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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Kuchma announces support for a new package of Constitutional changes

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Leonid Kuchma confirmed on August 26 that he could support a political system in which a Ukrainian president was elected by its Parliament.

Mr. Kuchma's comments came two days after the president made a turn in his political reform push, when he announced during an Independence Day speech on August 24 that he was near agreement with a cross section of parliamentary factions — including those in opposition — on a new package of proposed constitutional changes.

"For me the main point is to reach agreement on the fundamental issue upon which the reforms were initiated, that is, on the principle that the government would be formed by a coalition of parliamentary factions and lawmaker groupings," explained Mr. Kuchma during an hour-long speech before a hall filled with his supporters and government officials.

"It is this principle that guarantees government responsibility before society for its success or lack of success. It is the compromise achieved on this between the various political groupings that is most important to me in my support for this coordinated draft law," added Mr. Kuchma.

National Deputy Oleksander Moroz, leader of the Socialist faction in the Verkhovna Rada announced on August 21 that his party had met with the president and representatives of his administration during much of August and were close to agreement on a political reform draft bill that could lead to constitutional amendments. Mr. Moroz explained that the president had dropped demands that presidential elections and ones to the Verkhovna Rada take place simultaneously and that the president reserved the right to make appointments to the most powerful ministerial posts. Opposition forces had most vehemently opposed these two points of the president's original reform plan.

Mr. Moroz said that in the new coordinated draft law, the president would have the right to appoint only his defense minister and his foreign minister, while the prosecutor general, security services head and internal affairs minister would be approved by the Verkhovna Rada. He underscored that "the overwhelming majority of provisions put forward [by an opposing par-

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Ukraine celebrates 12th anniversary of independence with annual military parade

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Yevhen Marchuk became Ukraine's first minister of defense not wearing the epaulets of rank and the uniform of Ukraine's top military commander to take the kilometer drive down the Khreschatyk to greet the troops under his command when he did so on August 24 to kick off the annual Independence Day military parade.

After a flyover by a squadron of MiG-29 fighter jets, nearly 5,000 troops from all the various segments of Ukraine's extensive armed forces stood stiffly at attention as the former KGB general reviewed them while standing in a 1970s-era convertible Zil limousine, the first of a series in events this day marking 12 years since Ukraine declared independence from Moscow as the Soviet Union tumbled into history.

After moving smartly from the vintage luxury automobile to the review stand, Mr. Marchuk told the crowd of some 20,000 onlookers lined up and down Kyiv's main thoroughfare that the military parade remained the centerpiece of Independence Day activities because it would reassert the military's ready state and its preparedness to defend the country's independence and sovereignty.

"The parade of the armed forces demonstrates the high standards of preparedness," Mr. Marchuk said.

Dressed in a restrained pale green business suit, the recently appointed defense minister reaffirmed the country's move towards democracy and free mar-



AP/Valeriy Soloviov

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma (right) and Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk (left) watch the military parade on August 24.

kets and stressed, "The individual is the highest value of society and the state."

Mr. Marchuk reiterated the position of the government to move Ukraine into NATO, a change of direction he has spurred, and the need for the government as well as the military to undergo extensive reform to pave the way there.

"Ukraine's armed forces must begin to rise to the standards of the North Atlantic Alliance, but it must be done within the country's economic abilities," explained Mr. Marchuk.

President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Lytvyn and most of the country's leadership stood alongside Mr. Marchuk as he gave his address. They listened too, as 5,000 soldiers filled Kyiv's downtown area with the words to Ukraine's national anthem, backed by a 1,000-strong military band.

It was the first time the words to the anthem were sung at an Independence

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Ukrainian World Congress wraps up eighth conclave and elects Ukrainian National Association president to its board of directors

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukrainian World Congress delegates meeting in Kyiv on August 18-21 elected Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj to the board of directors. Mr. Kaczaraj, who has led the UNA since May 2002, was elected to the leadership position on the last day of the UWC's four-day conclave, the eighth of its 35-year history and the first ever in Ukraine.

The UWC board of directors saw a considerable expansion in representatives at this year's conclave as a reflection of the inroads the organization has made into the former territories of the Soviet Union and its former satellite countries in Eastern Europe. Dozens of Ukrainian organizations that have sprouted in those regions in the last decade have joined the UWC, most of them in the last five years.

The composition of the new board of directors, to which Mr. Kaczaraj now

belongs, shows the extent to which the UWC has undergone change since its last conclave, held in Toronto in 1998. It has stridently moved from an organization focused on North America, Europe and Australia to one with a truly world wide breadth. For the first time it includes two representatives each from the Russian Federation, Georgia, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakstan and Poland.

The changes underway also were reflected in the more than 100 delegates from the Eastern diaspora that took part in this conclave, a considerable increase over the Toronto conclave, where a single delegate was registered from the Eastern diaspora.

"Finally the Ukrainian World Congress is becoming representative of the distribution within the diaspora as a whole," noted Mr. Kaczaraj.

As was previously reported (see last week's issue of The Weekly), the 246 delegates from 28 countries re-elected Askold Lozynskyj to a second five-year

term as president of the umbrella organization, which represents a considerable amount of the Ukrainian diaspora scattered across the globe. Mr. Lozynskyj ran unopposed. Also re-elected was Viktor Pedenko to the post of general secretary.

Maria Shkambara, previously first vice president, assumed the post of second vice president, while Yevhen Cholij filled her former slot. Olga Danylak, elected to the post of treasurer and Bohdan Fedorak, voted in as member-at-large, filled out the rest of the Executive Board.

Speaking at a press conference at the close of the conclave, Mr. Lozynskyj emphasized that while he and two other members of the executive body had been re-elected to second terms, the organization as a whole was undergoing "cardinal" changes.

"We want the UWC to become a truly global organization," explained Mr.

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ANALYSIS

OUN, UPA come closer to official recognition

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

The bland statement issued on July 11 by the presidents of Poland and Ukraine, Aleksander Kwasniewski and Leonid Kuchma, respectively, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Polish-Ukrainian conflict in Volyn in 1943 did not go as far as Poland had insisted.

One of the main issues on which Poland pressured Ukraine was to include in the joint statement a denunciation of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), and to seek to bring members of these organizations, who were allegedly involved in the massacres of Poles, to justice.

The statement fails to mention OUN or UPA. Instead, it condemns atrocities committed against both Ukrainians and Poles, thereby placing the 1943 conflict within the framework of a Polish-Ukrainian civil war (as both sides resided on Polish territory). Poland had pressured Ukraine to define the 1943 events as "genocide" against Poles, using widely contradictory death tolls of between 30,000 and 100,000 (see RFE/RL Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine Report, March 4 and July 8).

The Volyn anniversary touched a raw

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nerve in Ukrainian society for four reasons.

First, criticism of Poles and Poland is a far less controversial issue in Ukraine than criticism of Russians and Russia. Russophile centrists and national democrats both insisted that Polish crimes against Ukrainians had to be condemned alongside any criticism of Ukrainian crimes. Ukrainians, and especially Poles, believe that they have only ever suffered at the hands of others, never themselves committing crimes against other peoples.

Ukrainians have been accustomed to being accused of serving in the German police in World War II. Poles meanwhile, have continued to harbor the myth that they alone within Europe did not collaborate with the Nazis. The June 24 broadcast of the 1+1 television channel's (controlled by the Social Democratic Party-United) weekly discussion program "Podviyni Dokaz," which was devoted to the Volyn event, showed how the ranks of the German police in Volyn were filled by Poles after Ukrainian policemen fled to the UPA in 1942-1943.

The well-known historian Yuriy Shapoval pointed out in the discussion that the ultimate root of the Volyn conflict lies in the fact that both Ukrainians and Poles looked upon Volyn as their territory. This meant that compromise was impossible, Dr. Shapoval explained.

Second, Poland overplayed its hand and

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Will Kuchma propose "parliamentary republic"?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Earlier this month, political scientist Volodymyr Polokhalo, editor-in-chief of the Kyiv-based magazine Politychna Dumka, held a news conference at which he expressed his opinion about the reform of Ukraine's political system proposed this year by President Leonid Kuchma, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on August 7.

According to Mr. Polokhalo, the political-reform proposal is a "shadow political technique" intended primarily to secure President Kuchma's immunity from prosecution after the end of his presidential tenure and to retain the socioeconomic and political status quo of oligarchic clans in Ukraine.

Mr. Polokhalo said he believes that Mr. Kuchma may considerably modify his original reform plan – switching from a "presidential-parliamentary" to "parliamentary-presidential" system – by shifting the power balance to the Parliament and reducing the prerogatives of the president to those of a figurehead.

Mr. Polokhalo predicted that Mr. Kuchma may voice such a proposal as soon as August 24, Ukraine's independence anniversary. Mr. Polokhalo added that such a proposal could be accepted by both the Communist Party of Petro Symonenko and the Socialist Party of Oleksander Moroz, since both politicians eagerly opt for more powers to the Parliament.

Thus, the modified parliamentary-

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

reform proposal would readily obtain the required 300 votes (Communists plus Socialists plus pro-presidential majority) in the Verkhovna Rada for its approval.

"And [Our Ukraine leader Viktor] Yushchenko might become the president without a problem. Since the importance of this post would be diminished, the post would become a decorative one; it would lose its political sense," Mr. Polokhalo summed up.

According to this line of argument, the president could be elected by the Verkhovna Rada, while the Verkhovna Rada, in turn, if elected according to the current election law (which mixes a proportional system with a first-past-the-post system), could be easily controlled by oligarchs, as it is now.

"I feel that the president may agree to making the Parliament the basic center of power," Polokhalo told Ukrainska Pravda on August 15. "Because [Rada Chairman Volodymyr] Lytvyn is loyal [to Kuchma], the Parliament is being controlled by [presidential administration chief Viktor] Medvedchuk."

Lawmaker Serhii Holovatyi from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on August 14 that President Kuchma now "has no other way" than proposing a Parliament-centered model of government in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Oleksandr Moroz commented to RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service that if President Kuchma makes such a proposal, the opposition will propose "conducting parliamentary and local elections under a fully proportional system." "Then we can speak about electing the president among those proposed by newly elected lawmakers," Mr. Moroz added.

NEWSBRIEFS

Pro-Yushchenko group emerges

KYIV – A meeting of 74 delegates from Ukraine's 24 regions created an all-Ukrainian association called For Ukraine! For Yushchenko! in Kyiv on August 21, UNIAN reported. Delegates elected Our Ukraine lawmaker Yuriy Yekhanurov to head the association. Mr. Yekhanurov told journalists that the association is intended to help Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine broaden its influence. According to Mr. Yekhanurov, the association will be based on regional "civic centers that want to support [Yushchenko's] initiatives regarding the democratic reconstruction of our country." Mr. Yushchenko, who was elected an honorary chairman of the association, warned the congress that the political reform proposed by President Leonid Kuchma might be modified in the near future. "The authorities might propose that the president be elected in the Parliament by a subjugated, undemocratic majority," Mr. Yushchenko said. "In the next few days, we might become witnesses to Byzantine politics, under which the two political reform drafts [one proposed by Kuchma and the other by opposition lawmakers] will be withdrawn from the Constitutional Court, and a third draft that is even more Jesuitical [than the previous two] will be submitted," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Compromise on political-reform sought

KYIV – Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz told journalists on August 21 that the presidential administration and the opposition are working on a joint bill of amendments to the constitution Interfax reported. Mr. Moroz said that a key innovation is the presidential administration's proposal that the Parliament elect the president, but he said on August 23 that he favors of holding direct presidential elections. Mr. Moroz said on August 23 that the new political-reform draft suggests that Parliament propose and confirm all Cabinet ministers except for the defense minister and the foreign minister, both of whom are to be nominated by the president. The draft reportedly drops President Kuchma's previous proposal that presidential, parliamentary, and local elections be held in the same year. Symonenko said the Communists want the current election law to apply to the 2004 presidential election, but want to reduce the president's mandate from four to two years. Mr. Symonenko added that a new Parliament, if elected under a fully proportional system, could elect a new president in 2006. Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko told the August 23-29 issue of Zerkalo Nedeli that a presidential model is more efficient for today's Ukraine than a par-

liamentary-presidential one. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma to back new reform plan

KYIV – Speaking on August 23, the eve of Ukraine's Independence Day, President Leonid Kuchma said he is ready to support a new constitutional-reform plan that has been agreed upon with the opposition, Ukrainian news agencies reported. "Despite certain drawbacks, I think that this draft should be approved by the Verkhovna Rada," Mr. Kuchma said. "The support of the constitutional majority of votes [300 votes] has already probably been secured for it." The previous day, Mr. Kuchma withdrew the political reform draft he submitted to the Parliament in June. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. president sends letter to Kuchma

KYIV – A group of U.S. congressional representatives led by Representative Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) met with President Kuchma on August 24 and passed on to him a letter from U.S. President George W. Bush, Interfax reported. Rep. Weldon subsequently told journalists that in his letter Bush thanked the Ukrainian people for their support in combating terrorism. Mr. Kuchma reportedly said at the meeting that Ukraine is ready for broader cooperation with the United States in all areas. Referring to Ukrainian-U.S. relations in his speech on August 23, Mr. Kuchma said, "The logic of mutual interests, coincidence of strategic interests, and common values of democracy and humanism, have inevitably gained the upper hand over emotional and sometimes overly emotional perceptions of ambiguous and sometimes non-existing circumstances." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia gives nod to TNK-BP merger

MOSCOW – The Antimonopoly Ministry has given its approval for the merger of the Tyumen Oil Company (TNK) and the Russian assets of British Petroleum (BP), ITAR-TASS and other Russian media reported on August 28. If the merger is completed, the resulting company will be Russia's third-largest oil concern. It is expected to begin operations at the end of this year and will operate in Russia, Ukraine, Eastern and Central Europe, and China, ITAR-TASS reported. The deal must still be approved by the Ukrainian government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New pipeline across Ukraine pondered

KYIV – The international consortium for developing and managing Ukraine's gas transportation system, which was registered in Kyiv by Ukraine's Naftohaz and Russia's Gazprom, is planning to build a new gas

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Suspect in Gongadze murder dies in police custody

by Askold Krushelnysky

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

An independent Ukrainian journalist group, the Institute for Mass Information (IMI), reported on August 5 that a person regarded as a key suspect in the long-running murder case of journalist Heorhii Gongadze had himself died in police custody.

