending money and businesses are providing services ... the market place is beginning to work," explained Ambassador Pascual.

He noted, however, that in addition to the still unfinished tax reform effort, the most glaring weakness in the economy was the continued lack of substantial foreign investment, which he said had reached merely \$5.3 billion in 12 years, with U.S. investors leading the way at \$900 million.

Ambassador Pascual blamed the

(Continued on page 12)

OSCE concerned about Ukraine's adoption of restrictive legislation against journalists

Organization for Security
and Cooperation in Europe

VIENNA – OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Freimut Duve on July 15 expressed dismay over the decision by the Ukrainian Parliament to outlaw the protection of journalists' sources. On July 9 the Verkhovna Rada adopted a law that also allows for the detention of journalists suspected of revealing state secrets.

"This law, which changes certain aspects of existing Ukrainian law, will, I believe, give excessive power to the Ukrainian security service, including the right to obtain information regarding journalists' sources," Mr. Duve said in a letter to Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko.

The law also provides for the Ukrainian security service to arrest journalists who have been investigating issues related to state secrets and who intend to publish this information.

"It is ominous that your country, where the media situation has been steadily deteriorating for the past five years, should decide at this point to approve a highly restrictive law that would have a chilling effect on the work of journalists, especially those investigating corruption," wrote the media representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Duve said he supports proposals by the International Federation of Journalists to take up this matter with the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the General Affairs Council of the European Union.

Ambassador Pascual...

(Continued from page 1)

He also called on the leading business clans to "reach out to world markets" and not remain dependent on a Russian market and Russian partners who have many more resources than Ukraine can offer and could only limit the country's economic potential.

Ambassador Pascual noted the strong growth of the Ukrainian economy over the last three years and credited it to the phenomenal development of small and medium-size enterprises; the country's macroeconomic stability; its move out of a barter economy; and the government's payment of back wages and salaries while demanding payment of outstanding utility debts.

Mr. Pascual was less congratulatory about success in obtaining direct foreign investment, which he said had barely exceeded \$5 billion after 12 years of independence and free markets, and called for more predictability in

Ukraine's court systems to garner trust and draw foreign business.

However, he applauded the development of civil society, especially the establishment of independent non-governmental think-tanks, various aid organizations and independent media organizations.

Mr. Pascual called on Ukrainians to be patient, to wait out a transition period that could take a generation, but to note that substantial progress is being made.

"I have said that it would be easier to predict where Ukraine will be in 25 years than in three years," said Ambassador Pascual.

He explained that if reforms are completed properly, Ukraine harbors too much potential not to become an economic success. He cited its "formidable work force," "some of the best missile and rocket technology," strategic location and fertile land as examples.

"As I have said before, I remain an optimist," concluded Ambassador Pascual.

Chicago-based Heritage Foundation announces \$30,000 in grants

by Maria Kulczycky and Marta Farion

CHICAGO – The Chicago-based Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank recently announced several important grants to Ukrainian organizations that will have a significant impact on the wider Ukrainian community.

It made a grant of \$10,000 to the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago for the construction of a storage facility for its highly regarded permanent collection of modern art.

It also gave \$10,000 to the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, which supports, develops and sustains the work of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and other Ukrainian institutions of higher learning that promote excellence in education and the establishment of an open society based on democratic principles.

Another \$10,000 grant went to the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Program for a fund-raiser held in May to increase awareness in Ukraine about breast cancer detection and treatment and provide much-needed mammography equipment.

The Heritage Foundation is quietly becoming a philanthropic force in the Ukrainian community in America. Created as a private grant-making foundation with an initial cash and stock infusion by First Security Federal Savings Bank, a \$475 million Chicago-based financial institution, Heritage Foundation currently has \$8.7 million in assets. The donation that created the foundation in 1997 consisted of \$5 million in cash and First Security Federal stock. The stock has since more than doubled, which accounts for the asset growth of the foundation.

Under federal law, the foundation must distribute 5 percent of these funds annually. Over the past six years, this has resulted in some \$1.4 million in donations to the community. In 2003 the Heritage Foundation will donate \$420,000 to organizations that meet its giving criteria.

“Our mission is to preserve our Ukrainian ethnic identity, spiritual values and community viability,” explained Julian Kulas, president of the bank and of the foundation. “Our donations have focused on religious, educational, youth, cultural and community institutions.”

The largest share of donations has gone to Ukrainian schools, universities, and educational organizations. But Ukrainian churches, seminaries, museums, cultural organizations, and youth and sports organizations have also benefited.

“Because we are organized as a 501 (c) (3) organization, the Heritage Foundation reports on its activities to the federal and state governments, and has to manage grant making according to guidelines they set,” explained Paul Nadzikewycz, chairman of the bank. The organizations to which the foundation makes grants also need non-profit status, he explained.

“The grant to the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art could not have come at a better time. As our permanent collection grows, we need climatically controlled storage space for pieces that are not on display. This contribution provides the seed money for the construction of an appropriate facility for this historically important collection,” said Oleh Kowerko, president of the institute.

“The University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy’s role in building a new civil society with leaders in government and business that reflect the interests of the



Heritage Foundation President Julian Kulas (right) and Oleh Kowerko, president of the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, which received a grant of \$10,000 from the foundation.

Ukrainian nation is key to maintaining the country’s independence. The Heritage Foundation has contributed toward that process through its donation and support. Such advocacy of reforms through education is a contribution toward the long-term stability of Ukraine. The donation from Heritage Foundation is needed and it is appreciated,” said Ihor Wyslotsky, president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation.

While the donations to numerous community organizations are significant, an important role played by the Heritage Foundation is its support of little under-

stood but important community activities, such as academic research, sponsorship of conferences and the publication of books. The recent Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois in Champaign received significant support from the Heritage Foundation.

“We chose the foundation route to community donations because it ensures a level of sustainability for the future,” said Mr. Nadzikewycz. “Our donations are not dependent on the financial performance of our bank, and they are relatively assured for years to come.”

The Ukrainian Museum...

(Continued from page 1)

four months, but said that these were resolved within budget. He complemented architect George Sawicki of Sawicki Tarella+Design PC for designing a very efficient museum building under every aspect. Mr. Andreadis’ evaluation is based on his experience of many years with Turner Construction, a giant in the industry. He is currently the CEO of his own company, Triton Construction Co., which handles multi-million-dollar construction jobs, specializing in the education market.

A very important issue pertaining to the building project, as discussed by the board president, was funding. Mrs. Hnateyko emphasized that although the construction will be finished this fall, the task of raising funds to equip and furnish the building, and to pay for the organization and presentation of the inaugural exhibitions and related programs, as well as the publication of exhibition catalogues must be accomplished. She said the museum is intent on intensive fund-raising in the latter half of this year to reach a goal of one million dollars to cover these anticipated expenses.

She thanked members, friends and benefactors of the museum for their exceptional generosity and community spirit in helping the institution reach set goals. In particular, Mrs. Hnateyko spoke about individual examples of great generosity and support, which have made the construction phase of the building project possible, exemplifying Museum benefactors Eugene and Daymel Shklar, as well as Self Reliance N.Y. Federal Credit Union.

She also cited the financial and moral support received over many years from members of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA). The organization’s president, Iryna

Kurowyckyj, said that the UNWLA – the founder of the museum – will continue its uninterrupted endorsement of the institution and its projects.

During 2002, while the new museum facility was being built, the work of the institution at its present location on Second Avenue continued in every aspect of its operations, reported Director Maria Shust. In the spring the museum relinquished the use of its fourth floor gallery to the UNWLA, limiting only the physical parameters of its activities. Paralleling the concise and precise information provided in the 76-page annual report that was available to participants during the meeting, Ms. Shust gave a well-rounded description of how the museum functioned during the year. A copy of the annual report, which also contains the institution’s financial statements, as presented by Oleh Sawkiw at the meeting, will be sent to each museum member in the early part of this summer.

Of special interest was Ms. Shust’s description of the inaugural exhibitions that are scheduled to open the new museum building. Work is in progress on these exhibits that involve scholars, art historians, folklorists and ethnographers from the United States and Ukraine.

Prof. Yaroslav Leshko will curate the Alexander Archipenko art exhibition, and Prof. Orest Subtelny has agreed to curate an exhibition exploring the cultural life of the Ukrainian immigration in the United States. He will utilize materials from the museum’s archival collection. The folk art exhibit, organized on the basis of three symbolic elements – the tree of life, the sun and the goddess, which are found in various expressions of Ukrainian folk art is being organized by curator Lubow Wolynetz, with the help of consultants, Dr. Liudmyla Bulgakova, curator of embroidery at the Lviv branch

of the Maksym Rylskyi Institute of Art, Folklore and Ethnology, and Prof. Natalia Kononenko from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

There was a suggestion from the audience to further enrich the museum’s fine arts collection so that it will support the institution’s important mission of developing collections that reflect the cultural achievements of the Ukrainian immigration. It is most important to include in the fine arts collection the works of artists of Ukrainian descent who have in the past and are today creating and popularizing their artistic identities in various parts of the world.

It was noted that museum supporters and art enthusiasts can be instrumental in helping to develop this initiative through the identification of collectors, their cultivation, donation of art works to the museum, donation of funds to cover purchases of important art works, or including provisions to the effect in last will and testaments.

Museum members voted to increase membership dues in the following categories: senior – from \$10 to \$15; individual – from \$30 to \$40; and family – from \$60 to \$75. The categories of student and sustaining member remain unchanged at \$10 and \$100, respectively. The higher dues were adopted in anticipation of partially covering the cost of operations in the new building and will come into effect when the museum begins operations in the new facility in 2004.

Museum members also voted on the executive board of the board of trustees, with Mrs. Hnateyko as president. Several members whose terms were expiring this year were re-elected to the Board; Anna Rak was the only new incoming member.

Marketing a museum is a vital part of its agenda. Once secluded, contemplative places, contemporary museums have in the last several decades created a renaissance of their own by evolving into vibrant cen-

ters of learning and activities for the whole family. Technology plays an important part in effective marketing of museum agenda. Thus, the Ukrainian museum’s web pages on the Internet have been instrumental in presenting the Museum’s image throughout the world, inviting visitors, providing information and generating revenue from gift shop sales and other promotions. According to Hanya Krill of Brama, the webmaster of the museum’s pages, the institution has enjoyed a steady escalation in hits since it first joined the Internet in 1997, raising from a monthly average of 1,113 for that year to over 14,000 in 2003.

The annual meeting was chaired by Myroslaw Shmigel; recording the minutes was Daria Drozdowsky.

For information about the museum and how to support its building project: call (212) 228-0110; e-mail: info@ukrainian-museum.org; or check the Museum’s web page at <http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org>.

The following is the new roster of The Ukrainian Museum’s board of trustees for 2003-2004.

- Executive board: Olha Hnateyko, president; Iryna Kurowyckyj, vice-president; Tatiana Tershakovec, vice-president; Maria Tomorug, vice-president; Yar Mociuk, treasurer; Katria Czerwoniak, secretary; and Orysia Z. Woloszyn, secretary.

- Members-at-large: Orest Glut, Nicolas Andreadis and Irenaeus Yurchuk.

- Members: Anna Alyskewycz, Mykola Haliv, Andrey Hankevych, Sophia Hewryk, Ulana Kobzar, Lidia Krushelnytsky, Andrew Lencyk, Zenon Masnyj, Rostislav Milanytch, Maria Pazuniak, Maria Polanskyj, Anna Rak, Roma Shuhan, Olga Stawnychy, Oksana Trytjak.