Ihor Honcharov, an alleged gang leader, had been in custody since his arrest in May on charges of extortion and murder.

Ukraine's Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun earlier this year said he believed that Mr. Honcharov was linked to the murder of Mr. Gongadze.

An outspoken critic of President Leonid Kuchma and government corruption the journalist disappeared in September 2000. His headless corpse was later discovered, triggering one of Ukraine's biggest post-Soviet scandals.

Nearly four years later, no one has been charged in the murder. A former bodyguard of Mr. Kuchma – who secretly recorded the president – released excerpts that implicated Mr. Kuchma in Mr. Gongadze's disappearance. But President Kuchma has steadfastly denied any link to the journalist's disappearance or death. Ukraine's political opposition and independent journalists – as well as many Western governments and groups – had accused state investigators of deliberately blocking the probe because it might implicate senior government officials, possibly as high up as the president. But investigators last year identified 13 members of a criminal gang they said was led by Mr. Honcharov and which might have knowledge of the murder.

All 13 were apparently former policemen and intelligence officers known as "werewolves" – the term for former police officials who have turned to crime.

Procurator General Piskun said he believed it was likely the so-called "Honcharov band" killed Mr. Gongadze. Mr. Honcharov was scheduled to give

evidence about the case later this month.

But now Mr. Honcharov is dead. A Ukrainian police official who did not want to be named confirmed that Mr. Honcharov died on August 1, apparently while being transferred by ambulance from jail to a hospital. He said the cause of death was being investigated.

IMI, which works closely with the France-based journalists' defense group Reporters Without Borders, said Mr. Honcharov's body was cremated on August 3, eliminating any chance of an independent autopsy.

According to IMI, Mr. Honcharov had passed a 17-page handwritten letter to the group to be opened in the event of his death. IMI member Alla Lazareva said the organization has frequently reported on the Gongadze case and that is why she thinks Mr. Honcharov passed the letter to them.

IMI said Mr. Honcharov claimed in the letter to have information about Mr. Gongadze's killers, including audio recordings and a confession that he said he had hidden but was willing to reveal to investigators in the presence of independent witnesses. Mr. Honcharov also predicted he would be murdered by an official – whose name he gives – and that the death would be presented as suicide or illness.

Ms. Lazareva says the IMI's first priority is to establish whether the letter is genuine. "We're not certain yet because we are unable to carry out detailed tests to confirm its authenticity," she added.

To explain why IMI has already published some excerpts from the letter on its website, Ms. Lazareva says, "Our position was this: we obtained this information, we thought that it was of importance to the public and therefore we publicized what we had – although we blacked out some names, because since there is a presumption of innocence until he is proved to be a criminal, one shouldn't refer to him as such."

She said the IMI "does not have the technical capability to check the authenticity of Mr. Honcharov's handwriting.

But experts can do this. That's why there are criminologists and specialists at the Procurator General's Office who are obliged by law to carry out this work and to compare Honcharov's handwriting samples taken while he was giving evidence and being kept in jail. They can say whether he wrote this or not."

Ms. Lazareva said that on August 6 IMI handed a copy of the letter to Deputy Chief Prosecutor Viktor Shokin, who was due to question Mr. Honcharov later this month.

"As far as we know, we are not the only ones that have a copy of this letter. A few other people have copies," Ms. Lazareva noted.

She said the Procurator General's Office has promised to keep IMI informed of developments.

"Perhaps now that the Procurator General's Office is involved the cause of death will be investigated. At least I hope so," she said. "Because either this person [Honcharov] really did make all these statements, in which case it's a truly horrible story, or it's a fake and therefore we need to know who did it and why."

The author of a book about the Gongadze killing, Jaroslav Koshiw, said he doubts that investigators will solve the murder. He noted that in the past investigators have named and blamed criminals for Mr. Gongadze's death but have subsequently had to admit they were wrong.

"So really, periodically what we're getting from the authorities is a pretend investigation suggesting to the population that they're ... [abreast of developments], that they are looking for the

killers and so on – when really they are not bothering with an investigation," Mr. Koshiw commented.

Mr. Koshiw's book, "Beheaded: The Killing of a Journalist," is a comprehensive analysis of documents, evidence and investigations into the Gongadze case by Ukrainian authorities as well as journalists. Mr. Koshiw said he has no doubt that President Kuchma and other high officials are connected to Mr. Gongadze's death.

"There is more than ample evidence for a trial of the president and his associates who took part in the kidnapping and then the death of Mr. Gongadze," he stated.

Mr. Koshiw said he believes the accusations against Mr. Honcharov were fabricated and the authorities have no desire to find the truth. He added that if Mr. Honcharov was really cremated, that displays either poor judgment or an attempt to prevent the true cause of death from being discovered.

"It shows to me tremendous irresponsibility by the authorities, in this case the police, to so quickly cremate somebody who died in mysterious circumstances and who they were suggesting might have been a possible witness," Mr. Koshiw said. "They create a bizarre atmosphere that helps rumors."

Mr. Koshiw underscored that he believes the truth about the Gongadze murder will only emerge if Ukraine gets a government that really wants to build a state based on law and order.

Quotable notes

"The phenomenon of the uniformed criminal has reached the scale of a national epidemic. ... The image of a corrupt law enforcer has become so terribly commonplace that people fear the uniformed criminal more than the bandit who routinely breaks the law."

— Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in his Independence Day speech on August 23, as quoted by Ukrainian Television and cited by RFE/RL Newsline.

Kuchma announces support...

(Continued from page 1)

liamentary draft bill] had been included" in the new draft the president now supported.

While noting that pro-presidential lawmakers were fighting to include a provision that a parliamentary vote should elect the president, Mr. Moroz emphasized that neither he nor other opposition lawmakers would accept such a proposition.

National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the Our Ukraine faction, came out against the coordinated draft legislation in a commentary that appeared in the respected Kyiv publication, *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia*, in which he announced that he opposed any type of political model for Ukraine, except a "republican presidential" type of government, which he called most effective for Ukraine at this point in history.

Mr. Yushchenko, the most popular politician in Ukraine and an undeclared presidential hopeful in 2004, said he did not support either the old presidential draft bill or the new coordinated version and lambasted his Socialist and Communist partners in the oppositionist political camp for cooperating with the presidential forces.

"It looks like our colleagues are ready to play their part in the game of division and to give new imperious powers to their recent opponents," wrote Mr. Yushchenko.

Mr. Kuchma seemed to address his soon-to-be campaign opponent when he stated during his Independence Day speech that it was time for those with large political ambi-

tions to cast them aside for the sake of the country's political development.

Mr. Kuchma maintained that he continued to believe in a two-chamber Parliament and a reduction in the number of deputies – two ideas that he had originally proposed, but subsequently dropped as he drove for political compromise. He explained that he had decided to focus on the most important issues: the clear division of opposition and pro-political forces and the development of lines of political authority and responsibility over the government.

He said he had no doubt that the Ukrainian people supported political reform and consolidation – generally in the manner proposed by the president – and suggested that those political forces that wished social instability were responsible for railroading his original reform plan.

The president's speech, which began with a simile that compared 12 years of Ukrainian independence to the 12 months of a solar cycle, also enumerated 12 items needed to ensure a solid core for Ukraine's future well being. Among them Mr. Kuchma listed: "the sweetness of independence," followed by state building; democracy; a developed political culture; an effective multi-party system; free markets; rule of law and protection of Ukraine's citizens; the individual as the highest value of Ukrainian life, "not just in the declarations of politicians, but in real life"; active involvement in global affairs; the spiritual and psychological health of society; and the need for the country to purge itself of a sense of low national self-esteem.

Ukraine celebrates 12th...

(Continued from page 1)

Day parade. While the Verkhovna Rada sanctioned the music to "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukraina" several years ago, it only approved the words earlier this year.

Also watching the address were members of the United States Congress, led by Rep. Curt Weldon, chairman of the U.S.-Ukraine Interparliamentary Caucus, who traveled to meet with the country's leadership and to review its progress as well as to observe Independence Day celebrations.

The group, which also included Rep. Corrine Brown of Florida, Nidia Velasquez of New York and Solomon Ortiz of Texas, met with President Kuchma, Prime Minister Yanukovich and Parliament Chairman Lytvyn. Rep. Weldon carried a letter from U.S. President George W. Bush, which gave high praise and expressed thanks to the people of Ukraine for their contribution in support of the international fight against terrorism. Ukraine has supplied nearly 2,000 soldiers to the U.S.-led international stabilization and peace-keeping force in Iraq.

The letter also expressed gratitude for the way relations had developed between Washington and Kyiv over the last year and that next year would see free and transparent elections in Ukraine.

As is usual in Kyiv, a 15-kilometer run on the downtown streets of the capital city followed the parade, which then

made way for a series of gala concerts at various venues throughout the city center. A laser show and a huge fireworks display from four different points in the city lit up the nighttime sky in culmination of the day's events.

In Sevastopol, home of both the Ukrainian navy and Russia's Black Sea Fleet – also known for its continued attachment to Moscow – the unveiling of a monument to Ukrainian Bard Taras Shevchenko highlighted Independence Day events. The event was even more noteworthy in that the building of the monument came only after a fierce political battle within the city council, which had been divided among three proposed monuments. In addition to Shevchenko, the staid municipal body had seriously considered Russian Empress Catherine II and Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

Correction

Last week in a caption beneath a photo of National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko we incorrectly noted that he had received an award during the Ukrainian World Congress opening ceremony in Kyiv on October 18. In fact he was merely acknowledging a standing ovation. The recipient of the award, the Yaroslav the Wise Award, was Mary V. Beck, former mayor of Detroit and a longtime diaspora activist.

Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic hierarchs meet in "Fraternal Encounter"

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Responding to the challenges and needs of Ukrainian Catholics and Ukrainian Orthodox in this 21st Century, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic Churches in North America – metropolitans, archbishops and bishops – were hosted by Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod at a "Fraternal Encounter" on July 11 at St. Andrew the First-called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, N.J.

The hierarchs had for some time been discussing the possibility and necessity of such a meeting as a means by which they could come to know one another on more than simply a social level. Such an encounter with open discussion of ecclesiastical and community issues would most certainly prove to be beneficial for the faithful entrusted to the hierarchs' spiritual care in Christ's name.

The hierarchs did not gather to form any type of council or conference, but rather, in the realization that there is a fraternity of brethren vested in the grace of priestly and episcopal service to the eparchies they steward in North America.

Participating in the one-day session were: Metropolitan Constantine, Central Eparchy, the prime hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; Archbishop Jurij, Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada;

Archbishop Antony, Eastern Eparchy, UOC-U.S.A.; Bishop Basil Losten, Stamford Eparchy, UCC; Archbishop Vsevolod, Western Eparchy, UOC-U.S.A.; Bishop Robert Moskal, St. Josaphat Eparchy, Parma, Ohio, UOC; Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, OSBM, Eparchy of New Westminster, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories, Canada, UCC; Cornelius Pasichny, OSBM, bishop emeritus of Toronto and Eastern Canada, UCC and Bishop Robert Seminak, St. Nicholas Eparchy Chicago, UCC.

Other hierarchs of both churches were unable to attend this initial meeting because of schedule conflicts or matters of health, but all expressed their support for such a meeting.

The encounter began with a moleben invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, celebrated in St. Andrew Memorial Church, following which the bishops retired to the historic Heindrich Fisher Residence to begin their discussions. Reflected upon at great length at this first fraternal encounter of the Catholic and Orthodox hierarchs were issues common to both Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholics, whose parish communities and eparchies took root, grew and developed in North America as far back as the late 1800s.

Addressed in broad terms were relationships with Ukrainian communities and organizations in North America and Ukraine; the challenges presented by the

ongoing process of secularization in society; and the church's role as the principal teacher and repository of faith and morality, and as the promoter and guardian of the sanctity of life.

The bishops also discussed the possibility of holding various joint educational and spiritual conferences for the benefit of hierarchs, clergy, seminarians and faithful of both faiths, along with the need to reach out to the new wave of immigrants from Ukraine.

There was a solid agreement that in spite of the fact that there do exist some theological and dogmatic issues that divide the two churches, there is the real possibility that the relationship between the two churches on all levels can improve. The bishops expressed the realization that they are descended from the same spiritual giants of early Ukrainian ecclesiastical history and that it is possible to bear witness to God in many common ways.

Having shared matters of mutual concern and strengthened the bond of fraternal love and respect through prayer and candid discussion, the hierarchs agreed that such fraternal encounters should continue and set the date for the next one in early 2004.