- Audit Committee: Wasyl Sosiak, (chair), Nadia Cwisch, Donna Czechowycz, Ihor Hayda, Wolodymyr Magun.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

"Tabir Ptashat" at Soyuzivka offers a hopeful glimpse of community's future

by Oksana Trytjak

UNA Special Projects
and Fraternal Activities Coordinator

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Some say the Ukrainian community is assimilating and, therefore, there is no need for Ukrainian organizations, that ultimately we will lose all our Ukrainian institutions. There could be some truth to that, but I see a glimmer of hope.

I want to tell you what I witnessed at Soyuzivka during "Tabir Ptashat," which is in its 15th season, with two tours of camp held between June 22 and July 6. This camp was initiated by Neonila Sochan, one of the founding members of the Pershi Stezhi Plast sorority. The camp ("tabir") is specifically geared for pre-schoolers with their parents. During the day some parents act as counselors while others assist during the many activities. At mealtimes and in the evenings parents and children spend time together.

As always, the theme for the camps was the bird world, and the tabir was divided into various bird groups, like seagulls, nightingales, flamingos and others. The counselors, usually mothers and fathers, wore the wildest bird hats imaginable and led their flocks. (That certainly was a fashion statement!) What a sight: an adult in the craziest hat imaginable, followed by these little "ducklings" marching off to a specific activity. Pershi Stezhi organized and ran the tabir with the usual efficiency of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak and I visited Soyuzivka during the second week of "Tabir Ptashat." Ms. Kozak wanted to greet all the participants on behalf of the UNA's executives and to introduce one of UNA's insurance consultants, Bob Mitchell, to the guests. The weather was perfect and we arrived Tuesday evening just in time for dinner.

Well, as you may know, Soyuzivka is undergoing somewhat of a face lift (after 50 years everyone could do with a little lift). As the dining room was completely gutted, we wondered where and how dinner would be served. To our delight, the Veselka hall was fully prepared for the dinner crowd and there were over 200 guests settling in. The tables were set, salad was served and two long banquet tables filled with various entrees were manned by smiling young waiters and waitresses. Most servers were bilingual, but best of all they were friendly, efficient and eager to help.

As for the dinner, other than complaints that there was too much served (it was self-service, mind you), it was just perfect. As we sat down with our guest, Mr.

Mitchell, he noticed the young crowd of parents with their teeny ones. There were also grandparents maneuvering carriages with sleeping babies as they came to join the dinner crowd. Mr. Mitchell commented what a nice family atmosphere Soyuzivka has and that he was impressed that these young parents all spoke Ukrainian to their children. Ms. Kozak felt compelled to assure him that they also speak English.

These tots – some didn't even reach their fathers' knees – were chattering in Ukrainian, perfect Ukrainian: "Тату дивись мурашка – велика мурашка!" (Daddy, look an ant – a big ant.) This particular father was a young man, tall and thin with a baby knapsack strapped to his body with a tiny little one sleeping peacefully at his breast. His little son was holding on to his finger, noticing the creatures on the ground.

I looked around and thought of how these young parents, professional people, picked up their humongous bags of balls, hoops, floats and other toys – and so much more – and packed for a vacation. They folded their colorful beach towels and decided it was time to head out, not to Florida, not to Cancun or some other exotic beach, but to Soyuzivka. The warm sun and cool breeze of the mountains at Soyuzivka beckoned.

Many parents drove from the New York region and some from hundreds of miles away to bring their families – and most importantly their little ones – to a tabir that is shared with other children in a setting conducive to their family values.

I was told by one of the mothers that you must call in February just to make sure you get on the list of "Tabir Ptashat": participants. It is a plum to get a good room during this camp. She said, "I not only called on time, in February, but sent a fax and backed that up with an e-mail. And, yes, we have a great room with a balcony."

I guess it's been a long time since I've noticed little ones clutching to a parent's leg insisting on going swimming and bringing all 110 toys with them: "Тату це і цей балон!" (Daddy, this ball, too.)

But let me tell you it was wonderful to see so many parents interested in their Ukrainian culture and sharing it with their tots, bringing their little ones to Soyuzivka, where they know the setting is safe, beautiful and steeped in Ukrainian tradition. What Soyuzivka has cannot be purchased in Cancun. These toddlers no doubt will remember their first tabir with "tato," "mama," "babtsia" or "dido" here at Soyuzivka.

Later, when the children get older, they

(Continued on page 17)



A group of "Tabir Ptashat" campers with their counselor.

UNA executives meet, review first quarter results

by Christine E. Kozak

UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association's Executive Committee met on Friday, June 27, here at the UNA Home Office. Attending the meeting were Stefan Kaczaraj, president; Martha Lysko, first vice-president; Christine E. Kozak, national secretary; and Roma Lisovich, treasurer. Al Kachkowski, director for Canada, could not attend due to a prior engagement. Eugene Iwanciw, second vice-president, was absent for medical reasons.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mr. Kaczaraj, with the approval of the agenda and the reading of the minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting; it proceeded with the reports of each Executive Committee member for the first quarter of 2003.

President Kaczaraj reported on the financial strength of UNA, which had an increase in surplus, by \$501,000 for the first quarter of 2003. The increase in surplus is due to several positive economic factors: the improved strength of the Canadian dollar, an increase in new premiums collected, mostly from the sale of UNA annuities, a slight upturn in the stock market, and a slight profit shown by the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. (UNURC) of \$31,000.

On the down side, Soyuzivka reported a net loss of \$199,000 from operations. Both UNA publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, lost subscribers and operated at a loss of \$30,822.36 for the first quarter. The UNA paid out

\$258,000 in fraternal benefits.

First Vice-President Lysko organized five new members for UNA. In addition, she has requested that all of her earned per diem for 2003 be donated to the Ukrainian National Foundation to be earmarked for the Soyuzivka Renaissance Fund.

National Secretary Kozak reported that the UNA gained 85 policies in the first quarter. The total includes two policies sold in Canada for a total of \$10,000 in insurance, 60 life policies sold in the U.S. for a total of \$1,318,999 and 23 annuities sold for a total of \$296,615 in premiums.

Once again, Lubov Streletsky, secretary of Branch 10 in Philadelphia, took top honors for the first quarter. Ms. Streletsky sold eight policies for \$247,000 in insurance and \$8,627.22 in annualized premium. In second place was Myron Pylypiak, secretary of Branch 496, who also sold eight policies for \$104,000 in insurance amount, with \$3,747.87 in annualized premiums. Gloria Horbaty, secretary of Branch 414, sold four policies totaling \$200,000 in face amount, with \$1,153.75 in annualized premium.

The top producer for annuities was Steven Woch, a Home Office employee and a licensed agent, who sold 10 annuities totaling \$78,660 in the first quarter. Stephan Welhasch, another Home Office employee and a licensed agent sold three annuities for \$82,626 in annuity premiums, and Joseph Chabon, secretary of

(Continued on page 12)

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – APRIL 2003

Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 3/2003	6,124	12,560	2,787	21,471
Total Inactive Members – 3/2003	7,612	16,284	0	23,896
Total Members – 3/2003	13,736	28,844	2,787	45,367

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 4/2002				
New members	10	15	0	25
New members UL	1	1	0	2
Reinstated	9	9	4	22
Total Gains:	20	25	4	49

Losses in 4/2002				
Died	0	23	0	23
Cash surrender	3	5	0	8
Endowment matured	11	8	0	19
Fully paid-up	8	19	0	27
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	15	29	0	44
Certificates lapsed (active)	16	7	24	47
Certificate terminated	2	4	8	14
Total Losses	55	95	32	182

Total Active Members – 4/2003	6,089	12,490	2,759	21,338
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INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 4/2003				
Paid-up	8	19	0	27
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	15	29	0	44
Total Gains	23	48	0	71

Losses in 4/2003				
* Died	7	34	0	41
* Cash surrender	6	14	0	20
Pure endowment matured	4	3	0	7
Reinstated to active	9	9	0	18
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	1	5	0	6
Total Losses	27	65	0	92

Total Inactive Members – 4/2003	7,608	16,267	0	23,875
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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 4/2003	13,697	28,757	2,759	45,213
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(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

“Memory, sorrow, unity”

During the last two weeks this newspaper has reported on moves toward reconciliation between two neighboring countries, Ukraine and Poland, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of what has been referred to as the Volyn tragedy – the killings of more than 100,000 people of both nations at the time of Nazi and Soviet invasions and occupations during World War II.

First came the adoption by the Parliaments of Ukraine and Poland of a joint resolution on the bloody events of 1943-1944, condemning the “terror, violence and cruelty” of both sides during that period. Tens of thousands of innocent Ukrainians and Poles were killed in fighting by armed groups, including the Polish Armija Krajowa (AK) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). “Let the ability to forgive become the foundation of our future good-neighborly relations and Ukrainian-Polish friendship,” the resolution stated.

“The tragedy of the Poles, who were killed and forced from their homes by armed Ukrainian formations, was accompanied by similar suffering by the peaceful Ukrainian population, who were victims of actions by armed Poles,” the resolution explained.

Then came a solemn ceremony held in the village of Pavlivka, in the Volyn region of Ukraine, where Presidents Leonid Kuchma and Aleksander Kwasniewski called for mutual forgiveness and reconciliation between the two proud nations – neighbors who have a shared history that has both high and low points. They attended memorial services and presided at the unveiling of a monument to the victims of the World War II-era fighting inscribed with the words “Memory, sorrow, unity.”

“We cannot change this history, nor can we question it. We cannot silence it, nor excuse it. Instead we need to find the courage to accept the truth, to call a crime a crime inasmuch as only with respect for the truth can we build the future,” the two presidents said in their joint statement issued on the occasion. For, as noted in the earlier joint resolution adopted by the Sejm and the Verkhovna Rada, “Painful experience should serve for us as a source of reflection on the fact that hatred and conflicts between us were exploited by our opponents, with the result that we always were the losers.”

Today – free of outside interference and subjugation by foreign forces – the two freedom-loving nations can live in “peace and harmony” as encouraged by Pope John Paul II in his July 7 message to the Ukrainian and Polish people, and proceed to “build a future founded on mutual respect, brotherly cooperation and genuine solidarity” as underscored by Presidents Kuchma and Kwasniewski.

The reconciliation taking place 60 years after the Volyn tragedy, we believe, is a historic step that surely will pave the way for Ukraine and Poland to move forward as honorable partners in the international arena and as valued actors in global affairs.

July
31
1983

Turning the pages back...

Twenty years ago, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Soviet-made Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, The Ukrainian Weekly ran a column titled “The Great Famine.” Relying on news from Svoboda and, later, The Ukrainian Weekly (which

began publication in October 1933), the column’s goal was to remind and inform Americans and Canadians of this terrible crime against humanity.

The entry titled “August 1-15, 1933,” which appeared in this paper’s on July 31, 1983, reported that on August 3, 1933, the news on the front page of Svoboda was that the Communists in the Soviet Union were struggling with the bureaucracy of the collective farm system. According to Moscow reports, there were plenty of Communist Party members who “directed offices” and did not work in the fields as they were supposed to, and some farms had more office workers than field workers. Therefore, the Communist Party had begun purging these “workers.”