At the conclusion of the sessions, the hierarchs visited Holy Resurrection Mausoleum and the crypt of Patriarch Mstyslav, St. Andrew Cemetery, the Ukrainian Cultural Center and Museum, St. Sophia Seminary/UOC Library, the bookstore and the Consistory.

Canada's Victoria Cross winners to be honored in 2004 by Canada Post

CALGARY, Alberta – The Stamp Advisory Committee of Canada Post has announced that a stamp featuring the Victoria Cross will be issued in late October 2004, recalling all those Canadians who were distinguished with the highest military medal awarded by the British Empire.

Among them was a Ukrainian Canadian, Filip Konowal, awarded his Victoria Cross for the valor he displayed during the Battle for Hill 70, near Lens, France, in August 1917.

The stamp will feature the medal itself and, in order to recognize the many Canadians who were distinguished with this honor, the stamp pane will be printed with the names of all Canadian recipients, among them Mr. Konowal.

Commenting on this announcement by Canada Post, the chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and president of Branch 360 of the Royal Canadian Legion (Konowal Branch), John B. Gregorovich,

said: "Our branch has championed the notion of honoring Filip Konowal on a Canadian stamp and, as part of that initiative, we have always advocated also having stamps that recognize every Canadian so distinguished."

"This announcement by Canada Post is very welcome, for it will help Canadians of many different ethnic, religious and racial heritages remember what the Victoria Cross winners endured and suffered in order to secure us in our freedoms," he continued. "The work done by members of our branch and of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association has thus helped ensure that Filip Konowal's heroism will not be forgotten."

Mr. Gregorovich also said, "We hope that, in the near future, the government of Ukraine will likewise honor the only Ukrainian Canadian to have ever been so distinguished by issuing a Ukrainian stamp specifically in memory of Filip Konowal, who was the honorary patron of our branch."

New Jersey governor appoints Ukrainian to Ethnic Advisory Council

TRENTON, N.J. – Gov. James E. McGreevey has appointed Ukrainian American Camille Huk of Rutherford to the Ethnic Advisory Council, which was recently reactivated under his administration.

"As a member of the Ethnic Advisory Council, Ms. Huk will bring the same caliber of leadership that she has shown in her professional life. Her efforts as a representative of the Ukrainian community will be an asset to the council and to all ethnic groups throughout the State of New Jersey," said Gov. McGreevey, according to a news release issued by his office on August 14.

"I'm honored to have an opportunity to serve my community once again, as I did when I served on the very first Ethnic Advisory Council in the nation, under Gov. [Brendan] Byrne," said Ms. Huk. "We accomplished much in the area of education, establishing a process for accrediting foreign language studies, adding our history to the history of New Jersey, allowing Ukrainian Americans a greater opportunity to participate in state-sponsored events such as Heritage Festivals and Liberty State Park events. We served as ombudsmen for our communities."

"Governor McGreevey is outstanding in his proactive outreach to the communities of New Jersey. I am so impressed with his commitment, his enthusiasm and open-armed policies, and I am sure we will accomplish much more under his administration," said Ms. Huk.

Ms. Huk, who speaks fluent Ukrainian and Russian, and has an excellent comprehension of Polish, has extensive public relations and editorial experience, and is also a published writer. Ms. Huk was the national secretary for the National Council of Women of the United States, an organization with over 25,000 members and the past chair of the New Jersey campaign to endow Ukrainian studies chairs at Harvard University. She served as national public relations officer of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. She has also worked also with foreign students from 63 countries.

Ms. Huk received a B.A. in English/journalism and is working on an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is director of the Children Are Hope Foundation, which serves impoverished children of Ukraine and is the immediate past president of UNWLA Branch 18 (Bergen-Passaic).

The 45-member Ethnic Advisory Council has been established within the Department of State. The council makes recommendations to the governor regarding issues related to ethnic studies and programs offered in public schools, colleges and the state universities.

In addition, the council is responsible for increasing the participation of ethnic organizations in governmental affairs; providing community and social services; promoting ethnic and cultural events; developing policies affecting ethnic neighborhoods; and increasing knowledge and public awareness of ethnic history and culture. Members are appointed for two-year terms.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: July 2003

Amount	Name	City
\$135.00	Serge Polishchuk	Jersey City, N.J.
\$100.00	Taras Szmagala	Cleveland, Ohio
	Ukrainian American Veterans Post 40 (Copies for Congress)	Venice, Fla.
\$55.00	Walter Clebowicz	New Britain, Conn.
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	Natalia and Ihor Czernyk	New York, N.Y.
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\$1.00	Max Barelka	Chandler, Ariz.

TOTAL: \$1,373.00

Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

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

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Pennsylvania Ukrainian Club awards scholarships to students

by Ann Matish

ALIQUIPPA, Pa. – Scholarships totaling \$3,600 were presented to six students during the third annual scholarship dinner of the Aliquippa Ukrainian Club, St. Nicholas Branch 120 of the Ukrainian National Association.

The recipients were Christopher Holland, Jennifer Refice, Kira Palichat, Michelle Masley, Valerie Refice and Melissa Reft.

To be eligible for these scholarships

students must have a parent or guardian who is an active member of the Ukrainian Club and a UNA policyholder.

A special award was given to the family of the late Walter Drevna in recognition of his many years of service to the Aliquippa Ukrainian Club as both a loyal member and longtime officer. Through his hard work and dedication to the club, Mr. Drevna helped ensure the success of the Ukrainian Club, both today and for generations to come.



Seen during the presentation of an award to the family of Walter Drevna in recognition of his contributions to the Aliquippa Ukrainian Club are: (from left) Helen Drevna, Michael Komichak, Eli Matiash, Jemie Yurcina and Mark Szedny.

ATTENTION ARTISTS! 2003-2004 CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT

Oksana Trytjak UNA Special Projects
and Fraternal Activities Coordinator

It's August and we are thinking about Christmas already. The UNA is beginning its work on collecting artwork from Ukrainian artists who wish to participate in the annual UNA Christmas Card Project. Over the years UNA has been fortunate in having over 30 artists participate in this project. We will be accepting works from artists for reproduction that have a traditional Ukrainian Christmas theme. In the past artists contributed works in diverse genres including oil, watercolor, tempera, graphics, woodcuts, batik, ceramic tile, mixed media and others which added interest and variety to the collection.



In publishing the Christmas cards the UNA wishes to promote traditional Ukrainian art and encourage and popularize Ukrainian artists. This year again the UNA will publish over 120,000 cards that will be distributed throughout the U.S.A., Canada and Ukraine.

All proceeds from the UNA Christmas Card Project will be donated to support the Renaissance of Soyuzivka and to assist the Ukrainian National Foundation, created by the UNA in 1992 to help promote humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in the U.S.A., Canada and Ukraine. The Ukrainian National Foundation maintains a 501 (c) (3) status making all donations tax-exempt.

The UNA looks forward to this year's Christmas Card Project and welcomes all participants. Please submit either a slide, photo or original work that can be reproduced and mail to the UNA Home Office no later than September 30, 2003. Please make all inquiries to my attention: Oksana Trytjak, Special Projects.

UNA, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054, Tel: 973 292-9800 or 800 253-9862.

Interns complete a successful summer at The Ukrainian Weekly



Roxolana Woloszyn and Peter Steciuk at work on a project at The Weekly.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Weekly this summer was fortunate to have a pair of interns on its editorial staff: Roxolana Woloszyn of Maplewood, N.J., and Peter Steciuk of Convent Station, N.J.

Having joined us in late summer 2000, Mr. Steciuk has been our summer intern ever since (with time off for such things as running Plast camps – he was camp director for yunaky at the Vovcha Tropa campground and program coordinator of Morskyi Tabir during the summer of 2003).

Mr. Steciuk is also a veteran of The Weekly's 2001 and 2002 "Year in Review" issues. In September Mr. Steciuk will be off to Ukraine on a Fulbright Grant to study and work with

non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Steciuk, 22, is a graduate of Harvard University, where he earned a B.A. in government magna cum laude and a Citation in Ukrainian. He has been accepted to Harvard Law School, but has deferred his admission to 2004, after he completes his 2003-2004 Fulbright stint in Ukraine.

The newcomer to our summer staff was Ms. Woloszyn, 19, a sophomore majoring in English at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla. Ms. Woloszyn's career goal is to work as an editor in the field of publishing. During her internship at The Weekly, Ms. Woloszyn inaugurated "The News from Here" column and worked on various other projects at the paper.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Are you ready?

As this issue of The Ukrainian Weekly goes to press on Friday, August 29 (the issue date is Sunday, but we print on Friday), the Labor Day holiday weekend begins. With it begins what is traditionally considered the last weekend of the summer season. So, one more last trip to the mountains, a last dance at Soyuzivka, a last dip in the ocean – and then it's off to school for many of our readers or their kids (the latter are probably responsible for that collective groan we just heard out there...).

But the arrival of September signals more than just the beginning of the school year. It also marks the start of a new year of community life as diverse organizations resume their activities, meetings and functions after the summer hiatus. So, it's back to Ukrainian school, back to Plast and SUM activities, back to bandura and Ukrainian folk dance lessons, back to team sports practices, etc. And, even for those without kids, the end of summer/beginning of fall is the starting point for organizational activity of all kinds, whether it's charitable, professional, political or religious – you name it.

Before you know it, we'll all be back to our regular school year routines – with more activities than we think we have time for. Sometimes just driving from one activity to another seems like hard work, and yet we do it – and we do it willingly – because we realize it is for the good of our children, and it benefits us and our community at large. We know the importance of the enrichment such activities provide and we value our community for giving us these unique opportunities.

Or do we?

Think about it: are you content to merely serve as the chauffeur for your kids? Do you just drop the kids off without so much as a thought about who is running these myriad activities? Do you attend community functions as an observer, as someone who's just along for the ride?

Why not make this year different? Why not make a resolution for the new school year to get involved, to really contribute of yourself to the activities and organizations that are such a key part of our community life – and of such priceless value to both our younger and older generations?

This year, why not volunteer to run or help run a project, instead of waiting for that phone call soliciting assistance or, what's even more likely, hoping that "someone" will be there to do the work? Why not call the PTA president and volunteer for a fund-raising activity? Why not call a youth counselor and offer to help supervise an activity? Why not sign up to prepare the parish coffee hour after Sunday liturgy? In short: must we always wait to be asked to pitch in? And, by the way, if you're not involved don't expect that your kids will be involved in community life.

For far too many of us, community life is something that is a given, that will always be there with or without our involvement and assistance. Meanwhile, the truth is that nothing could be farther from the truth. The community is each and every one of us. Thus, each and every one of us should be ready and willing to roll up his or her sleeves and get involved.

So, now that you've had a summer respite, that you're relaxed, refreshed and recharged, it's time to regroup and resume our community activism. Are you ready to do your part?

Sept.
2
1996

Turning the pages back...

The hryvnia, Ukraine's new national currency, debuted on the streets of Kyiv on Monday morning, September 2, 1996, reported our Kyiv correspondent Marta Kolomayets. She noted that on the first day of the long-awaited monetary

reform, many residents combed the city looking for open banks and currency exchanges to trade in their old karbovantsi for the new, multi-colored bills.

Following are excerpts from Ms. Kolomayets' report on the hryvnia's debut.

... Although pensions and wages were paid out to senior citizens and state sector employees in crisp new hryvni and shiny kopiiky (coins) on Monday morning, workers in the private sector, tourists and foreigners waited in long lines to change karbovantsi and dollars into the new currency.

There was no sense of panic on the streets, but long lines formed at the post office, where pensioners first lined up to collect their measly monthly allotment (the average pension is a little over 4 million karbovantsi, or 40 hryvni (hrv), which amounts to less than \$25 per month and then lined up at another window to trade in their karbovantsi (also known as coupons) for new hryvni.

"I've been here for three hours," said Olha Paziak, 65, a retired teacher of Ukrainian language at Kyiv State University, who strolled around the post office, waiting to collect her pension. "Although the government has assured us that we won't be cheated with this monetary reform, why take a chance," she said as she waited for her husband to exchange their life's savings of 50 million karbovantsi to 500 hrv, which is less than \$300.

"Oohh, they are nice," she exclaimed as her husband brought a stack of new bills for her to examine. "And they feel like real money, not just plain paper," she said.

The new currency, in effect, slashes five zeroes off the karbovanets and brings to an end an era when every Ukrainian could call himself a millionaire.

It seems that the new currency is already having a psychological effect on Ukrainian citizens. Many stood in line examining the portraits of historical leaders – Prince Volodymyr the Great and Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, who appear on the 1 hrv and 5 hrv notes, respectively – and holding the bills up to the light to see the watermark and other symbols that should eliminate easy counterfeiting.

"I'd like to see Shevchenko, but my pension is too low," joked one elderly gentleman, reviewing the hryvni he received. (Ukraine's national bard Taras Shevchenko appears on the

(Continued on page 15)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Kazimir Malevich at the Guggenheim

The Kazimir Malevich exhibit at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, "Kazimir Malevich: Suprematism," opened on May 13, following its critically acclaimed presentation at the Deutsche Guggenheim Berlin. The exhibition brings together approximately 120 paintings, drawings, and objects drawn from major public and private collections from around the world and is sponsored in New York by Alfa Bank.