The New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty reported that one collective farm had decreased its worker staff by one-third. He interviewed a peasant who stated that the bureaucracy was running the workers to the ground; he said he was glad to see Moscow cracking down on these “office workers.” Duranty commented that the number of these Communist Party “parasites” kept increasing.

On August 4, a letter, written by a Kiev resident, who was originally from western Ukraine, appeared in Svoboda. It had been sent to the man’s relatives in Lviv, who forwarded it to the Dilo newspaper, which shared it with Svoboda. Following are a few excerpts.

“Currently, my wife, my children and I are going absolutely hungry. We had some potatoes a while back, and things were bearable then, but now we eat potato skins with no sauce. I work, I have a job, but it brings me nothing. To live like the middle class, one has to bring home at least 1,500 karbovantsi a month; I get 200.

“... They don’t allow you to go back home and they don’t allow you to survive here. It looks like we’ll have to die a death of starvation like those around us. I beg you, call the family together and send us a package – anything, even some lard, for I have forgotten the look and the taste of it.”

The author of the letter described himself as “naked, barefoot and hungry.” He noted that lice were everywhere, people were dying of typhoid, and swollen and hungry people were in the streets of the city.

On August 8, Svoboda printed news from Lviv about Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky’s issuance of a statement calling on all Ukrainians in western Ukraine to help their brothers and sisters in need in eastern Ukraine. He said the population in eastern Ukraine was dying of hunger – a hunger imposed on the people by the Soviet regime. The regime, he said, was based on “injustice, deception, godlessness and laziness.”

“The cannibalistic system of state capitalism has turned this recently rich land into a ruined state, and led its people to a death by starvation,” he said.

Source: “The Great Famine; Part XXIV, August 1-15, 1933,” *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 31, 1983, Vol. LI, No. 31.

FOR THE RECORD

Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide

Tragedy has afflicted the Ukrainian nation numerous times throughout the course of its over 1,000-year history. No one period, however, can compare to the horrific consequences of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide, forced upon the Ukrainian people. The death by starvation of 7 million to 10 million peasants in Ukraine’s black-earth soil was caused not by nature, but by deliberate grain requisition policies of the Soviet Union, introduced with an eye towards destroying resistance to collectivization as well as Ukrainian national aspirations.

The widespread starvation was unquestionably a deliberate genocide carried out against the Ukrainian populace by the Soviet regime. The borders of Ukraine were sealed, both to international relief efforts and to Ukrainians fleeing the countryside in search of food. Additionally, in the context of other events of that time, such as the destruction of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the liquidation of the Ukrainian intellectual elite, one can see that the Famine-Genocide was the horrific culmination of the genocidal policy of the Soviet Union against the Ukrainian nation.

Because Soviet authorities could not have done this had the world been watching diligently, they set about hiding it from the international community. Soviet denials of the Famine-Genocide managed to convince many people that there was no famine. They were not alone in their efforts, however. The Western press assisted the Soviet Union in covering up this awful episode in history. The most infamous example of this is Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty, who denied reports of famine in Ukraine as “malignant propaganda” while privately confiding that as many as 10 million had starved to death.

Since regaining its independence in 1991, Ukraine has begun to freely discuss the Famine-Genocide, and on May 15, 2003, the Parliament of Ukraine declared the events of 1932-1933 to be “a genocide against the Ukrainian nation.” This statement corresponds to the findings of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, which in 1988 concluded: “Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933.” We applaud these declarations and consider them vital to bringing this tragic event into the world’s collective memory. That one of the most barbarous crimes of the 20th century took place on the European continent while very few took notice defies imagination. Should freedoms, such as those accorded in the United States, have been present in Ukraine during the Famine-Genocide, the terror committed upon the Ukrainian nation would not have transpired.

While this tragedy may be well-known to Ukrainians in their native land and abroad, it is still not widely recognized worldwide. We call upon the Ukrainian American community to advocate Congress for the construction of a Famine-Genocide memorial in Washington, while appealing to the United Nations General Assembly to recognize this tragedy as a genocide and to once and for all put an end to the famine deniers and historical distortion that has plagued the previous century’s discourse on the subject. The global community must be aware of what happened in Ukraine during those years so that it is never allowed to happen again. This chapter of Ukrainian and world history must not be forgotten.

God has blessed us in the fulfillment of our greatest dream – the independence of our native land. In His grace, we are bound to a sacred responsibility, in the name of all those who perished, to make it a certainty that their memory will serve to enhance Ukraine’s continued progress along a democratic path. Together, ecclesiastical and community organizations must be the moral conscience of the nation – even in the most difficult of circumstances.

May God eternally embrace the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, and may God bless the United States of America and Ukraine.

† His Beatitude Constantine
Metropolitan
Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA

† His Grace Stefan
Metropolitan
Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA

Michael Sawkiw Jr.
President
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, **no photocopies or computer printouts**) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must **provide a daytime phone number** where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- ✦ Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our community must have unity

Dear Editor:

As I recall, sometime in the early spring The Ukrainian Weekly printed an article written by Tamara Gallo describing the resolutions made at a meeting of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America executive board. At that meeting a statement was made that the executive of the UCCA was concerned about the need for unity within the Ukrainian American community. For that reason a special committee was created to negotiate with the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council in order to secure the positive result of unification of these two organizations in one body that would represent us and speak in one voice.

Dialogue on this matter is essential and has to continue to rebuild one Ukrainian American representation, regardless of the personal ambitions and ultimate name of that body. This is in the interest of all of us.

Svoboda printed my two short articles on that subject on April 11 and June 13. To date our community does not know if such negotiations are taking place and, if so, what progress has been made.

There is no doubt that both organizations are marching in the same direction and, therefore, they should unite to work effectively, to gain respect and to represent us with one strong voice.

I'm sure that there is no ideal solution. You will not be able to satisfy everybody, but I can assure you that most of us will commend these organizations for such a historic and patriotic accomplishment. Let us follow the motto: "United we stand."

We, the silent majority, are concerned and will be more than happy to be represented by one respectful organization.

Bohdan Kandiuk
Glen Spey, N.Y

Re: TV's portrayal of Ukrainians

Dear Editor:

My recent viewing of popular television and movies suggests that a new trend may be afoot – the transitioning of the negative video stereotype of Ukrainians from vicious Nazis to particularly brutal post-Soviet mafiosi.

In an episode of NBC's "Law and Order" titled "Absentia," which aired in the Philadelphia area on June 25, a frightened bit character manages to defame both Georgians and Ukrainians in the same breath when, in describing a murderous perpetrator, he tells the police detective, "Those Georgians are worse than Ukes."

In the new hit Paramount movie "The Italian Job," a sumo-wrestler type character who supplies materiel to criminals of various types tells our hero "One thing I never do is mess with Ukrainians." He is referring to Mashkov, a Russian-speaking (of course) mob-type who runs a suspicious garbage disposal operation and who confronted the supplier-character with a hatchet in an attempt to extract information. Although Mashkov turns out to be a relatively good guy, coming to the rescue of our "heroes" from the real evil-doer in the movie, this evidently couldn't be accomplished without the gratuitous slander.

Is anybody else out there watching? Are these isolated incidents or a new pattern?

Olena W. Stercho
Wayne, Pa.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed; they must be originals, not photocopies.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes.

Opinions expressed in letters and commentaries are solely those of their authors.

NEWS AND VIEWS

We believe in miracles

by Wasyl Lysecky

Slavko Semchyshyn was born in 1990 with a genetic birth defect that causes the corneas to be covered over by extension of the whites (sclera) of the eye. In Slavko's case, this defect occurred in both eyes. For all intents and purposes, Slavko was blind.

The tragedy of his defect was compound-

ed by the misfortune of his being born in Soviet-occupied Ukraine, where less than perfect children were not welcome – they were seen as potential burdens on the system. Slavko was taken away from his mother immediately after delivery and placed in a nursery, where he received only water. The

(Continued on page 17)



Thirteen-year-old Slavko Semchyshyn, with his mother, Helena, Dr. David Schanzlin (second from left) and Dr. William Selezinka (left).

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Magicians, muggles and good summer reading

It was 85 degrees with blue skies and the sun at its brightest. A perfect afternoon for jumping into the pool to cool off and indeed, a group of "novaky," (Plast cub scouts) at the Pysanyi Kamin (Painted Rock) Camp near Cleveland was doing just that – with the notable exception, that is, of a half-dozen or so who were sitting in the shade of a nearby grove reading, oblivious to the shouts and splashes just a few steps away. That was three years ago and one of the boys with his nose in a book was my son, Mykhas, almost 10 years old then.

Since when do pre-adolescent boys prefer the company of a book to the pleasures of a cold pool on a hot summer day? Since Harry Potter. Two days earlier, on a Saturday morning we were leaving for camp, Mykhas insisted that we first stop at the bookstore to make sure he got his copy of the long-anticipated fourth book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," which was being released to much hoopla and long lines at 7 a.m.

And so, even though the counselors at Pysanyi Kamin were supposed to enforce a Ukrainian-only rule for reading material, what could they do? This was Harry Potter, and for this particular group of die-hard fans, there was no waiting – hot weather, a nearby pool and a mandatory devotion to the Ukrainian language notwithstanding.

Just in case you've been in Antarctica or the dark side of the moon for the last five years, let me briefly outline the premise of the Harry Potter series. In its bare bones, the story is simple: a lonely orphan with abusive stepparents discovers he has magical powers that mystify his oppressors and open the door for him to an exclusive school where he hones his skills while battling evil. Now into its fifth book, the series by J.K. Rowling has been tracking Harry as he grows up. In the latest, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," he's an adolescent with all the challenges of that age.

With huge numbers of books sold – 5 million copies on the first day for "The Order of the Phoenix" – Harry Potter is not only a literary phenomenon, but a cultural one, as well. Besides the books, there have been two movies, various residuals, Halloween costumes and a plethora of articles analyzing Harry Potter's appeal, starting with the focus on magic.

People, of course, have always been interested in the supernatural and the occult. The Harry Potter series with its wizards and witches, muggles and monsters clearly taps into that age-old fascination. But there's more. Personally, I'm struck by the theme of the virtuous orphan magically elevated to the status of hero.

This story is far more familiar than we perhaps realize. Children first encounter it with Cinderella and Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz." Then there are the comic book heroes, Superman, Batman and Spiderman, also orphans who apply extraordinary powers in the fight against evil. Frodo Baggins in "The Lord of the Rings" is an orphan and so is Luke Skywalker from the "Star Wars" trilogy. At the intersection of history and myth, we find Romulus and Remus, co-founders of Rome. As infant twins, they were abandoned and left to die, only to be saved by

a she-wolf who raised them as her own.

In the Old Testament, Moses' mother places him in a papyrus basket and sends him floating down the Nile to save him from a blanket death sentence on all Hebrew males. The pharaoh's daughter rescues him, brings him up as her child until Moses grows up to lead his people out of captivity and into the promised land.

And then there's Taras Shevchenko. His life story is at the center of Ukraine's national ethos: the orphan whose talent leads to a miraculous emancipation. Once free, he composes verse that is so compelling, it inspires a nation of serfs toward liberation and redemption.

Regardless of its underlying appeal – magic, identification with an orphan underdog, or something else – the Harry Potter series, now all of six years old, is a worldwide sensation. Teachers and parents rejoice because their children turn off the television set and read, not only in English, the language of the author, but also in 50-plus languages: in addition to German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, there's also Urdu, Zulu, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Hebrew, Arabic, Latin and Ancient Greek.

And yes, Harry Potter is available in Ukrainian. Early in 2002, Ivan Malkovich, founder and president of A-Ba-Ba-Ha-La-Ma-Ha, the premier Ukrainian children's publishing house, purchased the Ukrainian-language rights to the Harry Potter series. Viktor Morozov translated the first four books and is working on the latest.

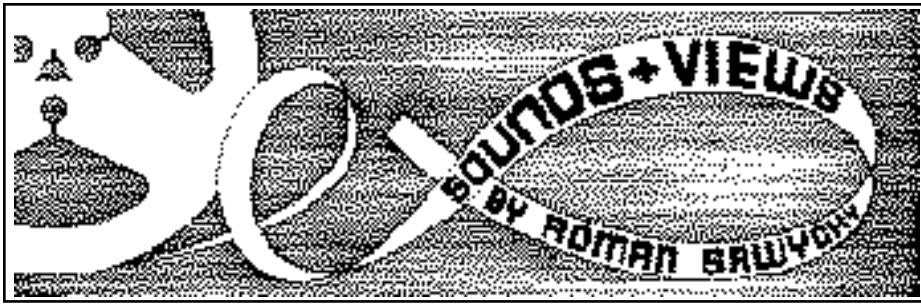
Although I've never met either Mr. Malkovich or Mr. Morozov, I consider both of them to be old friends. For the past 10 years, my children have been enjoying Mr. Malkovich's children's books with their delightful illustrations. As for Mr. Morozov, I first met him through videos of the Lviv theater Ne Zhury! (Don't Worry!), which staged a series of historic cabaret productions in the late 1980s and early '90s, mocking the Soviet regime and reviving long-forbidden themes and songs. Now these two, along with many others, have collaborated to bring Harry Potter to Ukrainian readers.

Like all good literature, Harry Potter is about a lot of things. It's a whodunit, a coming-of-age story and, with its three-headed dogs, phoenixes and gorgons, a modern application of classical mythology. Above all, it's a page-turner. And now, thanks to Messrs. Malkovich and Morozov, Harry Potter is motivating my children to read Ukrainian.

The translated version of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" is sitting on my son's nightstand, next to the English version, which he knows backwards and forwards. Don't quite understand the Ukie text? Find its equivalent in English and then read on. And it's working. Mykhas is reading Harry Potter in Ukrainian. In the meantime, our 8-year-old Olesia has also discovered Harry Potter, so far in the English version. She recommends it highly. (Just for the record, Mykhas finished the 870-page "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" 35 hours after we bought it. "Harri Potter i Filozofskyi Kamin" is taking a good bit longer. But that's okay. He's reading.)

To order your own copy of Harry Potter in Ukrainian, go to the online stores <http://www.yevshan.com> or <http://www.oleksa.co.uk>.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is: fedynsky@stratos.net.



A recorded tribute to Daria Hordynska-Karanowycz

A new compact disc titled "Daria Hordynska-Karanowycz, pianist: A Tribute to an Artist" came out last year on the Ukrainian Masters (UM-4) label, music by Ukrainian composers. The disc, produced by Ukrainian Music Institute of America, Inc., includes a 12-page bilingual booklet on the pianist's place in the history of piano performance.

According to the biography of Ms. Karanowycz by Prof. Natalia Kashkadamova of the Lysenko Music Academy that appears in the liner notes, this noted pianist (1908-1999) was born in Kolomyia, Ukraine. She studied with the eminent composer and pianist Vasyl Barvinsky at the Lysenko Advance Music Institute in Lviv and later at the Vienna Music Academy.

Her first concerts were in the late 1920s, but it was in the 1930s that Ms. Karanowycz's concert activities blossomed, as she toured Austria, Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Beside performing solo concerts, she played with chamber ensembles, among them the Vienna Philharmonic String Quartet.

Upon arriving in the United States, Ms. Karanowycz became involved in pedagogy, teaching piano to countless numbers of students. She also recorded numerous piano performances on reel-to-reel tape, however, these were never released. She released only one LP (Imperial Record Corp. 1985).

The newly released CD contains performances both from the aforementioned tapes and the LP, as well as a recording of a Radio Lviv interview and performance.

The disc has garnered the following notices in America and Ukraine:

• "In the recent release of the late Daria Karanowycz's recordings, ... we hear what an extraordinary artist she was. To her, technique was merely a means to an end – the end being performances of high emotional content and poetic emanations, rare quali-

ties in any generation. Her chief intent was to express the inner meaning of the works she performed. And she has done this with consummate artistry and technical control. These recordings are a must for all serious musicians and music lovers." – Seymour Bernstein, pianist and educator (New York).

• "Everyone who has listened to Daria H. Karanowycz's performance of this rare collection of Ukrainian piano music will agree that she is a wonderful pianist, with masterful technical command and a sensitive and refined style.

"She keeps a beautiful singing melodic line with poetic expressiveness in all the pieces she played, ranging from Vasyl Barvinsky's miniature arrangements of Ukrainian Folk Songs to his romantic early works – Scherzo and the Preludes. Daria's brilliant and powerful technique is displayed in her rendition of the lively and humorous Ukrainian Folk Tunes, V. Groudine's Étude, and as well as in the more modern Lov Revutsky's grand Preludes, where the music erupts into passionate big chords with massive sounds.



"Despite the fact that these recordings were made before the innovations of today's technology, this CD is a beautiful and vivid remembrance of our dear friend Daria – a great pianist and musician." – F. Ming Chang, professor emeritus, Seton Hall University; and Dr. Julius Zsako professor emeritus, Seton Hall University.

(Continued on page 16)

BOOK NOTE: Ewanchuk's latest on Ukrainian Canadians

"Vertical Development: New Generation of Ukrainian Canadians," by Michael Ewanchuk. Winnipeg: M. Ewanchuk Publishing, 2003. \$19.95.

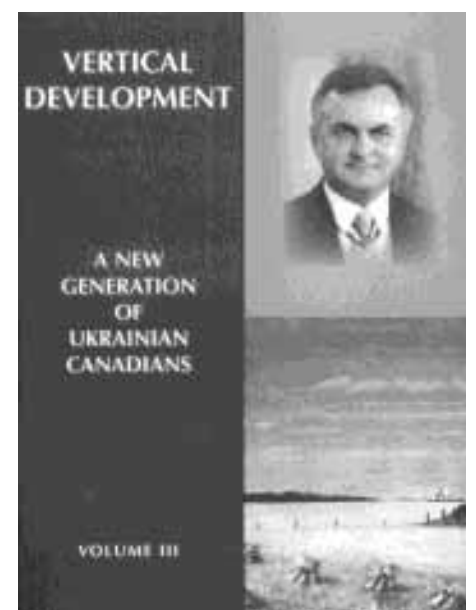
"Vertical Development: New Generation of Ukrainian Canadians," Volume 3 is the 14th book and third in the series authored by Manitoba writer Dr. Michael Ewanchuk.

It deals with young people of Ukrainian heritage – many with humble beginnings – who through education and hard work attained success in life. Volume 3 is dedicated to the late Governor General of Canada, Ramon John Hnatyshyn. It carries illustrations and biographies of the

men and women selected for the sample.

Dr. Ewanchuk's new publication for 2003 is a semi-fictional volume titled, "Growing Up on a Bush Homestead." It will appear by mid-2003. The book is designed for the teenage population.

"Vertical Development: New Generation of Ukrainian Canadians," Volume 3 retails at \$19.95 plus postage, and is available in larger book stores and from the author: Michael Ewanchuk, 828 Borebank St., Winnipeg, MB R3N 1G4.

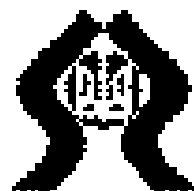


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Hromovytsia dancers' debut in Kyiv kick offs concert tour of Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Just as their name implies, Hromovytsia, an enthusiastic group of young Ukrainian American dancers from Chicago, took the Kyiv State Operetta Theater by storm on July 14 in their first concert in Ukraine.

Kyivans jammed the hall to overflowing to see 41 young Americans with Ukrainian roots age 15-35 celebrate Ukrainian culture with traditional folk songs and dance.

Their appearance in the Ukrainian capital city was Hromovytsia's first stop in a tour that will also take them to five western Ukrainian cities, including Lviv, Ternopil, Kalush, Kolomyia and Uzhhorod.

Noting the lack of attention the Kyiv government continues to pay to stimulating and lifting Ukrainian culture, Zoya Popova, director of the Department of Ukrainian Diaspora at the Ministry of Culture, said during a press conference prior to the dance ensemble's first appearance that she hoped the tour would become a cultural stimulus for Ukraine.

"Let's hope that the arrival of Hromovytsia becomes the thunderstorm that stirs the matter of culture in Ukraine," said Ms. Popov.

The group's choreographer, Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak, said that she sees her ensemble as more than just a way for kids to learn Ukrainian dance; it is also a way of helping them to embrace their historic homeland and all that it stands for.

"I have had a special feeling for this since I was young, when I first saw the Virsky Dance Ensemble," explained Mrs. Dykyj-Pylypczak. "I was backstage afterwards and saw the performers. You can't understand the feeling I felt seeing for the first time the men with their swords and 'zhupany,' and the women in costume. I felt that, yes, this was the affirmation of our unique Ukrainian culture. It makes no difference – Chicago, America, Ukraine – we are all Ukrainians."

Mrs. Dykyj-Pylypczak emphasized that most of the more than 50 dancers she coaches are third- or even fourth-generation Ukrainian Americans, and even so all speak at least some Ukrainian. She also noted that a number of them had begun dancing at age 3 or 4.

Among the reporters at the press conference, several bemoaned the fact that the ensemble had not scheduled eastern Ukrainian cities and the "Russified Kozak territories" of southern Ukraine on this tour. They noted that it was there the Ukrainian culture most needs tending and even re-planting in some places.

Yurii Cepynsky of Chicago, who acted as master of ceremonies for the concerts, said he recognizes a need to go east and that while perhaps scheduling mistakes had been made they were not intentional.

"This is our first time here – we are learning, but we intend to come back," explained Mr. Cepynsky.

The ensemble's concert tour concludes on July 24 in Uzhhorod.



At a press conference in Kyiv (from left) are: Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak, director of the Hromovytsia Dance Ensemble, Zoya Popova, director of the Department of Ukrainian Diaspora at Ukraine's Ministry of Culture and Marta Farion, chairwoman of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Program in Chicago answer questions from Ukrainian journalists.



The Hopak – as always the finale for the Hromovytsia Dance Ensemble.



Hromovytsia dancers prepare for their Kyiv debut on Monday, July 14.



Toma Antonovych gets ready for the "Pryvit" Kozak dance.

ESSAY CONTEST

In celebration of the upcoming Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly Anniversaries

The Ukrainian National Association initiates a project to celebrate both publications' upcoming anniversaries.

Svoboda, 110th Anniversary, September 2003

The Ukrainian Weekly, 70th Anniversary, October 2003

This project invites high school seniors and college students from all our communities to participate. We feel it is important to encourage the younger sector of our community to share their feelings regarding the impact the press had, has and will have on their generation. We encourage parents and teachers to actively encourage the students to participate.