The exhibition, which was co-organized by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and The Menil Collection, Houston, is curated by Matthew Drutt and will be on view at the Guggenheim through September 7. Following the Guggenheim presentation the exhibition will be presented at The Menil Collection from October 3, 2003, through January 11, 2004.

by Oleh S. Ilnytkyj

NEW YORK – Kazimir Malevich's reductive and abstract art, which goes under the term Suprematism, is so bereft of graspable "ideas," familiar images and worldly objects that it might very well create its own kind of disturbance in any viewer overly anchored in mimetic art and "reality." Not only are there almost no real-world objects to be found in this exhibit of paintings and drawing, but the traditional perspectives and dimensions (whether of 19th century art or Hollywood cinema) are missing, replaced with a strange visual logic made of flat planes and simple geometric forms such as crosses, squares and circles.

Malevich strove for an art that would be universally comprehensible, but his contemporaries, not conversant with his new painterly language, tended to see this type of work as a "sermon of nothingness and destruction" (Alexandre Benois).

Today, Malevich is obviously not very shocking and, moreover, universally recognized for the breakthrough he helped initiate in the development of 20th century non-objective art. His works mark a pivotal moment when art from Paris to Kharkiv overturned centuries of convention in order to reinvent for itself a new logic and ontology. With almost a whole century of the new art behind us, the revolutionary nature of Malevich is easy to overlook, but, on the other hand, the aesthetic impact of his shapes and colors is probably stronger now than ever before.

Malevich's exhibit at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, which runs until September 7, is not a retrospective but a rather narrowly focused investigation of the historical moment that gave birth to Suprematism, with the magnificent compositions from 1915 serving as the highlight.

First we see the influence of Cubism on Malevich, then his struggle (captured by pencil drawings) to develop an essentialist vocabulary consisting of painting's basic elements (geometry, colors, flat planes). His success emerges initially as a kind of monumental non-objective stasis, with black and white forms dominat-

ing.

Soon, however, probably through the influence of Futurism, his pure forms attain another feature: dynamism and more variegated colors. This creative process and transformation is wonderfully presented through several celebrated but rarely exhibited works. This includes the original version of the famous (or infamous) "Black Square."

In all, there are over 100 pieces in this exhibit, including reconstructions of his Suprematist architectural models (so-called "architektons"), as well as some Suprematist-inspired porcelain teacups and saucers.

Malevich was born and trained near Kyiv, referred to himself as a Ukrainian, spent most of his career in Russia and had his last solo exhibit (of which he had only five) in Kyiv (1930). In the late 1920s, Ukrainian Futurist journals published 14 of his articles on the theory and history of art.

Jean-Claude Marcadé, in an article that appears in the very nice catalog (edited by Matthew Drutt), to the exhibit, "Kazimir Malevich: Suprematism," calls Malevich a "Polish-Ukrainian-Russian" painter and notes the "Ukrainian expressions" in his writings. Most other references, however, see no need to problematize his nationality or cultural attribution, speaking of Malevich simply as a "Russian"; the audio tour to this exhibit makes reference to his "Russian roots," and Matthew Drutt clearly cannot distinguish between Ukrainian and Russian sources, since he treats a Ukrainian commentary on Malevich (page 262 of the catalog) as if it were Russian ("Radiants'ke mystetstvo" becomes "Radziansko mistetstvo").

While none of this ultimately detracts from a truly excellent exhibit, it is sad that, more than a decade after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is still so little sophistication on questions that relate to the cultural heritage of the Russian Empire. Even as facts betray how woefully inadequate and crude the national term "Russian" is for much of the culture production of the empire, art historians continue to use it without any caveat.

Dr. Oleh Ilnytkyj is a full professor in the department of modern languages and cultural studies at the University of Alberta, where he teaches courses in Ukrainian language and literature. His 1997 book, "Ukrainian Futurism, 1914-1930: An Historical and Critical Study" won the 1997 Best Book of the Year Award from the American Association of Ukrainian Studies and will shortly appear in a Ukrainian translation. Prof. Ilnytkyj's "A Concordance to the Poetic Works of Taras Shevchenko" (2001), a four-volume work co-authored with Dr. George Hawrysch, was also awarded a shared 2003 Best Book of the Year Award from the American Association of Ukrainian Studies.

A friendly reminder

If you have not yet sent in your remittance for the first volume of "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," please do so as soon as possible.

The book's price is \$15. Please send checks for that amount

(plus any additional sum you may designate as a donation

to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund) to:

The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forced repatriation of WWII Ukrainian DPs hurt diaspora

Dear Editor:

Ukrainians, quite understandably, were very disappointed when in May/June 1919 a 100,000-strong Polish army, very well equipped by the French, organized in France, and led by Gen. Haller, intervened against the struggling Ukrainian-Galician Army (UHA). This army was supposed to fight only the Bolsheviks, rather than Ukrainians, and as such was given permission to cross the territory of the German Reich in order to reach the existing front line in East Galicia. But this is all old history, and illustrates well the difficulties and handicaps that Ukrainians had to overcome in their fight for national independence.

However, on one more recent occasion, the French attitude changed considerably, and they treated Ukrainians more favorably, and with all due respect as an important ethnic group they encountered when they occupied Germany in the spring of 1945.

This author remembers how on April 20, 1945, French Foreign Legion troops entered the university town of Tübingen and behaved with due restraint and even some sympathy and compassion towards the local population. It is worth noting that the French authorities recognized Ukrainians right away as a separate ethnic group worthy of being treated with respect and as a separate nationality. This was done in spite of the attempts of the local Poles to be allowed to treat Ukrainians as disgruntled former Polish citizens, and otherwise to intimidate them as suspected former collaborationists.

It took the American authorities, in their zone of occupation, several more months to come to the same conclusion: that Ukrainians deserved to be treated as an important (because of their numbers) and separate ethnic group.

In addition, the French from the very beginning announced their opposition to the forced repatriation of civilians (that is, of DPs and refugees) under their jurisdiction, of people suspected to be Soviet citizens, or claimed by the Soviet Union to be their citizens, to the Soviet authorities. Such an attitude, in those hectic times, was of very great practical significance to all Ukrainians living in occupied Germany.

It was all the more significant because the American authorities, in their zones of occupation, at first adopted the policy of forced repatriation in principle, saying to the people involved "if you did nothing wrong, nothing bad is going to happen to you, but go you must." The author heard this personally from the area commanding officer. This was the area in the American occupied zone in central Vienna where the author happened to be in December 1945 on family business. Only with great reluctance on the part of the zonal authorities was the author given the Interzonal Pass, to permit him to come back to Tübingen, supposedly to continue his studies.

It is well known that in 1945 American local authorities in occupied Germany tried on several occasions to use force to load Ukrainian DPs on to waiting trucks, in order to deliver them to the Soviet authorities (Mannheim, Kempten, for example). Only successful resistance on the part of the people so mishandled, and fear of bad publicity, prevented this handing over to the Soviet authorities from being carried out as intended.

The policy of compulsory repatriation

— clearly contrary to some international laws — of displaced persons and refugees was discussed at length at the United Nations in January 1946, and considered incompatible with the ideas of free society and democracy.

Therefore, official U.S. policy in occupied Germany changed, leading to more humanitarian treatment of the refugees and DP's under their jurisdiction. It is worth noting, that the French did it, as a matter of principle, almost a year earlier, and Ukrainians were the major beneficiaries. One thing is clear: had the principle of forced repatriation prevailed then in occupied Germany the flourishing Ukrainian diaspora of today would hardly have been possible.

Peter Hrycak
Cranford, N.J.

The Ukrainian Museum in New York nearing completion

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your timely editorial about The Ukrainian Museum (July 13). Those who happen to be in New York City on Sixth Street will see that the brick and glass facade of the new museum building has taken shape.

When I passed by recently, the gate was ajar and I looked in. I was amazed to see the large sun-lit foyer, the staircase, and the sheetrocked walls of the galleries beyond. I traveled home to New Jersey in a mood of elation and excitement.

After all these years, the numerous fund-raising campaigns, the membership dues, the Stride-and-Ride events, the silent auctions, the "makivnyky" (poppy-seed rolls) and Christmas tree decorations from Ukrainian Museum bazaars that mother unfailingly bought for us, the museum building is a reality.

It is there for us and for our children, and we are very proud to be a part of it. We are happy to have helped (in our small way) to build it.

Olenka Terleckyj
Bloomfield, N.J.

Still no resolution on uniting UACC and UCCA

Dear Editor:

In The Ukrainian Weekly on July 27 Bohdan Kandiuk, in his letter titled "Our community must have unity," expressed his concern about the existence of two organizations, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, instead of one.

I wish to remind readers that in May 2001 a special meeting was held of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, with many organizations, both those belonging to either the UCCA or the UACC and those outside these bodies, in attendance.

At this meeting a special committee led by Dr. Julian Kulas was elected in order to create one Ukrainian American representation.

Most of the attendees agreed that this was a way to end the crisis and create a new body that would speak with one voice. It is regrettable to note that so far nothing has been done.

Dr. Roman Baranowskyj
Kerhonkson, N.Y.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Why can't they be like us?

We've all wondered about our brothers and sisters in and from Ukraine. They're different. Different attitudes and values. Different mindset. Different behavior.

Not all of them, of course, but many, especially the older ones. They appear arrogant. Cynical. Somewhat morose with a penchant for dissimulation. When they come here, most want little to do with us or our community.

We're not alone in our assessment. Lithuanians, Estonians, Latvians, Armenians, even Jews in this country will tell you the same thing.

If the Soviets did little else well, they did manage, it seems, to successfully create a new human being, Homo Sovieticus, who in order to survive in Soviet society, would think one thing, say another, and do a third. Survival meant beating the system, not following the rules, *na levo* as it were. This was morally acceptable because the system itself was corrupt. For some, this attitude had carried over to the United States.

Few people worked hard in the Soviet Union because there was little incentive to do so. "We pretend to work, they pretend to pay us," was a common refrain. Alcoholism was rampant. One Soviet comic proclaimed: "Anyone who comes to work sober is a spy."

Given the many differences between "us" and "them," are we doomed to remain estranged? It's too early to tell but at least "we" can become more sensitive to "them" if we have a better understanding of how and why they became what they are.

Dr. Voldemars Gulens, a Latvian Canadian psychiatrist who has studied the Soviet personality and published his conclusions in an article titled "Distortions in Personality Development in Individuals Emerging From a Long-Term Totalitarian Regime" offers some clues. His study, which appeared in the fall 1995 issue of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, begins with the premise that "in Soviet citizens we witness major distortions in psychological make-up brought about by their being born into, growing up in, and forming a family in a totalitarian society. The distortions involve the very core of the individual affecting not only his or her constant self-sentiment and attitude to life and to society, but also his or her orientation to change." Not surprisingly, these distortions seriously impair the ability of former Soviet citizens to respond constructively to the many economic, sociological and political changes in their new national order.

One of the more obvious characteristics of the post-Soviet individual seems to be deep depression, writes Dr. Gulens. "When questioned about their personal outlook on life, they reply with deep sighs, shrugs, and expressions of hopelessness and helplessness. The message is that of a bleak outlook on life and not being masters of their own fate." People who are chronically depressed find it difficult to respond to new information and demands for changes. Many who once believed that independence would bring a better life have become disillusioned. They are less likely to participate in the political process believing that no matter how they vote, the corrupt will always triumph. With little hope for the future, "priority is given to satisfaction of personal momentary needs, without considering one's own long-term goals, the feelings of others, or societal benefits."

Another striking feature of post-Soviet society "is the juxtaposition of profound distrust of, and anger at the authorities, with the contradictory feeling of dependence, and the belief that 'someone up there' ought to make the right decisions and set things right."

"Closely related to feelings of dependence is the lack of individual autonomy. Soviet citizens were used to expecting directives from authorities. Thus they have little experience in taking initiative and responsibility." Problems can be readily identified but few solutions are offered. "In the past, once a problem has been identified and someone else blamed for it, all attempts at problem resolution would cease."

An inability to seek communal solutions is a function of post-Soviet difficulties in evaluating reality. "In the Soviet Union, the individual was never expected to make observations, draw conclusions, and decide what the truth is." That was the prerogative of the state which defined reality according to political considerations. Small wonder that some people in the former Soviet Union are disoriented, "unable to distinguish facts from rumors, wishful thinking, paranoid explanations, and disinformation."

One of the more debilitating features of the post-Soviet psyche is the kind of arrogance and posturing which is the result of a feeling of inadequacy. "It is difficult for former Soviet citizens to work toward a common goal when everyone feels personally inadequate for the perceived job because of a lack of experience with assuming responsibility, risk-taking, or decision-making." This inadequacy, however, is never admitted. On the contrary. Pretense, arrogance and denial are common defense mechanisms.

Having experienced empty slogans and the corruption of all personal and common ideals, many post-Soviet citizens have difficulties accepting altruism, especially from outsiders. "All foreign aid is assumed to be given for purely selfish, self-serving, ulterior motives," writes Dr. Gulens. This attitude, in turn, makes it difficult for them to be appreciative of assistance, to simply say "thank you."

And finally, there is anger. "Individuals who have experienced a lifetime of humiliation, harassment, persecution, injustice and betrayal develop an understandable sense of outrage."

Dr. Gulens offers many more insights into post-Soviet society but suggests that more study is needed to assess the damage. "The forces that have deformed the personality of the Soviet citizen are complex and long standing. The damage is so pervasive that one can entertain the idea that it contributed significantly to the collapse of the Soviet empire."

He concludes that "the evident differences between 'them' and 'us' are manifestations of deep psychological distortions in personality and social relations that have arisen from decades of humiliation, harassment, persecution and betrayal. Damage to conscience formation and function has led to severe impairment in morality, altruism and fairness."