The title of the essay is:

"What Role Does The Ukrainian Press Have For The Future In Our Community"

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- **Second Prize** – Weekend at Soyuzivka.

Rules and regulations to participate:

- ✓ 300-500 typed words on 8 X 11 sheets
- ✓ Ukrainian or English language
- ✓ Each entry must be identified on the reverse side with:
 - Typed name, address, and telephone/e-mail
 - Name of school and grade level student attends
 - Age of student
- ✓ All entries must be postmarked no later than August 31, 2003, and mailed to:

Ukrainian National Association
Attention: Oksana Trytjak
2200 Route 10, P. O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054
- ✓ 3 judges will participate, judges' decision will be final.
- ✓ Top essays will be printed in Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly

For more information please call Oksana Trytjak, UNA Special Projects Coordinator: 973 292-9800 X 3071

Soyuzivka photo album: Welcome to the resort of the UNA



KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Guests are discovering the new Soyuzivka when they vacation at the resort this summer. For the benefit of those who have not yet been to this picturesque resort owned by the Ukrainian National Association, we offer this glimpse of what they can expect to see as they arrive. Seen in the photos (counterclockwise from top right) are: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, the first landmark guests see as they are about to enter the grounds of Soyuzivka; Soyuzivka's famous Hutsul welcomes guests near the resort's gatehouse; Soyuzivka's Director of Hospitality Services Nestor Paslawsky surveys the scene on the path to the Veselka Pavilion; Olesia Guran, reservations/advertising manager (left), and Luba Jablonski ready to greet guests at Soyuzivka's front desk.

Photos by Vasyl Lopukh



36th Tennis Camp concludes at Soyuzivka with awards ceremony

by Petrusia Sawchak



Participants of the 36th Soyuzivka Tennis Camp held at Soyuzivka.

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Twenty-five children age 10 to 17 came this year to the Ukrainian National Association estate, Soyuzivka, from June 21 to July 3 to learn the fundamentals of tennis, play competitive tournaments, make new friends and have lots of fun.

The director of the camp since its inception in 1968 is George Sawchak, a known Ukrainian and United States Tennis Association (USTA) senior ranked player, organizer and tennis instructor.

This year he was joined by Yuri Kusina, a certified USPTA coach, from Glendale, Calif., who assisted Mr. Sawchak. Olya Czerkas, a teacher from St. Petersburg, Fla., provided 24-hour camp supervision off courts. Camp counselors were Marko Czerkas and Ann Voytsehovska.

The campers had between five and six hours of intensive tennis practice daily, which included instruction in basic strokes and court strategies. This culminated with competitive play and a chance to win awards.

(Continued on page 14)



Best camper award winners with the staff (from left): Olya Czerkas, Julian Chernyk, George Sawchak, Alyssa Kowcz, Christina Vorobets, Yuri Kusina, Ann Voytsehovska and Marko Czerkas.



Singles trophy winners (from left): Adam Ogonowski, Greg Serba, Sawchak, John Puhalla, Katrusia Charchalis, Alyssa Kowcz and Andrew Klokiw.

DATELINE NEW YORK: Ukrainian singers at Lincoln Center

by Helen Smindak

In a co-presentation with Lincoln Center Festival 2003, the Kirov Opera of St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theater staged six works at the Metropolitan Opera this month – Verdi's thrilling "Macbeth," a special concert performance of Anton Rubinstein's "The Demon," and masterpieces by four of Russia's greatest composers (the Kirov included Tchaikovsky in this category, along with Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Prokofiev).

Opera buffs of all ethnic origins welcomed the Kirov presentations. For the Ukrainian community, the important news is that the three-week Kirov run included the North American premiere of a Prokofiev opera with a Ukrainian setting and a Ukrainian hero – the three-act 1940 work "Semyon Kotko."

What is also newsworthy, the Kirov productions brought to the Met stage several Ukrainian singers in leading roles – baritone Vassily Gerello, tenors Vladimir Grishko and Viktor Lutsiuk, bass-baritone Mikhail Kit and mezzo-soprano Olga Markova-Mikhailenko – whose contributions were warmly received by both their audiences and the press.

Prokofiev, a Russian composer who was born in eastern Ukraine, chose Valentin Katayev's 1937 novella, "I Am a Son of the Working People," as the subject for a patriotic opera when he returned to Soviet Russia from Western Europe at the climax of the Stalinist purges of the 1930s. Scholars of Russian music regard this time as a period when codification of socialist realism demanded the expression of Marxist-Leninist political thought, Communist Party allegiance and revolutionary populism.

These doctrines are evident as the story unfolds around Semyon Kotko, a demobilized Ukrainian soldier who returns to his native village in 1918 after a four-year stint in the Russian Army. Anticipating the warmth and familiar pleasures of home after the rigors of war, he instead receives a political education from the Bolsheviks who are still warring against the Germans and all manner of counterrevolutionaries.

Unlike the original opera, which was set in the Ukrainian steppe, the Kirov production employs an abstract depiction of the aftermath of war, with the wreckage of trains, mills and army field weapons spilling across a raked platform.

A constantly moving mill serves as the "hammer" for a huge sickle-shaped piece of debris stuck in the background.

As villagers emerge from craters in the ground to greet the returning soldier, Semyon is reunited with his sweetheart Sofia, the daughter of the rich peasant Tkachenko, who plots against the Bolsheviks and plans to marry his daughter to the heir of a prosperous landowner. Other important characters include Sofia's good friend Lyubka and her fiancé Tsyarov, a husky sailor and loyal Bolshevik, and Semyon's sister Frosia and her sweetheart Mikola, and Remeniuk, head of the village council (soviet) and commander of a partisan unit.

Throughout the opera, the language and the music come across with a distinctly Ukrainian flavor, reflecting Prokofiev's memories of his childhood, spent as the son of a Russian estate agent in the Ukrainian countryside. Folk customs are portrayed in such rituals as the village betrothal ceremony, when Semyon's two matchmakers, with embroidered ritual cloths around their shoulders, come to Tkachenko's house to seek Sofia's hand in marriage.

Act II shows the people cowering in fear as opposing forces – Reds, Whites, Germans and partisans – collide in a blood-soaked melee. The Reds are portrayed in Ku Klux Klan-ish red robes and cone-shaped hats, the Whites in long white coats and tall white hats, the Germans in recognizable military uniforms, while the partisans (referred to as "Cossacks") are garbed in furry black coats and hats.

Toward the end of the opera, a bearded old priest (described in the program notes as a blind bandurist) cradles an icon in his arms as he laments the troubles of Ukraine.

In the final scene, as a unit of the Red Army enters the village and a massive head of Lenin rises from a crater in the background, the villagers, dressed in matching grey Soviet uniforms and holding aloft their doctrinal red books, sing that now Ukraine will be free from foreign domination.

It was surprising to note at one point in the opera that the choral work seemed to echo the words of Taras Shevchenko – "Remember to mention me... remember me with a good, quiet word!" Was this Prokofiev's way of getting around the censors, or simply a coincidence?

Points of view

Although Prokofiev created his artistic world as a



Vassily Gerello as Macbeth and Irina Gordei as Lady Macbeth in Verdi's "Macbeth."

parallel to reality, one wonders what today's Ukrainian citizens think about this Soviet-period opera.

From the Kirov's Ukrainian principals, "Dateline" obtained contradictory responses. One professed ignorance of the opera, while another told us that the opera is "almost never done" in Ukraine because it does not have a solid Ukrainian theme like "Mazeppa." A third declared that the opera is performed in Ukraine and is "very popular."

Other viewpoints were expressed at a "Semyon Kotko" symposium at Lincoln Center on July 9. Prof. Simon Morrison of Princeton University, a musicologist who moderated the symposium, believes that this politically charged opera poses a special challenge. He contended that for most Russian listeners the verbal content is unpalatable, even laughable, but the music, despite being bound up with the texts, remains "variably appealing."

Symposium speaker Catherine Nepomyashche, who delved into the literary and historical context of the opera, described "Semyon Kotko" as "a very interesting piece, a brilliant opera that's a hymn to Ukraine."

Ms. Nepomyashche, the director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and chair of the Slavic department at Barnard College, pointed out that although the opera is in Russian "it has a lot of Ukrainianisms in the language and is steeped in Ukrainian traditions."

Though not of Slavic ancestry (she comes by her Russian name through marriage), Ms. Nepomyashche became obsessed with "Semyon Kotko" while researching important Russian writers of the Soviet period.

The New York Times' critic Anthony Tommasini, in his July 10 review, termed the opening night performance of the opera "stylistically insightful and authoritative."

Describing the production as "an episodic score of intentionally contrasting scenes calculated for clear dramatic effects," he pointed to wistfully lyrical outpourings by peasant characters, some fashioned from Ukrainian folk music, and stock comic bits, like the scene for busybody female villagers who ogle Semyon.

Mr. Tommasini concluded that the production – "an arresting yet flawed work, compromised by censors and politics" – does everything possible to bring out whatever ironic subtext resides in the score and to present the opera in an embracing and humanistic context.

An appraisal of the Kirov Opera presentations was given by David Shengold in the July issue of the Met Playbill. Writing about the final act of "Semyon Kotko," he concluded that the transition from the idyllic opening with lovers' meetings to its "horror-struck choral conclusion" after a murderous German incursion was "dramatic power rarely matched in 20th-century opera."

Singers win praises

The most impressive singers in the first-night presentation of "Semyon Kotko," in Mr. Tommasini's opinion, were Mr. Lutsiuk in the title role and the soprano



Marty Soh/Metropolitan Opera

Mikhail Kit as Dosifei and Olga Borodina as Marfa in Mussorgsky's "Khovanshchina."

Tatiana Pavlovskaya as Sofia, who also sang these roles on the Kirov's 2000 recording of the work. Mr. Lutsiuk, a native of Ukraine's Volyn region, also appeared in "Khovanshchina" and "The Invisible City of Kitezh." Previously heard in New York with the Kirov Opera in "Mazeppa," the tenor has sung roles with opera companies in Berlin, Bonn, Hamburg, Milan, Munich and Zurich.

Mr. Kit, who hails from the southwestern city of Kolomyia, gave an excellent performance as the white-haired priest in "Semyon Kotko" and sang the role of Prince Gremin in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin." Appearing in Mussorgsky's folk-music drama "Khovanshchina," the 60-year-old bass-baritone sang with fervor and reverence as he interpreted the lead role of Dosifei, the spiritual leader of the Old Believers, a rigidly traditional religious sect of 17th century Russia.

Mr. Gerello, who made his Met debut in 1997 as Alfio in "Cavalleria Rusticana," was praised by The New York Times' Anne Midgette for his "large baritone with a bit of a burr" and "a commendable warmth in

(Continued on page 15)

Gerello to release Ukrainian CD

NEW YORK – Baritone Vassily Gerello, a member of the Kirov Opera who has been appearing in Metropolitan Opera productions since 1997, will soon release his first solo album – a CD recording of popular Ukrainian songs.

The CD will be brought out in early fall on a major American label, Delos International.

The disc will include such Ukrainian favorites as "Dva Kolory," "Chorni Brovy," "Cheremshyna," "Po Sadochku" and "Yasyny," as well as the nostalgic ode to Ukraine's mighty Dnipro River, "Reve ta Stohne."

Mr. Gerello is also scheduled to record two duets with the Latin tenor Ramon Vargas, to be released by RCA sometime this autumn.