Little of what Dr. Gulens writes is especially encouraging. His perceptions, however, ring true and offer a kind of cushion against overreaction when "they" do to "us" what we would not want to do to them.

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Ukrainian American Educational Council prepares to mark its 50th jubilee

by George Gajecky

NEW YORK – Many Ukrainian Americans went to Saturday school themselves or knew of others who attended. They missed the Saturday cartoons but usually took part in dance festivals, attended Plast and SUM camps, and had interesting summer vacations. They could also communicate with their grandparents and went to Ukraine to visit their relatives.

All these schools belonged to an organization called the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. It has coordinated programs, supplied textbooks, set curriculum guidelines and trained teachers for the last 50 years – since 1953.

In its heyday, the Educational Council comprised over 60 schools with over 6,000 students. Now its member-schools number 35 with 2,600 students and teachers. The Educational Council performs the necessary task of centralizing and guiding Ukrainian private education, establishing standards and goals for the schools, and providing standardized final exams. Some schools have a full 12-year program, while others finish with 11th grade. Others only have eight grades and their students have to complete their education elsewhere.

The whole system has undergone generational changes along with conceptual ones. The old “veterans” of schools in Europe have mostly passed on or retired, and members of the younger generation who came here in the 1950s are now in control.

In the meantime, a “new wave” of immigrants from Ukraine arrived with their own problems and expectations.

These issues and changes are discussed annually at regional and national teachers conferences like those in Rochester in June 2001 and Cleveland in June 2002. Many problems have been resolved. For instance, many teachers are recent immigrants even though the schools are not overflowing with the children of new arrivals.

New techniques of teaching are being tried out – using the computer, and various new media, and introducing term papers and projects. Younger teachers are introduced as teacher’s aides and can complete their education at teacher seminars offered during the summer at Soyuzivka since 1985.

New textbooks are being printed incorporating the history of modern Ukraine, Ukrainian literature of the 1990s and current events. Students are asked to participate in pen-pal correspondence with peers in Ukraine and commemoration services of the Famine-Genocide in addition to preparing concerts in honor of Taras Shevchenko or in celebration of the “Yalynka.”

The Educational Council was founded in 1953 when 22 schools decided to form a central body. Prof. Edward Zarskyi served as its first president in 1953-1954. He was followed by Volodymyr Kalyna (1954-1961). Prof. Zarsky then served again in 1961-1977. Then came Prof. Roman Drazhniowsky (1977-1983) and

Dr. Eugene Fedorenko (1983 to the present).

The network of Ukrainian Saturday schools stretches from Boston to Kent, Wash. After attending classes from kindergarten through grade 12 and passing a comprehensive exam, students are honored at a festive banquet. Over 30,000 young Ukrainians have studied at these schools, and over 7,000 have graduated. Many graduates work in responsible positions here in the United States and also in Ukraine for various government organizations or American businesses. Some graduates get credits for their Ukrainian studies at local universities upon passing qualifying exams.

The *Ridna Shkola* journal appears three times a year. The articles deal with subjects helpful to teachers, current events in Ukraine and events of historical significance. The journal is very popular in Ukraine, where hundreds of schools use it in their instruction. It is also a bridge to educators in Ukraine that informs them of events in the United States. Many dozens of letters arrive from schools and educational institutions, reporting on their activities and asking for help with textbooks and literary reading materials.

This year, 2003, marks the 50th anniversary of the Educational Council. On October 25, a gala celebration will be held at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover,



Members of the Educational Council are pictured at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort in 1986.

N.J., to honor the teachers who worked for many years in this institution.

Also, a jubilee book will be published to highlight the histories of the many schools that belong to the Educational Council. Institutions, businesses and individuals may purchase advertising

space in the book or send greetings to the Educational Council's teachers.

For further information, readers may contact: Ukrainian Educational Council, P.O. Box 391, Cooper Station, NY 10276; telephone, (212) 477-1200; fax, (212) 777-7201.



Participants of a Ukrainian teachers conference held in Rochester, N.Y., in June 2001.



Participants of a Ukrainian teachers conference held in Cleveland, Ohio, in June 2002.

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UMANA holds its 37th Scientific Convention in Chicago

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 37th Scientific Convention and 30th Assembly of Delegates on June 18-22, at the Allerton Crowne Plaza Hotel in Chicago. Ukrainian health care professionals from throughout the United States and Canada gathered on the “Magnificent Mile” to exchange the latest information regarding “Infectious Diseases in the New Millennium.”

The conference and assembly are biennial functions of UMANA, held in various cities easily accessible to the association’s members. In addition to allowing colleagues to meet socially, the Scientific Conference targets issues of importance to the general membership. The curriculum and faculty are chosen with the goal of informing the conferees at a professional, current and up-to-date level. The Assembly of Delegates is the highest administrative body of UMANA, fulfilling its responsibilities at the business meeting.

Ingalls Hospital, in Harvey Ill., co-hosted the sessions, allowing each attendee to obtain up to 10 Category I credits of Continuing Medical Education applicable to the AMA Physician Recognition Award.

The convention opened with a reception on Wednesday evening, allowing newly registered guests to meet with veteran members. Old friendships were rekindled, and new ones built.

On Thursday morning, Ihor Voyevodka, M.D., outgoing president of UMANA, officially opened the proceedings. He welcomed listeners as well as presenters, and wished the gathering a fruitful academic experience.

Thursday’s first speaker, Daniel Hryhorczuk, M.D., M.P.H., presented an overview of the public health dilemma posed by the recent spread of the West Nile virus throughout the Western Hemisphere, predicting that we have not seen the last of this newly troublesome illness.

Bohdan Iwanetz, M.D., discussed the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for chronic bone infections. He described the center at Ingalls Hospital, Harvey, Ill., and suggested that difficult infections could be significantly helped by treating patients in chambers under increased pressure of oxygen. Myron Wojtowycz, M.D., reviewed the impact of radiological procedures not only on the diagnosis of infectious diseases, but also on therapy of abscesses in various parts of the anatomy.

Lydia Baltarowich, M.D., discussed the preparedness of the Emergency Department at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit as the initial site of impact in suspected or actual acts of bio-terrorism.

Thursday’s final speaker, Peter Derkach, M.D., of Toronto, Ontario, presented a personal and very current overview of the epidemic of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) as experienced by the health profession at its epicenter in the Northern Hemisphere, Toronto.

Andrew Browar, D.D.S., opened Friday’s sessions with presentation of evidence that periodontitis can possibly cause diseases that range far beyond the oral cavity to affect the body in general, adding new weight to the advice to clean and floss.

Boris Lushniak, M.D., M.P.H., revisited the topic of bio-terrorism, briefly reviewing its history, while emphasizing the effects such agents have on the largest organ in the body, the skin.

Marko Mychaskiw, R.Ph., Ph.D., explained the impact of infectious diseases on the health care economy, emphasizing methods used to calculate direct and indirect costs of such illnesses and their implications on health care policy.

Ulana Bodnar, M.D., reviewed the current status of the HIV/AIDS epidemic

in Ukraine, as well as the United States, describing recent trends and the impact of medications and life style changes on the development of this malady.

Ihor Jastremsky, D.V.M., approached the problem of infectious diseases from the standpoint of illnesses that can be spread from household pets and wild animals to the human organism, and what can be done to prevent such encounters.

The keynote speaker and special guest of the conference was John R. La Montagne, Ph.D., deputy director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health. Invited by his classmate, UMANA’s Editor-in-Chief Roman Worobec, Ph.D., Dr. La Montagne presented a perspective on infectious diseases from the vantage point of the leading governmental institute of health care.

Dr. La Montagne received his Ph.D. in microbiology from Tulane University in 1971 and has devoted his career to the intricate relationship between infectious organisms and their effects on the human condition. He was chief influenza officer at NIAID for nearly a decade, and then organized the extramural AIDS program, serving as director in 1985-1987. He then was named director of the Microbiology and Infectious Disease Program NIAID, finally being appointed deputy director of NIAID in 1998. His special professional career interest is vaccine research and development.

Friday evening concluded with a pleasant reception held at the neighboring Consulate General of Ukraine and hosted by Consul General Borys Bazylevskyi and his staff. Consul Bazylevskyi warmly greeted his guests, and UMANA’s outgoing president, Dr. Voyevodka, thanked the consul general for his hospitality and graciousness.

New officers elected

The UMANA Assembly of Delegates met in formal session at the biennial business meeting on Saturday morning. A multitude of routine housekeeping tasks were completed, and formal reports were submitted and accepted by the relevant committees.

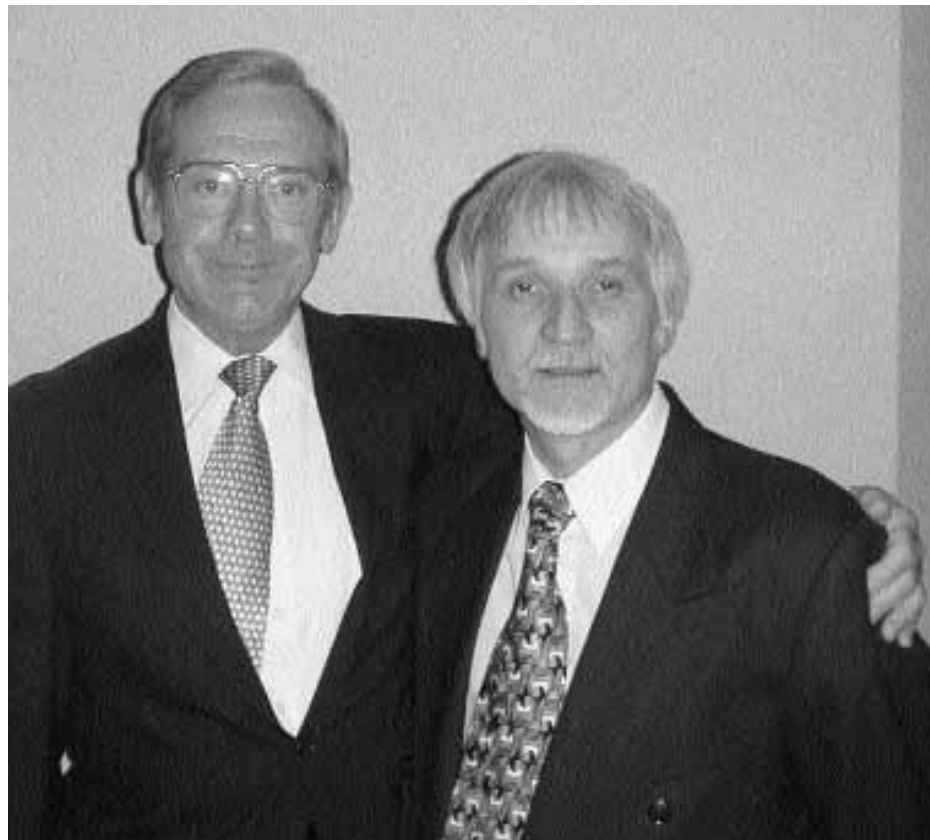
The following officers were elected for the upcoming 2003-2005 term: Dr. Bohdan Iwanetz, president; Dr. Andrew Iwach, president-elect for the 2005-2007 term, Dr. Ihor Fedoriw, vice-president; Dr. Ariadna Czartorysky, secretary; and Dr. Boris Leheta, treasurer.

Canadian colleagues encouraged

As a measure of solidarity and collegiality toward their colleagues across the border in Canada, the UMANA Assembly of Delegates voted to accept dues payments to UMANA from Canadian members in Canadian dollars beginning in 2004. This motion underscores the flexibility and responsiveness of the UMANA board to issues that involve individual members or chapters of the association, and further confirms the educational, professional and altruistic mission of UMANA. The board is encouraging increased activity by health care professionals in Canada. Using the approach applied to the SARS experience, UMANA believes it continues to fairly and competently represent Canadian interests in the international arena.

Tour of Ukrainian Village

Saturday afternoon UMANA members from outside Illinois toured Chicago’s Ukrainian Village, with stops for lunch at the headquarters office located in the Ukrainian Cultural Center. The newly repainted office greeted visitors with shelves of medical literature, as well as modern computer equipment for running



UMANA’s Immediate Past President Dr. Ihor Voyevodka (left) with newly elected President Dr. Bohdan Iwanetz.

the daily affairs of the association.

Members also visited the recently expanded Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago, as well as the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. The excursion ended with a walk through the local neighborhood, viewing the many local Ukrainian boutiques, businesses and places of worship that make up this vibrant Ukrainian American community.

Awards dinner

That evening UMANA held its awards banquet, honoring two deserving UMANA members. Dr. Voyevodka was praised for his dedicated service for the past two years, and Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj was applauded for her exemplary work organizing and collecting data on the problem of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine. Her work culminated with the release of a bilingual CD ROM disc with the latest available information for distribution throughout Ukraine and the United States, including via the Internet.

The highlight of the evening was a talk on “Bio-terrorism: the Past, Present and Future” by well-known Canadian author Richard Sherbaniuk from Edmonton. His first book, “The Fifth Horseman – A Novel of Biological Disaster” has the fictional agent Mike Zammit fighting the evil of environmental bio-terrorism. This action-suspense novel has met with supportive reviews, and there is a hint of Hollywood interest

in the air.

Mr. Sherbaniuk, who has worked as advisor to governments and corporations on environmental issues, instructively informed his listeners about developments in this serious field. He reviewed the history of biological warfare and its current status, and offered his prognostications about the future.

Evening of humor and art

The evening concluded on a lighter note with UMANA’s own humorist Dr. Evhen Steckiiv of the Florida Chapter, entertaining the crowd with his trademark humorous routines and rhymes. Members lingered into the night, viewing the art exhibit highlighting the creative talents of several health care professionals. In addition to their substantial medical and dental skills, Dr. Eugene Kovalsky, Dr. George Saj, and Dr. Roksolana Tymiak-Lonchyna exhibited their creations from the artistic side of their professional realm.

The 37th UMANA Scientific Conference gathered together members from New York to California, Michigan to Florida, and from Canada to Ukraine. The convivial atmosphere supported the exchange of ideas and new knowledge. Convention participants departed for their respective homes and professions on Sunday, hoping to meet again in two years for a continuation of this educational and social tradition.

For further information on UMANA readers may call (773) 278-6262.



Richard Sherbaniuk, author and guest speaker.



Keynote speaker Dr. John R. La Montagne.

THE NEWS FROM HERE

This week's installment of "The News from Here" features an array of stories. First is the inspiring story of a retiree and his friend who are trying to rally their Ukrainian community to help a young woman who became a victim of violence in Lviv. Next is a story about a Georgia Ukrainian and his understanding of the meaning of freedom. The third story tells of a young author's effort to expand Ukrainian experiences into the mainstream through literature. To wrap up, our final story shows how Ukrainian influence can be found in an unlikely place.

CHICAGO: Chicagoans help Lviv gunshot victim

The Ukrainian newspaper Ekspres reported last year that three bullets became lodged in the body of Iryna Varenycia, a 23-year-old graduate of medical school, on July 15, 2002, when she happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time in Lviv. This tragic event paralyzed Ms. Varenycia, who seems destined to spend her life in a wheelchair. But not if Roman Zajac and Zenoviy Kurys can help it. The two have decided to raise funds for the young woman and bring her to Chicago for surgery and medical care.

Mr. Zajac, 74, is a retired structural engineer and a widower. He is also the president of Branch 472 of the Ukrainian National Association, known as the "Plastovy Viddil" because it is affiliated with the local Plast group. Mr. Zajac himself is a member of the Chervona Kalyna Plast Fraternity.

Though he is retired, Mr. Zajac holds a full-time volunteer position as director of the local Social Services Bureau at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, which functions with the cooperation of the local Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

"This [work with the bureau] keeps me active and healthy. I have no time to get sick," said Mr. Zajac, who runs the one-man bureau.

The bureau assists seniors by taking them to doctors and bringing them food. New immigrants benefit from the bureau's services which help them complete paperwork to extend their visas and assist them with all sorts of other forms. Immigrants are assisted in finding jobs and are provided with translators both in court and for paperwork.

Mr. Zajac learned of Ms. Varenycia's case through a friend, Zenoviy Kurys, who is originally from Lviv and now lives in Chicago. Mr. Kurys' daughter Oksana was a classmate of Ms. Varenycia's in medical school in Lviv. After hearing about the young woman's tragic situation, Mr. Zajac consulted with local physicians and specialists to see if there was any hope of helping Iryna.

Mr. Zajac said: "I want to give the child a chance. We have to try. Though there is no hope of helping Iryna in Ukraine, there is hope here in the United States." He added, "I believe you should never say never."

Bank accounts have been opened in Chicago for Iryna Varenycia, and people are being asked to donate to the following:

- Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, 2332 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 – Account: DBA Iryna Varenycia Fund No. 102068-000;
- 1st Security Ukrainian Federal Savings Bank, 936 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 – Account: DBA Iryna Varenycia Fund No. 0101555183.

Checks may also be sent to: Iryna Varenycia Fund, c/o Ukrainian Cultural Center, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.

Mr. Zajac argues that Ukrainians must help Ms. Varenycia "so that she, as a young physician, would be able to help others." To that end, Mr. Zajac has prepared leaflets that have been posted in local institutions, like the credit unions where those accounts have been opened to help a promising young woman from Lviv.

(Continued on page 23)



Iryna Varenycia

Austin Ukrainian American community alive and kicking deep in the heart of Texas

by Chrystia Wynnyk-Wilson

AUSTIN, Texas – Deep in the heart of Texas, in the capital of the Lone Star State, thrives a small but ever growing Ukrainian American community known as "Austin Ukes." We all found each other several years ago thanks to The Ukrainian Weekly editorial section. Ever since that initial contact, our group has grown into a social and cultural club that preserves language and tradition.

More and more Ukrainians keep finding each other in central Texas. The U.S. Census says there are over 1,500 citizens of Ukrainian descent in this region of Texas.

Membership spans several generations ranging from immigrants from the post-World War II era to young profes-

sionals in high tech industries and academia, and includes children of all ages. We even had a Ukrainian high school exchange student amongst us. What we have in common is our love of our Ukrainian heritage, language and traditions.

We host several annual events that truly bind us together and help preserve our customs and traditions. Some of our events include Sviat Vechir, complete with the full 12 courses and koliady, and the traditional blessing of the Paska at Easter time.

Maintaining and promoting our traditions is especially important for the children because they assure the future continuation of the Ukrainian heritage in our families.

Additionally, our students present

paskas to their teachers at Eastertime, present them with Ukrainian woodwork at Christmas time and write papers about the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in order to educate their schools' teachers and students about their Ukrainian heritage.

We even donate books on Ukraine, Ukrainians and Ukrainian history to our school libraries.

Some of the children have started being home schooled in "Ukrainoznavstvo" (Ukrainian studies) because it is too far to make the eight hour roundtrip to Houston every Saturday.

One of the goals that some of the chil-

dren have set for next year is to convince Gov. Rick Perry of Texas to commemorate Ukrainian Independence Day and try to bring representatives from the Houston, Dallas and San Antonio Ukrainian communities to Austin for such an event.

Austin Ukes are letting fellow Ukrainians know that we are here and we are proud Ukrainian Americans.

To keep up with the Austin community's activities, please visit our website at http://www.angelfire.com/folk/austin_uk es or contact the Austin Ukes at chriswilson@austin.rr.com.



Austin Ukes host a Ukrainian exchange student.



Ukrainians in Austin at their Christmas celebration.

An intrepid New Yorker counsels women on divorce

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Vira Hladun-Goldmann made headlines in 1998 when she divorced her husband of 33 years and was awarded half of his estimated \$90 million estate – the largest equitable divorce award in American history.

She is following that coup with other major endeavors – a how-to book on divorce, published early this year; a sequel for single women “What is Life After Divorce?” (now in the works); and a documentary film on Ukraine’s history, a long-cherished project she is presently discussing with Ukrainian scholars in Kyiv.

Her book “Separate Ways: Relationships, Divorce and Independence of Mind,” (Sweetpen Press, 2003), written with the help of ghostwriter Eli Gottlieb, has sold over 5,000 copies and received great reviews. In it, the Rochester, N.Y., native talks with gusto about her marriage to banker Robert Goldman and their eventual divorce, and counsels women on finding the right lawyer, choosing between mediation or court, keeping a marital diary and managing finances.

In separate chapters, she reviews the history of women’s rights and shows why being a housewife is a full-time job – and especially how to convince the court of that fact.

She writes in the divorce manual: “My divorce shattered precedents in the legal world, but in my world, it was merely another chapter in the ongoing book of my life. I went into it with confidence, and I had no doubts from the start that I was going to get exactly what I deserved.”

From the beginning of her marriage, she supplied advice, input and counsel in her husband’s small business, cooked and cleaned their home without outside help, decorated the company’s offices, selected her husband’s clothes and cut his hair every two weeks. She gave up her teaching job to raise their daughter Olexa. A born communicator, she proved to be an invaluable asset at corporate and charity functions as her husband’s business grew and he became wealthy.

In the foreword to the book, Judge Walter B. Tolub of the New York State Supreme Court says he was so impressed by these points (presented in a mountain of paperwork put together by the legal team) and by the defendant’s forceful presentation of her case that he had little difficulty in making his decision.

He granted her 50 percent of the estate built up by her husband, Robert I. Goldman, chief executive officer of the New York-based Congress Financial Corp. Previously, most New York State judges halved the assets in long-term marriages, but stopped short of doing so when the assets exceeded \$20 million.

Preparing for divorce

Vira Hladun-Goldmann (she added the extra ‘n’ to the name after the divorce) believes the two things most necessary to a woman facing the end of a marital relationship are information and confidence.

Confidence, plus a methodical approach to problem-solving and a keen instinct for financial dealings, brought her successfully through her years as a kindergarten teacher, dyslexia tutor, homemaker and decorator. During her marriage, she earned 8 million on her own as a restorer of houses and collector of 18th century antiques, working through her firm Hladun-Goldmann Ltd. (She learned the art of decorating through reading, visits to Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia and New York State museums, and by trial and error.)

In “Separate Ways,” she relates how she tackled the matter of divorce once she and her husband decided they had grown apart. “Robert seemed to contract in his 60s, to withdraw from the surface of a life I felt myself wanting to rush out and embrace.”

First came a period of separation, when the two lived apart – a time, she says, that is necessary “for slow, steady clarification.” Then paperwork was gathered: banking and legal documents, and various financial instruments testifying to shared holdings. There was a search for lawyers who shared her convictions about the equal division of assets based on equal partnership in marriage.

Extremely important for a divorcing woman, she writes, is to start keeping a diary dedicated to showing what she does in a typical married day. Then she can realize what she has given to the partnership and, more importantly, begin the process of recognizing her value.

In a chapter devoted to her Ukrainian-American roots and early life in Rochester, she credits her practical know-how and strong ethical sense to her parents, the late Kazimira and Roman Hladun. She says her parents’ careful, conservative attitude toward money and work has stood her in good stead all her life – from her early



Vira Hladun-Goldmann

teens as a babysitter and department store clerk, through her years at college, where she majored in education and minored in art, working at the same time as a sales clerk and model in an upscale apparel store.

“Like my mother, I’ve always worked hard. Ukrainian women are tireless workers, and the trait is passed on from generation to generation,” she notes in her book. From her mother, a tailor, she learned about subtle differences in texture, pattern, color and weave in textiles.

Her father, a former captain in the Ukrainian army who became one of the executors of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, sponsored 200 immigrants to come to the United States after World War II, finding jobs for them and places to stay so they could get started in their new American lives.

No Ms. or Mrs. for Vira

Earlier this summer, we talked at her Sutton Square townhouse in Manhattan, seated in the handsome oak-paneled library that she converted from a once dreary attic into a two-story marvel of dark wood panels that conceal storage space, an elevator, bathroom, electronic equipment and a drop-down projector and movie screen. The second-level gallery, set off by an attractive wood banister, houses a kitchenette and library.

Sitting back in her chair, casually attired in blue jeans and long-sleeved knit top, she insisted that I call her Vira and use her first name in my story (she doesn’t care for the term Ms. and says Mrs. doesn’t apply since she is no longer married). Her resolute jaw and upswept hairdo brought to mind the incomparable actress Katharine Hepburn, who was famous for her independent ways and outspoken manner.

During a tour of her home’s lower four floors, she proudly showed me through rooms furnished with gleaming period furniture and accessories. The neo-Georgian house and its rooms were pictured in the April 2003 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*, in a stunning color feature, “Living With Antiques: The Vira Hladun-Goldmann House in New York City.”

We strolled outside the back of the house, where a park-like expanse of green lawn bordered by shade trees and flowering shrubs, looking out on the East River, is shared by neighboring townhouse residents.

It’s the home she has lived in for 21 years but plans to give up for a Park Avenue apartment (already purchased) once a buyer is found for the 1885 townhouse. She’ll keep her London home, a clergyman’s residence she refers to as “a charming little house” that’s located directly behind the American Embassy, and hopes to build a country house in northern Florida that will hold her collection of prized furniture.

The Goldmans supported Harvard’s Ukrainian Research Institute (they hosted fund-raising garden parties at their home) and the Jewish Congress Committee’s research on Ukrainian-Jewish relations, but Vira says she prefers to promote Ukrainian projects independently rather than with an established group. Which explains why she’s backing the production of a documentary film on Ukraine’s history on her own – she wants to provide her creative input as well as funds for the project.

Unlike the exhibit of folk art from Ukraine she tried very hard to organize at the Museum of Folk Art in New York some 10 years ago, this project is taking off. She surmises that the four-hour, four-segment film will be completed in three to four years, with the help of her close friend, British documentarian George Carey.

At 68, Vira Hladun-Goldmann is looking forward to telling the world about Ukraine’s glorious history and culture and pointing out, among other things, that “the Russian writer Nikolai Gogol” is Ukrainian and known to Ukrainians as Mykola Hohol. “We’re going to get him back; he’s ours,” she declares with a defiant toss of her head.

She plans to continue educating women on the best paths to follow in divorce proceedings, and will start a lecture tour in February to promote her first book. Among other works, she’ll continue to provide scholarships for “three wonderful teenagers who come from a housing project,” and keep on supporting animal rights.

“After all,” she says, “I’m a person with a lot of goals – there are many things I feel are important that I have to accomplish before I say goodbye,” she states emphatically.