A native of Chernivtsi in Ukraine's colorful Bukovyna region, Mr. Gerello is booked through 2006 for engagements in the United States (Dallas, New York and Washington), Paris, London, Hamburg, Madrid and the Netherlands.

During the past Met season he sang the role of Marcello in "La Boheme." He has previously appeared in Met productions of "Pique Dame" (as Tomsky, opposite Placido Domingo), "Betrothal in a Monastery" (Ferdinand) and "War and Peace" (Napoleon Bonaparte).

Major venues and festivals at which he has appeared include the BBC Proms, Athens Megaron and the Edinburgh Festival. – Helen Smindak

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UNA Executive...

(Continued from page 5)

Branch 242, sold three annuities for
 \$35,000 in premiums.

The national secretary also reported
 that the UNA is well on the road in hir-
 ing professional agents to sell UNA
 insurance products. As of April 1, the
 UNA has 14 agents that are selling in the
 state of Pennsylvania.

Twelve out of the UNA's 27 districts
 held their district meetings in the first
 quarter of 2003 and assigned themselves
 quotas as directed by a resolution adopt-
 ed by the General Assembly. The Albany
 District, under the leadership of Nicholas
 Fil, is to be commended once again in
 surpassing the assigned quota for the dis-
 trict in 2002, noted Ms. Kozak. The dis-
 trict received a reward check for its
 accomplishment.

The Northern New Jersey District
 under the leadership of Eugene
 Oscislowski also received a reward
 check for achieving 51 percent of its
 quota; and the Philadelphia District,
 under the leadership of longtime UNAer
 Stefan Hawrysz, a member of the
 General Assembly, branch secretary and
 district chairman, for achieving 43 per-
 cent of its goal.

A new product will be added to the
 UNA's list of annuity products. The
 Executive Committee passed a resolution
 to begin the procedure of applying for
 the Coverdell Education Savings
 Account, or the Education IRA. This
 account allows for an annual deposit up
 to \$2,000 per individual. This IRA also
 allows tax-free withdrawals made for
 any educational purpose from elemen-
 tary school through college.

Treasurer Lisovich reported on the sta-
 tus of Soyuzivka. Much interest and activ-
 ity has been generated since the announce-
 ment of the Soyuzivka Renaissance
 Project. The front office is reporting an 80
 to 85 percent occupancy rate for the sum-
 mer months; summer camps are booked.
 The Main House dining room has been
 gutted for renovation and is being wired
 for possible business meetings. Trail-
 blazing has begun, painting is being
 done inside and out, and new carpets are
 being laid in the Uzhhorod and Chernivtsi
 villas. For the latest updates readers can
 visit Soyuzivka's newly redesigned web-
 site (www.soyuzivka.com).

In order to garner more interest for the
 UNA's insurance programs, brochures,
 flyers and copies of both UNA newspa-
 pers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian week-
 ly, will be left in each room at Soyuzivka
 during the summer months.

Treasurer Lisovich projected that
 Soyuzivka's deficit should decrease by
 year's end.

The next UNA Executive Committee
 meeting was scheduled for September
 19.

Ukraine's economy...

(Continued from page 3)

dearth of investor interest in the country
 on the lack of predictability and trans-
 parency in Ukraine's court system and
 the instability of legislation.

During his monthly briefing to reporters
 on July 15, a couple of days before the
 economic figures were released, President
 Leonid Kuchma also noted that while the
 numbers were "dynamic" some problems
 still exist. He said the economy was
 weighed too heavily on imports, which
 accounted for 29 percent of total economic
 activity. Mr. Kuchma also identified an
 unevenness in economic growth by region
 and noted that at least one region of the
 country, the Poltava Oblast, had seen its
 economy shrink thus far this year.

Ukrainian Free University hosts seminar for teachers from Ukraine

MUNICH, Germany – In cooperation with the Hellbrugge Children's Center of Munich, under the direction of the internationally known physician and pedagogue, Dr. Theodor Hellbrugge, the Pedagogical Institute of the Ukrainian Free University has initiated a three-week training seminar for teachers from Ukraine.

Twenty-five young kindergarten and grammar school teachers (among them five nuns, one priest and one deacon), are receiving intensive training in the Montessori teaching method. Named after the Italian educator Maria Montessori (1869-1952), the method is a system for teaching young children based on the principle of unfettered individual, self-motivated instruction. The children are encouraged to move about freely, to follow their impulses and to learn from each other.

The Hellbrugge Center, which has a decade-long practical and theoretical experience in honing and applying the method internationally, has provided the necessary realia and instructors, who are assisted by the UFU personnel.

Impressed by the cooperation received from the UFU staff, especially from Dr. Mykola Szafowal, Dr. Hellbrugge has announced that this program will be extended for the next three years, during which the number of teacher-participants will be increased to 60.

Together with the Pedagogical Institute of the UFU and the Ridna Shkola Ukrainian School Association of Munich, the Hellbrugge Center is currently making plans to establish a special trilingual (German-English-Ukrainian) kindergarten in Munich, the first of its kind in Europe, if not in the world. Financial support for this project is presently being sought.

The current Teacher-Training Program of the UFU is being subsidized by the German Sunshine Foundation and the U.S.-based St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, which has granted scholarships to the religious members of the program. Scholarships for other participants have been provided by the UFU Foundation in New York.



Kindergarten and grammar school teachers from Ukraine at a training seminar at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich.

UFU rector meets with Austrian presidential advisor

VIENNA – Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, rector of the Ukrainian Free University and visiting professor for Ukrainian literature at the University of Vienna, on June 12 presented his new book "Ivan Franko and German Literature" to Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil. In the absence of the president, who was taken to the hospital with a touch of pneumonia, Dr. Rudnytzky was received by Ambassador Turck, a close advisor to the President.

According to the ambassador, President Klestil, who prior to his ascension (1992) to the highest office of the land had served as Austria's ambassador to the U.S. (1978-1987), remembered meeting Dr. Rudnytzky at a conference of ambassadors held at La Salle University in Philadelphia.

Upon presentation of the book Ambassador Turck thanked Dr. Rudnytzky on behalf of the president and, following an extensive conversation on Austrian history, Austro-Ukrainian relations and the state of Ukrainian studies, escorted the rector through the Leopoldine Wing of the Imperial Palace, which houses the presidential offices, explaining the origin and significance of each hall.

In expressing his gratitude for the warm and cordial reception, Dr. Rudnytzky stated that his father was an officer in the Austrian Imperial Army and that he had told his young son about the marvels of Vienna. He thanked his host for enabling him to appreciate more fully the significance of a bygone era that is an integral part of Ukraine's history.

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BEST OF UKRAINE	Sep 15 - 27	Odesa (3), Lviv (4), Kyiv (3), Svidol (2)	\$2950

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36th Tennis Camp...

(Continued from page 10)

Conditioning exercises at the start of each day built on-court stamina.

Campers also enjoyed Soyuzivka's Olympic-size swimming pool during the day and some exciting night swims - especially when the evenings were warm and inviting. In addition, hikes to the Green Pool and the rocks guided by Soyuzivka's staff added to the camp experience. Movies and dances helped round out the fun times.

The last few days of camp were devoted to tennis tournaments. The results of the singles competitions were as follows:

- Boys' Group I: 1. Adam Ogohowski, 2. Greg Serba, 3. Stefan Milan.
- Girls' Group: 1. Katrusia Charchalis, 2. Alyssa Kowcz, 3. Alex Magee.
- Boys' Group II: 1. Andrew Klokiw, 2. John Puhalla, 3. Julian Chernyk.
- Mixed doubles winners were: 1. Tatyana Romanyuk and Adam Ogonowski, 2. Andrea Kusina and Greg

Serba. The boys' and girls' doubles matches were won by Georg Gussak and Alex Charchalis, with second place going to the Julian Chernyk and Andrew Klokiw team.

During the final night of Tennis Camp awards were presented to the winners and second-place finishers in each singles group, and recognition was given to the winning doubles teams.

The coveted best camper trophies were awarded to Alexander Puzyk, Mr. Chernyk, Christina Vorobets and Alyssa Kowcz.

Mr. Sawchak and the staff thanked everyone for making the camp successful. He encouraged everyone to continue to play tennis and to participate in tournaments of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada and the USTA. He added that skills learned on the tennis courts namely mutual respect, honesty and fairness are important in other areas of life.

The campers were addressed also by Nestor Paslawsky, manager of Soyuzivka.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

cial paper Holos Ukrainy on October 13, 2001, wrote that he feared he would be killed - probably in a staged road accident - due to his work as a journalist. Mr. Efremov had been detained for two days in January 1999 in Dnipropetrovsk for alleged irregularities in a 1995 loan agreement involving Sobor. Mr. Efremov claimed he had fully repaid the loan, believing he was arrested because TV 11 had broadcast a New Year's message from Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko rather than from President Leonid Kuchma. Ukrainian authorities closed Mr. Efremov's TV station on March 9, 1999, for alleged technical reasons - although its broadcast license was valid

until 2001 - and seized its transmitters eight days later. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Draft agreement on oil transit is OK'd

KYIV - The Ukrainian government on July 16 approved a draft 15-year agreement with Russia on the transit of oil through Ukraine, Fuel and Energy Minister Serhii Yermilov told Interfax. The government thus authorized Mr. Yermilov to sign the agreement, which applies to all Ukrainian pipelines except the Odesa-Brody project. The document allows Russian oil companies to transit up to 79.5 million tons of oil annually through Ukraine. Ukraine is currently using less than half of its pipeline network's capacity, according to Mr. Yermilov. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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Sports federation's officers discuss future activities in North America

by Roman Pyndus

EAST HANOVER, N.J. – The newly elected officers of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) met on June 26 at the Ramada Hotel to discuss plans for future sports activity.

The meeting was opened by USCAK President Myron Stebelsky, who enumerated the re-elected and the newly elected members of the USCAK governing board, stressing the addition of recent arrivals from Ukraine, both as individual board members and as clubs that joined the federation.

On behalf of the soccer director, Eugene Chyzowych, the plans for soccer activity were presented by Omelan Twardowsky, the press officer. The main new idea is to have the winner of the annual Great Lakes Soccer Tournament, in which Ukrainian teams from the Midwest and Canada participate, play the winner of the traditional summer soccer tournament at Verkhovyna, in which Ukrainian teams from the Eastern U.S. participate, for the title of USCAK champion.

Two new factors are likely to produce a revival of USCAK soccer activity: the lifting of the ban on the participation of non-Ukrainian players, provided they play regularly on a Ukrainian team, and the arrival of many new soccer players from Ukraine.

The newly elected volleyball director, Orest Fedash, said he plans to revive that once popular sport by contacting all

those officers of Ukrainian American clubs that have a background in volleyball. Mr. Fedash hopes to activate volleyball championships in men's, women's and old-boys' categories. His ability to provide meeting space at the Ramada Hotel should facilitate the work of the volleyball section as well as other USCAK activities.

Mr. Fedash also spoke on behalf of Severyn Palydovych, the skiing director. The Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) is planning to hold the USCAK skiing championship next winter in the Hunter area, expecting some 60 to 100 competitors.

George Sawczak, the tennis director, and Marika Bokalo, the swimming director, were not present, but informed the meeting of the upcoming annual USCAK championships in their respective sports at Soyuzivka during Labor Day Weekend.