Ukrainian author Irene Zabytko publishes new book

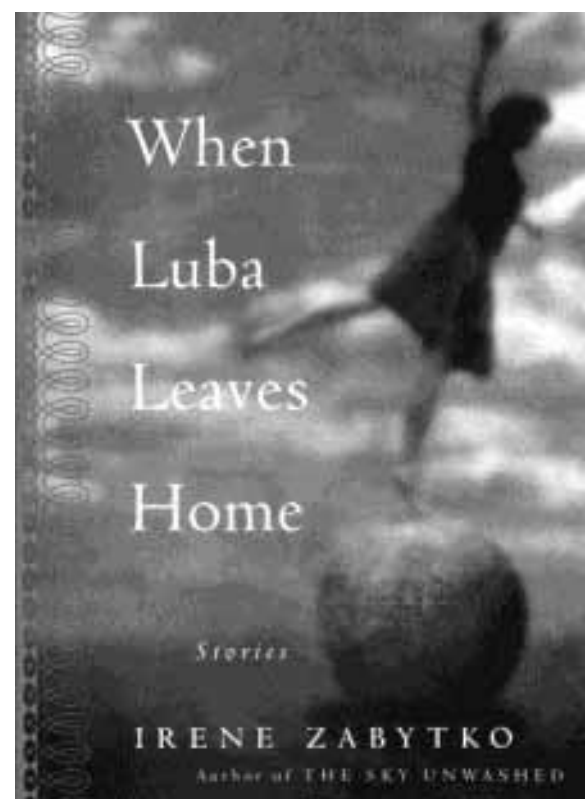
“When Luba Leaves Home” by Irene Zabytko. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. 2003. 240 pp., \$21.95.

Ukrainian American author Irene Zabytko has recently published a collection of stories called “When Luba Leaves Home.” The book contains 10 short stories that follow the development of the main character, Luba, and, in so doing, examine the struggle of first-generation Ukrainian Americans to come to terms with their mixed national identity.

The book is set in 1968 in the Ukrainian Village section of Chicago, and Luba is a 19-year-old college student. Luba has a burning desire to escape from the Ukrainian Village and find her own identity as a “real” American. She even Americanizes her name, enrolling at her college as Linda, rather than Luba.

Luba tries to achieve a new sense of freedom from her immediate surroundings by buying a used car. However, her attempt at freedom from the Ukrainian community only results in a closer connection to it. Since she owns a car, the people in the Ukrainian Village come to rely on her for rides. Luba ends up driving her father to the doctor, driving the widow of a Ukrainian poet to a church banquet in her honor,

(Continued on page 20)



UNA resort holds 47th annual Miss Soyuzivka competition

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The weekend of August 15-17 saw the crowning of a new Miss Soyuzivka.

Friday evening started out with Soyuzivka's traditional Odessa Night Seafood Buffet on the Veselka Patio. Later in the evening patrons were entertained by Hryhoryj Hrynovets and Roman Tsymbala.

The next day, a beautiful Saturday, brought perfect weather, and guests at the Ukrainian National Association's resort enjoyed being outside, hiking, swimming or just lounging around on the Veselka patio. Everyone's spirits were high, until a passing rain shower put a damper on things.

As the day progressed, Miss Soyuzivka contest coordinator Stephanie Hawryluk received applications from some beautiful young ladies. By the start of the judging session there was one applicant, but the group soon grew to five.

The judges had a difficult time reaching a decision, as

all the applicants were very highly qualified and beautiful young ladies with Dean's List and/or National Honor Society credentials. After much deliberation, the numbers were accounted for and placed into a secret location until such time as the winners were announced.

During the deliberation period the Fata Morgana band played for the guests' enjoyment, while the students and counselors from the dance camp under the direction of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky entertained everyone with a rousing Kolomyika.

The judges for this year's event were: Lydia Chopivsky-Benson, Miss Soyuzivka 1982; Bohdanka Puzyk, director of the Chemney camp at Soyuzivka; and Tanya Singura-Soltys, webmaster for Soyuzivka and a former employee at the resort.

Soon it was quarter to midnight and the Miss Soyuzivka's for the year 2003 were giving their farewell speeches – first Lydia Rajs, followed by Michelle

Odomirok.

Sonia Semanyszyn, Soyuzivka office administrator, proceeded to announce the winners:

- Second runner up – Lisa Migliorini, who received a free weekend stay at Soyuzivka.

- First runner up – Julianna Pedersen, who received a free week stay at Soyuzivka.

- And Miss Soyuzivka for 2004 (drum roll, please) – Dianna Shmerykowsky, who received a \$300 stipend and a free week at Soyuzivka.

The management and staff of Soyuzivka and the UNA thanked all the young ladies for their participation, and the judges and Mrs. Hawryluk for their work in making the annual Miss Soyuzivka festivities a successful event.

The weekend was rounded out on Sunday with a performance by the Dumka Choir under the direction of Wasyl Hrechynsky.



Miss Soyuzivka 2004, Dianna Shmerykowsky.



Miss Soyuzivka first runner up, Julianna Pedersen.



Miss Soyuzivka second runner up, Lisa Migliorini.



The three Miss Soyuzivka finalists pose with the resort's director of hospitality services, Nestor Paslawsky, and contest coordinator Stephanie Hawryluk.



Michelle Odomirok

Soyuzivka photo album: the summer season's winding down



KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The UNA's Soyuzivka resort is finishing up its summer season, the end of which will be the festivities held at the resort during Labor Day weekend. Over the past several weeks the resort has continued to host a variety of different events for people of all ages. Seen on this page are (top left and proceeding clockwise): outside the Veselka patio is a beautiful view from the resort, while guests can be seen at the tiki bar in the center of the photo; Soyuzivka's Hutsul stands tall at the resort's main entrance as a sign at his feet lets people know that the resort is hosting the Ceasar Salad Festival, which was organized by Lidia Lodynsky; two chefs from a local restaurant participate in the Ceasar Salad Festival; Stephanie Hawryluk poses for a photo while working at the resort's gift shop; Daria Hanushevsky displays her ceramic art work in Soyuzivka's library; a group photo of the Korduba-Chubatyi family reunion, which was recently held at the resort; members of the Korduba-Chubatyi reunion swim at Soyuzivka's Green Pool.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

pipeline linking Novoposkov in Luhansk Oblast with Uzhhorod in Transcarpathia, Interfax and ITAR-TASS reported on August 26. That plan was discussed at a meeting in Kyiv of the consortium's leadership the same day. The meeting was attended by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Khristenko, Gazprom deputy heads Aleksander Ryazanov and Yurii Komarov, Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Vitalii Haiduk, and Naftohaz Ukrainy head Yurii Boiko. Mr. Khristenko told journalists that the new, 1,500-kilometer pipeline will be built within two years and will cost \$2 billion-\$2.5 billion. The pipeline is expected to increase gas deliveries to Europe via Ukraine from the current 110 billion cubic meters to 131 billion cubic meters. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv's WTO entry on own schedule

KYIV - Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko said in Kyiv on August 26 that Ukraine will not coordinate its entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) with Russia, Interfax and ITAR-TASS reported. "This issue has been removed from the agenda," Mr. Zlenko noted. He said Ukraine's affiliation to the common economic space of Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan will not hamper talks on Ukraine's admission to the WTO. Mr. Zlenko said the common economic space idea is "in evolution," adding that the four involved states are no longer considering a common currency or a common customs union. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Police detain Ukrainian ambassador

WARSAW - Police in Warsaw have detained Ukraine's ambassador to Poland, Oleksander Nykonenko, for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, Polish Radio reported on August 26. Chief Commander of the Police Antoni Kowalczyk said he has passed the case on to the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry. "This is outside my competence," Mr. Kowalczyk noted. "They [the ministries] will take further steps." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma replaces internal affairs minister

KYIV - President Leonid Kuchma on August 27 dismissed Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Smyrnov and replaced him with Mykola Bilokon, head of the presidential administration's Department for Judiciary Reform and the Activity of Military Formations and Law-Enforcing Bodies, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma commented that "there is no politics" in the replacement. "Fresh blood will in no way harm the activity of the Internal Affairs Ministry," the Ukrainian president said. Mr. Kuchma also suggested that other Cabinet changes might be forthcoming. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NGOs rally in support of Kyiv mayor

KYIV - Some 500 representatives of non-governmental organizations gathered before the office of Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko on August 27 to protest what they believe is the imminent dismissal of Mr. Omelchenko by President Kuchma, Interfax reported. Since Mr. Omelchenko turned 65 earlier this month, he may be subject to obligatory retirement under a law on state service. NGO protesters argue that by virtue of the same law on state service, Mr. Omelchenko, who is simultaneously the head of the Kyiv City Council, an elected body, is not liable to dismissal even if he is overage. Mr. Kuchma said the same day that he is going to ask the Justice Ministry for clarification of those provisions of the law on state service that relate to dismissals of nominated officials who are overage. (RFE/RL Newsline)

OUN, UPA come...

(Continued from page 2)

was forced ultimately to backtrack. Prior to July 11, Poland laid out a long list of demands to Ukraine – most of which Kyiv never agreed to. The manner in which Poland pressured Ukraine led to a counter-reaction to the perception that Poland was attempting to revive its role as an “elder brother” toward its eastern neighbor by capitalizing on President Kuchma’s international isolation and domestic unpopularity.

Third, Volyn 1943 is an issue only for ideologically committed political parties on the left and right in Ukraine, with the former condemning the OUN and UPA (as in the Soviet era) and the latter calling for them to be rehabilitated and honored as national heroes. Historical issues and national symbols are not an issue for ideologically amorphous centrists who will vote in Parliament in any manner ordered by President Kuchma (recent examples include parliamentary support for a CIS free-trade zone and condemnation of the 1933 artificial famine as genocide).

The centrists’ indifference to historical issues can be seen in the educational system. Longtime Minister of Education Vasyl Kremen is a high-profile member of the Social Democratic Party-United. Kremen has promoted the domination of the Mykhailo Hrushevsky school of Ukrainian history throughout the educational system. Mr. Hrushevsky was denounced in Soviet propaganda starting in the 1930s and continues to be denounced by the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU).

Ukraine’s school textbooks adopt an inclusive approach to the most controversial period of Ukrainian history, World War II. In school textbooks Ukraine’s war effort has been expanded to include the UPA which, it is now accepted, fought both the Nazis and Soviets. The UPA, whom Poland wished Ukraine to condemn for the 1943 Volyn events, has long been rehabilitated in Ukraine’s educational system and in patriotic inculcation in the armed forces.

Fourth, the Ukrainian state could not agree to join Poland in condemning the OUN and UPA when it itself had still not made up its mind about these two organizations. Another complicating factor was that the OUN and UPA were not organizations that represented the Ukrainian state (unlike the Polish combatants, the Armija Krajowa, that represented the Polish government in exile).

The Volyn 1943 commemoration, completing unfinished business before the end of the Kuchma era and the need to obtain western Ukrainian votes in the 2004 presidential elections are three factors that have spurred the momentum in the Ukrainian state’s recognition of the OUN and UPA.

The National Institute for Strategic Studies (NISS), a presidential think-tank, recently obtained a directive from President Kuchma to prepare a presidential decree “On steps to establish the rights of fighters for the freedom and independence of the Ukrainian state.” NISS Director Anatolii Halchynskyi said the decree would finally establish “political and historical justice towards those individuals – members of the OUN and UPA fighters, who struggled for the freedom and independence of the Ukrainian state in the 20th century.”

In early 2003, the Ministry of Justice and the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences signed an agreement to research the “scientific analysis of documents and preparation of proposals to outline an official position on the activities of the OUN and the UPA.” A collection of documents is to be prepared by a special governmental committee led by Institute of History Director Stanislav Kulchytskyi, which has been given a budget of 250,000 hrv (\$47,000).

These steps, coupled with the need to dent Viktor Yushchenko’s unquestioned popularity in western Ukraine before next year’s elections, make it likely that the OUN and UPA will be officially recognized – and thereby de facto “rehabilitated” – by presidential decree and by the Verkhovna Rada, which is controlled by a slim pro-presidential majority. Opposition is likely to come only from the Communists and, in relation to OUN, from the Socialists. As in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the 1933 famine, President Kuchma is once again able to divide the left and right opposition.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

100 hrv note, which is worth about \$59.)

“I’ve traded in some of my hryvnia bills for kopyky,” said Ina Zhukova, a retired State Television employee, who still works to support her family. “This is by special request from my grandson, who doesn’t remember coins,” she said. Ukraine has not had coins in circulation since 1991. ...

The Ukrainian government, which launched a wide-reaching public relations campaign aimed at its citizens after announcing the introduction of the hryvnia, seemed to keep to its promises that prices would be frozen for one month after the new currency was introduced.

Close to 380 trillion karbovantsi (about \$2 billion) are estimated to be circulating in the shadow economy, and government leaders hope that they will be traded in for hryvni within the next two weeks.

By mid-week, the situation had stabilized, and Ukrainian government leaders said they were satisfied with the progress of monetary reform.

“The exchange of the karbovanets for the hryvnia has so far produced no unexpected problems in any part of the country,” said Mr. Pynzenyuk, appearing on television on Monday evening, September 2. ...

According to government leaders, the hryvnia should remain stable until the end of the month. It can currently be exchanged for 100,000 karbovantsi to 1 hryvnia, and both residents of Ukraine and non-residents can exchange their karbovantsi for hryvni until September 16, the last day both currencies will circulate in Ukraine. ... The National Bank of Ukraine has set its exchange at 1.76 to the U.S. dollar, 1.18 to the DM and about 3,000 Russian rubles to the hryvnia. At the Interbank Currency Exchange, it debuted at 1.76 hrv to the dollar. ...

Source: “Stable hryvnia greets introduction of monetary reform in Ukraine,” by Marta Kolomayets, Kyiv Press Bureau, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, Vol. LXIV, No. 36, September 8, 1996.