Dr. Orest Popovych, the chess director, spoke of tentative plans to hold the USCAK chess championship in the beginning of October. Mr. Fedash volunteered to offer playing quarters for the chess tournament at the Ramada Hotel.

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Dateline...

(Continued from page 11)

places" as he sang the title role in "Macbeth." Ms. Midgett, felt, however, that Mr. Gerello showed "little Italianate expression;" she apparently is unaware that Mr. Gerello inherited Italian blood from one of his ancestors. Mr. Gerello appeared as well in "Eugene Onegin."

Mr. Grishko, known to the New York public since 1995 from his performances at the New York City Opera and the Met, appeared in "Khovanshchina" as Prince Andrei Khovansky, who with his father, Prince Ivan Khovansky, is allied with the Old Believers against the young czar Peter. A native of Kyiv, the tenor also sang roles in "Macbeth" and "Kitezh."

On the distaff side, Ms. Markova-Mikhailenko appeared in "Semyon Kotko" as Tkachenko's wife Khivria and in "Eugene Onegin." In The New York Times' review of "Onegin" on July 20, Allan Kozzin commended the mezzo-soprano for her strong contribution as the old nurse and Mr. Kit for his "solid account" of Prince Gremin's aria.

A number of Ukrainian artists assisted the chorus and the orchestra, which was conducted by Valery Gergiev, the Mariinsky Theater's artistic director and principal guest conductor at the Met.

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

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Exposing...

(Continued from page 2)

from rumors that Mr. Andropov drank whiskey and played tennis, that he was a closet liberal Westernizer – despite the role he played in suppressing the Hungarian uprising in 1956 and jailing dissidents. Mikhail Gorbachev was widely seen as a new type of Soviet leader who was “like us,” ready to halt the arms race, willing to withdraw Soviet troops from Eastern Europe, and desired a “common European home.” Mr. Gorbachev has remained popular in Europe even after the collapse of the USSR, even though in the post-Soviet states his popularity had already plummeted by 1989-1990.

The early post-Soviet era was characterized by myths surrounding Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader who dared to stand on a tank and defy the 1991 putschists. Mr. Yeltsin launched radical economic reform in 1992 under the Yegor Gaidar government and his anti-Communist stance complemented his image as a liberal reformer.

The Yeltsin myth was showing serious signs of damage by the late 1990s, and the March 2000 election of Mr. Putin to succeed him was, therefore, hailed as another wind of change. The sportsman Putin, like Andropov from KGB background, was contrasted to Mr. Yeltsin (just as Mr. Gorbachev had been to his predecessors Konstantin Chernenko and Brezhnev).

The extent of Europe's fascination with President Putin can be judged by the hyper-

bole of some of the commentaries on the recent summit to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg. The Swiss daily Neue Zuercher Zeitung, for example, characterized Mr. Putin as Russia's new “Peter the Great,” while London's The Independent profiled Mr. Putin as “the modern-day tsar who would make Russia great again.”

The U.S. media largely ignored the myth of Putin the modernizer in favor of focusing on his poor record on human rights and democratization. Adrian Karatnycky, a senior scholar at Freedom House, described Russia in an article in the Wall Street Journal as a “militocracy.” He wrote that under Mr. Putin, former military and KGB officers – who seek to revive Russia as a superpower, make a fetish of the state, disrespect human rights, and promote anti-Western sentiments – are increasingly in control of the country.

As noted above, Western European media and academia are for the most part more enamored of Mr. Putin than their counterparts in North America. There are two main reasons for this divergence. First, Russophilism is still deeply influential in Western Europe and might well grow under Italian President Silvio Berlusconi when Italy takes over the EU presidency in July.

The EU, unlike the United States, gave priority to a strategic partnership with Russia over human rights and democratization issues at the recent St. Petersburg summit. Dov Lynch, a research fellow at the EU's Institute for Security Studies, points out in “Russia Faces Europe” (Paris: ISS-EU, May 2003) that Russia and the EU have “radically different” strategic agendas because Russia is disinterested in the pursuit of “shared values” with the EU. Knowing this, some leading EU states might be willing to prioritize a strategic partnership with Russia (rather than “shared values”). Russia is essential to the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy for those EU states who see it as a counterweight to U.S. “unilateralism.”

Second as the world's new “hyper power,” the United States has less need of Russia as a “strategic partner” than the EU. The U.S.-Russian partnership remains mired in difficulties since the Iraqi conflict, especially over Russia's continued support for Iran's nuclear power program.

Finally, it should be noted that these differing attitudes to the Putin myth in turn influence contrasting attitudes toward Russia and Ukraine. NATO and the EU approach Ukraine and Russia in different ways. The EU has had little choice but to prioritize strategic issues with Russia because of its disinterest in “shared values,” whereas it calls on Ukraine to deepen reforms in the absence of membership prospects. Russia is strategically important to the EU, while Ukraine is strategically important only to the United States and NATO. These attitudes go some way toward influencing positive views of President Putin and negative views of President Kuchma.

A recorded tribute...

(Continued from page 8)

• “These recordings reflect the pianist's prevailing interest in Ukrainian music, which characterized her American performances. Most representative are works by Vasyl Barvinsky, for Daria Karanowycz belonged to that small group of musicians (even in Ukraine itself), which knew and nurtured the unclear authentic and composer-established tradition of their interpretation.” – Prof. Natalia Kashkadamova, musicologist, Lviv.

The CD may be obtained for \$20, plus \$2 shipping, by making checks payable to Roman Sawycky Jr. For additional information and her disc please contact: Ukrainian Masters, P.O. Box 424, Cranford, NJ 07016.

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Lviv resident ties for first at World Open Chess Tournament

by Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko

PHILADELPHIA – At the World Open Chess Tournament in Philadelphia that ended July 6 and drew over 1,200 participants, a young Ukrainian from Lviv, Nazar Firman, tied for first place with nine grandmasters, each with a score of 7:2.

This was in the top group of 238 contenders, among them 40 grandmasters, which makes Firman's achievement even more remarkable as he was the only non-grandmaster among the winners (he is an international master).

The grandmasters whom he tied were: Ilya Smirin and Leonid Yudasin (both from Israel), Jaan Ehvest (Estonia), Alexander Onischuk, Alexander Goldin, Alex Shabalov, Gennadi Zaitshik, Balabaskoulu Annakov (all from the U.S.), and Alek Wojtkiewicz (Poland). Most of them are players from the former USSR. Only a few years ago Onischuk played on Ukrainian national teams. Although Ehvest was declared the official winner based on secondary points and a play-off victory against Smirin, the first prize was divided equally among these 10 players.

Firman is the champion of Ukraine in the under-20 category, and he was a mem-

ber of the Lviv team in the recent European team championship. Tying for first place in such a strong field as the World Open is undoubtedly his best achievement so far.

Ukrainian women also participated in the World Open Class Tournament. Anna Zatonskih, who until recently represented Ukraine and is now living in the United States, tallied a positive score of 5.5:3.5. Seventeen-year-old Iryna Zeniuk, originally from Ivano-Frankivsk and now from New York, achieved an even score 4.5:4.5, which qualified her for the U.S. women's closed championship, which was what she was striving for. Her achievement was recognized by the local press, which interviewed her and took photographs.

Alex Pelekhaty, a 13-year-old from Brooklyn, also played in this tournament, although in the next lower group (below masters). He did not do especially well here, but earlier this year, Alex, a seventh-grader from Intermediate School No. 288 in Brooklyn, N.Y., became U.S. co-champion among junior high-school students. He also tied for second place last year at the chess championship of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada.

"Tabir Ptashat"...

(Continued from page 5)

will enjoy the boys' and girls' camps, the tennis and the dance camps; later still they will enjoy all those occasions to meet other young people at Soyuzivka.

UNA representatives meet with parents

The UNA hosted a brief meeting with some of the parents on Wednesday morning during the camp's second week. Ms. Kozak thanked the parents for bringing their children to Soyuzivka to this special camp. We explained briefly what is happening with the Soyuzivka Project Renaissance and elaborated a little on how the UNA has been supporting the Ukrainian community in the United States and in Ukraine throughout the UNA's history. We also detailed some of the current projects sponsored by UNA, like the UNA Gift-Giving Project.

Last, but certainly not least, Ms. Kozak

introduced Mr. Mitchell, UNA's consultant, a well-known financial writer and educator and the author of numerous articles on financial matters. He spoke briefly about UNA and its standing in the fraternal insurance industry. He took the time to discuss the UNA's annuity products and compared them favorably with other annuities on the market. His emphasized that the UNA's annuities are among the best to be had, with interest rates of up to 5.5 percent.

As host for the meeting, Ms. Kozak offered a door prize of an extra day at Soyuzivka; very appropriately, Mrs. Sochan won the prize. After the presentation Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Kozak and I answered questions on a one-on-one basis.

Ms. Kozak and I drove back to the Home Office with thoughts of how truly impressed we were by these young families, and encouraged. Our community will not wither away so quickly – from what we saw, there are people who will take over from the older generation.

We believe...

(Continued from page 7)

intent was for the defective infant to die.

But God had other things in mind for Slavko.

His parents and grandparents fought constantly for custody of Slavko – defying a cruel system that wanted to destroy him. After four months they succeeded and Slavko came home to a loving, nurturing and supportive family.

Two years later, Dr. William Selezinka, an American ophthalmologist who had been born in the same region of Ukraine as Slavko, met the little boy and his mother during his first visit to a free Ukraine in 1992. Dr. Selezinka had established a new humanitarian mission in the hopes of rehabilitating a decimated ophthalmology program in Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine.

The following year Dr. Selezinka brought Slavko, his mother and a Ukrainian ophthalmologist to St. Louis, Mo., to the Anheuser-Busch Eye Institute. Dr. David Schanzlin agreed to evaluate Slavko for a possible cornea transplant in an effort to provide vision to the child. The surgery was performed and on July 3, 1993, and Slavko Semchyshyn saw his mother's face for the first time. The following evening, Slavko saw fireworks high in the sky over the Mississippi River. Eight years later, Slavko began show-

ing signs that his body was rejecting the cornea transplant. During this time, both Dr. Schanzlin and Dr. Selezinka had relocated to San Diego – Dr. Schanzlin to UCSD Shiley Eye Center, and Dr. Selezinka to a retirement in which he could devote 100 percent of his time to his humanitarian work in Ukraine.

Last year, when Slavko's cornea failed, Dr. Selezinka began the process necessary to once again bring him and his mother to America for a second cornea transplant. Finally they arrived in San Diego and on March 25 Slavko received his second cornea transplant under the skilled hands of Dr. Schanzlin. The day after his surgery, when the eye patch was removed, his first words were, "I see, I see!" Later that same day, Slavko saw a rainbow.

For a kid who was supposed to just die, Slavko has done remarkably well. He reads, writes and speaks four languages (Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and English). He is highly intelligent and can carry on a conversation at an adult level in any of the four languages on subjects ranging from geography to politics, from music to philosophy and theology. And, of course, cars. After all, Slavko is a 13-year-old boy.

Slavko Semchyshyn is a miracle. He is a testament to the goodness of people in the free world; he is the embodiment of the miraculous love of God, and the undying faith of his family.

The Carpathian Ski Club of New York

under the auspices of the

Ukrainian Sports Association of USA and Canada (USCAK)

will hold

the annual Labor Day weekend SWIMMING COMPETITION

at Soyuzivka

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2003

Swim meet

Saturday, August 30, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

for individual championships of USCAK

and Ukrainian National Association Trophies & Ribbons

Warm-up at 9 a.m.

TABLE of EVENTS

Boys/Men	INDIVIDUAL	Girls/Women
1 13/14	100m im	13/14 2
3 15 & over	100m im	15 & over 4
5 .. 10 & under	25m free	10 & under .. 6
7 11/12	25m free	11/12 8
9 13/14	50m free	13/14 10
11 15 & over	50m free	15 & over 12
13 .. 10 & under	50m free	10 & under .. 14
15 11/12	50m free	11/12 16
17 13/14	50m back	13/14 18
19 15 & over	50m back	15 & over 20
21 .. 10 & under	25m back	10 & under .. 22
23 11/12	25m back	11/12 24
25 13/14	50m breast	13/14 26
27 15 & over	50m breast	15 & over 28
29 .. 10 & under	25m breast	10 & under .. 30
31 11/12	25m breast	11/12 32
33 13/14	100m free	13/14 34
35 15 & over	100m free	15 & over 36
37 .. 10 & under	25m fly	10 & under .. 38
39 11/12	25m fly	11/12 40
41 13/14	50m fly	13/14 42
43 ... 15 & over	50m fly	15 & over 44
RELAYS		
45 .. 10 & under	4 x 25m free	10 & under .. 46
47 11/12	4 x 25m free	11/12 48
49 13/14	4 x 50m free	13/14 50
51 15 & over	4 x 50m medley	15 & over 52

Swimmers can compete in three (3) individual and one (1) relay events. Relay teams will be established by team coaches or representatives.

Entry deadline: Entry forms, provided below, must be submitted by **August 20, 2003**, to Marika Bokalo, Swim Meet director. There will be no registration at poolside. Registration fee is \$5.00 per swimmer.

Name: (English)

(Ukrainian)

Address

City

Zip

Telephone

Age

Male

Female

Club/Youth Association

Event _____ Entry time _____

Event _____ Entry time _____

Event _____ Entry time _____

Please send this entry form with \$5 entry fee by August 20, 2003.

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Duranty's...

(Continued from page 1)

tem as such, but because he has a flair for political management unrivaled since Charles Murphy [New York City political boss from 1902-1924] died," he noted.

The Five-Year Plan is the practical expression of Stalinism, Mr. Duranty stressed. And Stalinism – or the Bolshevik party line, according to Mr. Duranty – has the same absolute authority of any emperor. In his June 18 article, "Stalinism Shelves World Revolt Idea; To Win Russia First," Mr. Duranty called the Five-Year Plan "a force of social construction."

Mr. Duranty chided those who looked at the Five-Year Plan through a very literal lens. He wrote that "nothing could be more absurd or more wrong" to say that if the Five-Year Plan fails it will be the end of Bolshevism and that if it succeeds it will mean the end of capitalism elsewhere.

"The Five-Year Plan is nothing more or less than applied Stalinism, and its mass of bewildering figures is only the thermometer to measure the degree of heat engendered by the application of the plan, but is not otherwise intrinsically important."

So, Mr. Duranty reported, the numbers are not meant for the world to judge Russia's progress or to measure the progress of socialism. "The Five-Year Plan is something for the Russians to measure at, not for the rest of the world to measure Russians by. This sounds confusing, but it is true, and if you cannot understand it you cannot understand Russia," he explained.

Mr. Duranty reported in this first article (June 14), that "the whole purpose of the plan is to get the Russians going – that is, to make a nation of eager, conscious workers out of a nation that was a lump of sodden, driven slaves."

"Outsiders 'viewing with alarm' or hooting with disdain as they take and play with Soviet statistics might as well be twiddling their own thumbs for all it really counts. What does count is that Russia is being speeded up and fermented – and disciplined – into jumping and into making an effort and making it all together in tune to the Kremlin's music," Mr. Duranty wrote in his article "Red Russia of Today Ruled by Stalinism, Not Communism."

On one of the more controversial topics of Mr. Duranty's reporting, namely, the forced collectivization of farms, Mr. Duranty said little. Collectivization was "to bring the advantages of mechanized and organized effort to the humblest Tadzsisik peasant or Kasak nomad," he wrote.

Examining the Five-Year Plan from an economic standpoint, Mr. Duranty wrote that, for the next decade at least, "agriculture will count most in Russia."

"Here, too, something other than economics enters at once – the Five-Year Plan in addition to the economic production of agriculture involves the political socialization of peasant holdings, or collective farming as it is called," Mr. Duranty reported. "Collectivization, or the political end, has been done, and it will depend largely on the weather as to how far the production program will be accomplished."

Additionally, Mr. Duranty commented on the Soviet military and how it might be used. "As to the true purpose of the Red Army and the whole gigantic scheme of military preparation, your correspondent is prepared to stake his reputation on the fact that at present it is purely defensive, and for all he can see now will be so in the future," he wrote in the June 25 article.

He continued: "Previous dispatches have shown, or tried to show, how 'self-contained' Stalinism is and how thoroughly it has adopted Voltaire's advice to 'cultivate your own garden.'"

According to Karl Marx's vision for a proletarian state, the actual majority of the population would be urban workers speaking the same language, making up a homogeneous majority that had similar needs,

habits and aims, Mr. Duranty wrote. But among the Soviet Union's 160 million people there was a vast divergence of race, language, custom and culture, he noted.

"In organizing the USSR Stalin was forced to take cognizance of this anomaly from a Marxist doctrinal standpoint. He met it by a compromise. Every nationality in the union was allowed full linguistic autonomy and what might have seemed a dangerously lavish degree of cultural and political autonomy," Mr. Duranty reported.

"At first sight such an arrangement might seem to foster a spirit of petty nationalist and racial antagonism and universal disintegration – that is the exact opposite of what the Bolsheviks are trying to achieve." According to Mr. Duranty, the Bolsheviks were trying to "merge the fresh, strong currents of minor nationalism into a mighty river of pan-Sovietism."

In The New York Times Magazine article, Mr. Duranty's purposes was to analyze "the outlook of the average Russian under Soviet rule." The introduction to the March 29, 1931, piece asked: "What does the average Russian think?"

Mr. Duranty wrote that "one may venture to question ... whether they really enjoy being herded into collective farms (however more productive than their wretched little individual holdings, and however more truly contributing to their ultimate good). ... The 'average Russian' is a meek and long-suffering creature, but it cannot be denied that he is disturbed and distressed by the present violent change of his habits and life-ways."

"The 'average Russian' thinks first and

most about food and clothing. The commodity shortage is so acute nowadays that what to eat and wear counts more than the fate of nations," he wrote. By "average Russians" he noted that he meant non-Communists.

In talking about the Soviet propaganda machine, Mr. Duranty explained Stalinist control over the press and radio by saying, "It may be said without fear of contradiction that the Stalinist machine is better organized for the formation and control of public opinion in a great country than anything history has hitherto known."

"It cannot be said, however, that the Kremlin abuses the terrific power of the press, the radio and Communist Party effort. Stalin may not be one of the world's great men in the sense that Lenin was, but he certainly knows his politics and has been careful to correct the dangers of unchallenged authoritative and unified control of public opinion by what is known as 'self-criticism,' which is not the least interesting feature of the Stalinist system," he wrote.

Mr. Duranty made a strong point of saying that while Soviet press censors are reasonable, the Soviet Foreign Office maintained what he called a "scratch-for-yourself mentality" in supplying foreign correspondents with information. To highlight, he wrote, "Far from the Soviet government pumping propaganda into resident correspondents the latter generally have to extract it drop by drop. ... it becomes positively infuriating to hear people abroad say: 'of course, Moscow correspondents write just what the authorities want.'"

The eighth article in the series, published


on June 24, 1931, dealt mainly with the Soviet effort to put in practice Karl Marx's theory of eliminating class boundaries to create a socialist society.

"The people who were' is a literal translation of the phrase 'byvshi lyudi' used universally to describe them. They were but are not – most of them have fled, or perished, and those who survive are living dead – phantoms of the past in the Soviet present," Mr. Duranty wrote in the article "Stalinism Smashes Foes in Marx's Name."

"The liquidation of the kulak as a class' runs the present slogan, whose meaning in terms of reality is that 5 million human beings, 1 million families of the best and most energetic farmers are to be dispossessed, dispersed, demolished, to be literally melted or 'liquidated' into the rising flood of classless proletarians."

Mr. Duranty went on to say that he was not actually talking about killing, rather he meant destroying the individual previously known as a kulak, governor, general, gendarme, etc., in order to form a classless society. "But what, you may ask, becomes of 'the Former People,' or the kulaks or engineers thus doomed apparently to perish? Must all of them and their families be physically abolished? Of course not – they must be 'liquidated' or melted in the hot fire of exile and labor into the proletarian mass."

"That, reduced to its harsh essentials, is Stalinism today. It is not lovely, nor, in the outside world, of good repute, and your correspondent has no brief for or against it, nor any purpose save to try to tell the truth," Mr. Duranty wrote.




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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|--|---|
| July 26, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava with SVITANOK | August 17, Sunday
Summer Heritage Concert No. 4 featuring Dumka Choir |
| July 27, Sunday
Summer Heritage Concert No. 3 Featuring OBEREHY Musical Ensemble | August 23, Saturday
Ukrainian Independence Day RHAPSODY Folk Ensemble from Ukraine Celebration – Dance Camp Recital and Zabava |
| August 1-3
Soyuzivka Sports Jamboree Weekend. Softball, Volleyball and Hockey/Rollerblade Tournaments Music by Ihor Bachynskyj, Barabolya and Ron Cahute | August 25- September 1
Labor Day Week |
| August 2, Saturday
Soyuzivka Summer Zabava with BURYA | August 30- 31
Labor Day Weekend – Zabavas with FATA MORGANA and TEMPO Summer Heritage Concert with UKRAINA Dance Ensemble from Canada |
| August 3, Sunday
UNWLA Day | September 8-11
Regensburg Reunion |
| August 3-8
Soyuzivka Scuba Diving Course | September 12-14
KLK Weekend and Annual Meeting Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion |
| August 7-10
Korduba-Czubaty family reunion | September 18-21
Reunion of Salzburg Gymnasium |
| August 9, Saturday
Ulster County Caesar Salad Festival held at Soyuzivka | September 26-28
Conference of Spartanky Plast Sorority |
| August 10-16
Club Suzie-Q Week | September 28-30
Reunion of Mittenwald Schools |
| August 16, Saturday
Art exhibit with Kozak family | October 17-19
Plast-KPC Convention |
| August 10-23
Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp with Roma Pryma Bohachevsky | October 31 - November 2
Halloween Weekend costume party for youth and costume zabava for all |
| August 16, Saturday
Miss Soyuzivka Weekend and Zabava with FATA MORGANA | |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, August 4

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute presents a special screening of Canadian director John Paskievich's new film "My Mother's Village" (National Film Board of Canada, 2001, 101 minutes). The documentary spans two continents and several generations to delve into the experience of exile

and its impact on the human spirit. The film will be shown in large-screen format in Jefferson Hall, Room 250, on the Harvard Campus, at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public; location is subject to change. For directions and more information contact the Ukrainian Research Institute at (617) 495-4053, e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu, or visit the website at www.huri.harvard.edu

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 more information. Items should be no more than 100 words long.

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.

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