У глибокому смутку повідомляємо, що 19 серпня 2003 р. відійшов у вічність у Блумфілді, Н. Дж. на 78 році життя, наш найдорожчий МУЖ, БАТЬКО, ДІДО, БРАТ, ВУЙКО і КУЗИН

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MYRON RUSSNAK

from Rochester, N.Y. died on Thursday, August 14, 2003.

Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Tuesday, August 19 at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Loving wife Irene Russnak

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Комедія "За двома зайцями" за п'єсою Михайла Старицького

Ukrainian World...

(Continued from page 1)

Lozynskij. "We are trying to establish ties in Azerbaijan and in Vietnam. We want to be everywhere where Ukrainians live."

It was under Mr. Lozynskij's guidance during his first five-year term that the UWC brought the Eastern diaspora under its wing. Today the UWC numbers 230 organizations in 20 countries, accounting for more than 3 million of the 20 million strong Ukrainian diaspora. It has achieved recognition within the United Nations and recently became a member of the U.N. Economic and Social Council.

After the election of its new leadership, the UWC passed a deluge of resolutions, ranging from a demand to recall Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin to a call by the delegates to have the United Nations recognize the Great Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

As has happened previously whenever activists from the diaspora hit home soil, controversies simmered during the four days the UWC delegates were in Kyiv. First, there was the already widely publicized last minute change of venue the UWC had to undertake after the Ukrainian Home Exposition Center, which is owned by the presidential administration, decided it could not accommodate the conclave because of an unforeseen "renovation" project. The Ukrainian Home also failed to return a substantial deposit the UWC had made to hold the reservation.

Mr. Lozynskij said that the UWC was considering legal action, but first would consult with lawyers on what legal recourse the UWC had available.

Many of the delegates, including Mr. Lozynskij, said it was ironic destiny that the UWC conclave was refused use of a hall controlled by President Leonid

Kuchma and his chief of staff, Viktor Medvedchuk, of whom many are critical, only to find shelter within the walls of the historic Kyiv Teachers' Building, where Professor Mykhailo Hrushevsky declared the first modern independent Ukrainian state in 1918.

Mr. Lozynskij initiated a second round of controversy when he called Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko, "a coward," during the final press conference.

Mr. Lozynskij's remark came as he discussed the tragic lack of Ukrainian schools in Russia and the little effort Ukraine has made to pressure Moscow to change the situation, given that Russian-language schools are abundantly found throughout most of Ukraine.

"Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko is a friend of mine - we have drunk vodka together - but he is, with all due apologies, a coward. He never raised these concerns [with Russia]."

Despite the several controversies, the delegates decided in a resolution to hold all future congresses in Ukraine, mostly because of the advantage such a location offers members of the Eastern diaspora, who have a difficult time obtaining visas to Western countries and can ill afford the more expensive costs associated with visiting the West.

The highlight of the four-day conclave was the appearance of Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yuschenko, whose mere arrival in the cramped amphitheater of the Teachers' Building during the opening ceremony held on the first evening brought a rousing round of applause.

When he got up to speak, he received a standing ovation. The delegates, many of whom waited to hear Ukraine's most popular politician dispense oppositionist rhetoric, received an earful. The future presidential candidate directed a slashing rhetoric at those who hold the reigns of power in Ukraine today.

"This regime killed the Ukrainian idea, so as to announce afterwards that it had not developed," said Mr. Yuschenko.

He added, "The tragedy in the current situation is that the regime did not Ukrainianize, but became more non-descript. Poverty and unemployment destroyed in many any faith in a Ukrainian state."

And in another biting comment he noted: "While patriots fought for an independent Ukraine, behind their backs a pseudo-elite was forming, for which Ukraine is simply a territory for doing business."

Most of Ukraine's state and government leadership, many of whom were extended personal invitations, were no-shows at the congress, among them President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Vice Prime Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk represented both of them on opening night and was greeted with tepid applause by the delegates and guests, who numbered some 500 in all.

Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Lytvyn later met with the delegates - those who had not yet dispersed to be precise - on August 22, a day after the conclave had ended. Mr. Yanukovich met privately with Mr. Lozynskij on August 19.

A solemn march along Volodymyrska Street, where many of Ukraine's oldest historic sites are situated, in commemoration of the Great Famine of 1932-33, with the participation of more than 1,000 delegates, visitors and Kyivans, also proved a memorable if somber moment during the four day-gathering. It ended beneath a steady drizzle at the foot of the bell tower of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Sobor, where the Great Famine memorial stands. There Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Archbishop Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church celebrated a panakhyda in memory of the 7 million-10 million that Stalin's regime

artificially starved to death.

The following day the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in conjunction with the UWC conclave, held a round table on the 70th anniversary of the tragic event and heard remarks by such diverse personalities as Natalia Zarudna, deputy state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Archbishop Husar and National Deputy Ivan Plusch, former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada.

While Ms. Zarudna informed those in attendance that the Ukrainian delegation at the U.N. was preparing to table a resolution in the General Assembly to have the Great Famine officially recognized as genocide, Archbishop Husar noted that recognition of the famine for what it was would only work if true repentance "within the heart" took place. Finally Mr. Plusch noted that in Ukraine too many are still not cognizant of what happened in Ukraine's eastern and southern regions in 1932-1933, for which the current regime should hold blame.

Mr. Kaczaraj noted another, more upbeat highlight: the unique and interesting country reports given on the second day by representatives of each of the country delegations present at the conclave.

"What really impressed me were the reports - for example the one by the Italian representative," explained Mr. Kaczaraj. "I did not realize that there was such a heavy concentration of Ukrainians - half a million, I think - in Italy, mostly of the fourth emigration."

Mr. Kaczaraj said he believed it was the responsibility of the new leadership of the UWC to help nurture the new émigré Ukrainian communities, especially in Eastern diaspora regions - whether in Russia or Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan - to coalesce, to develop and to retain their identities.

"We need to help them organize their communities, so that they will grow and Ukrainianize. There are so many Ukrainians out there who do not know who they are," explained Mr. Kaczaraj.



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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Miami community gather to celebrate couple's 60th wedding anniversary



Irene and Nicholas Rakush next to some of their records of achievement.

by Donna Maksymowich-Waskiewicz

MIAMI – Members of the Miami Ukrainian community gathered to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of Nicholas and Irene Rakush on Sunday, July 13. The festivities followed Sunday divine liturgy at the Assumption-Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church.

More than \$1,700 was donated to the church in the Rakushes' name in celebration of this momentous occasion – very fitting for a couple who have spearheaded so many fund-raising campaigns for Ukrainian organizations here in the United States and, most dear to them, in Ukraine.

Mr. and Mrs. Rakush arrived in Miami in 1968 and immediately became involved in the local Ukrainian National Association Branch 368, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 17, the Ukrainian American Club of Miami and the Assumption-Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church. They have served as officers of these organizations during the past 35 years and continue to mentor their current officers.

They helped found the Ukrainian

American Senior Society in 1975 where Mr. Rakush served as president for 20 years and led the way for countless donations to the Catholic Church and countless other causes, including the Shevchenko Scientific Society. The Rakushes also continue to support other local organizations like the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami. Their involvement in each of these groups has been instrumental in keeping the organizations strong and vital to Ukrainian life in Miami.

Kind words and well wishes for "many years" were expressed by many community members, most notably Father Ivan Chirovsky, Miroslava Terhakovec, Maria Wenglowskyj and Michael Kowalchuk. Representing the younger generation, Donna Maksymowich-Waskiewicz expressed sincere appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Rakush for their years of hard work and for the fine example they have been to all Ukrainians who know them.

From the champagne toast and "Mnohaya Lita" to the beef stroganoff and torte, Miami Ukrainians paid tribute to two pillars of the Ukrainian community, Nicholas and Irene Rakush.

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number. Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.

Lesia Ukrainka School of Ukrainian Studies in Morris County, NJ

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The first day of classes will be on September 6, 2003, at Morris Catholic High School.

Lubodar Olesnycky, President of the Parents' Committee
Website: www.ridna.org

The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear on September 14, 2003.

For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by September 5, 2003.

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

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

The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America invites its membership to the

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Ukrainian author...

(Continued from page 11)

and giving her friends from the community rides to school.

In the end, Luba comes to terms with her dual identity as a Ukrainian American, learning to be both Ukrainian and American. In the course of her narrative, Luba also provides a portrait of life in an urban Ukrainian American community in the 1960s, when World War II refugees were still relatively recent immigrants.

Like the character Luba, Irene Zabytko is a first-generation Ukrainian American from the Ukrainian Village in Chicago. For her writing, she has received the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award and has appeared on National Public Radio's "The Sound of Writing."

Ms. Zabytko is also the author of "The Sky Unwashed," a novel about elderly Ukrainian women who moved back into their homes near the Chernobyl power plant not long after the disastrous explosion. "The Sky Unwashed" was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers

title, a Book Sense 76 selection and a New England Booksellers Association Discovery selection.

The book was recently reviewed in the Chicago Tribune. Writing in the paper's May 25 issue, Julie Parson-Nesbitt noted that "Irene Zabytko brings this place [the Ukrainian Village section of Chicago] and time vividly to life with insight, affection and humor" and that she "provides an engaging and perceptive look into a community rarely portrayed in American literature."

The reviewer also wrote that Ms. Zabytko "has a gift for bringing her characters to life by showing their weaknesses" and "has a sharp ear for language." Ms. Parson-Nesbitt added that "Chicago readers will catch the in jokes and sly references: Western Avenue becomes Eastern Avenue, and the University of Illinois at Chicago is thinly disguised as Loop University."

"'When Luba Leaves Home' adds to the enduring literature of American immigrant stories told through the compelling voices of its crucial first-generation daughters," the review concludes.

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The News from...

(Continued from page 10)

CORNELIA, Ga.: A Ukrainian American's insight into freedom

Andrew Demus, a master woodworker was featured in The Northeast Georgian, a local newspaper in Cornelia, Ga., on March 11, which focused on his American patriotism and its roots. According to columnist Bob Justus, Mr. Demus, who survived both the Soviet and the Nazi regimes, worked as a slave laborer in Hitler's Nazi Germany during World War II. He learned woodworking from his father, and uses this skill to make others happy; he sends wooden model cars and planes to children who are sick or injured, like victims of Columbine.

Mr. Demus was born in 1926 in a Ukrainian village north of the Black Sea. During World War II Mr. Demus' mother was shot because she refused to give a German soldier her chickens. His father, who helped Jews and others find safety during the German occupation, met a similar fate, though at the hands of the Soviets: he was executed for giving food to a German soldier, despite the fact that he was forced to do it.

Mr. Demus, meanwhile, was sent to Germany as a slave laborer. After he was freed he went to work in a field kitchen for the Americans when the 7th Tank (Armored) Division of Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army advanced near Mannheim. He then went to Erlangen and joined the 9th Air Force. Mr. Demus' next job led him to a supply room at Bruck, Germany, where he worked for SSgt Trayce A. Gilstrap of Alto, Georgia. In 1949 Mr. Demus emigrated to England and became an interpreter. Then, in 1959, he finally arrived in New York.

The Northeast Georgian columnist interviewed Mr. Demus because he wanted to get a perspective on why Americans want "peace at any price." Mr. Demus responded that this was because many people do not know what it is like to exist under the rule of a dictator. Mr. Demus added that he believes everything possible must be done to defend the United States and its freedom.

ST. PAUL, Alberta: Young Ukrainian Canadian writes book

Because Lisa Grekul, a Ukrainian Canadian, felt that there was a lack of Ukrainian Canadian literature, she wrote "Kalyna's Song." While in a Canadian literature class at the University of Alberta, Ms. Grekul said she did not see enough of the Ukrainian Canadian heritage of Western Canada. Ms. Grekul at first believed this was because there were no authors who wrote on the subject, but later she learned that was not the case. She came to believe that literature about Ukrainian Canadians exists, but is not taught because it seemingly does not appeal to a universal audience.

As Marc Horton, books editor for The Journal, discovered in his interview with Ms. Grekul, Colleen Lutzak, the main character in "Kalyna's Song," and its author share many similarities. Colleen is an excellent student, a fine musician and an independent thinker growing up in St. Paul. She, also like Ms. Grekul, is a member of a closely knit family proud of its ethnic roots. Like Ms. Grekul, Colleen attends the United World College in Swaziland at the age of 17, an experience that changes her forever.

Ms. Grekul is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis on Ukrainian Canadian literature at the University of British Columbia. "Kalyna's Song" is published by Coteau Books, is 385 pages in length, and can be purchased for \$19.95.

MADISON, N.J.: A part of Ukraine on exhibit

On display in an exhibit titled "New Jersey Folk: Celebrating Our Diversity" is a Ukrainian costume formerly owned by Taissa Meleshko, currently of Apopka, Fla., The Weekly learned from New Jerseyan Odarka Stockert. Madison's Museum of Early Trades and Crafts is home to the display of the DP era Ukrainian costume, made of surplus army materials. In addition, the exhibit showcases pysanky and valuables owned by immigrants of various ethnic backgrounds that have been brought to the U.S. from countries all over the world.

Through this exhibit, which has been funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Madison Museum aims to portray the lives of immigrants. Ukrainian artifacts, as well as Armenian, African-American, Dutch, English, Indian, Italian, Latino, Norwegian, Russian, Slovak, Swedish and Turkish, can be seen at the exhibit, which runs through January 11, 2004. For further information contact the museum at (973) 377-2982.

- Compiled by Roxolana Woloszyn

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September 8-11 Regensburg Reunion	October 17-19 Plast-KPS Convention
September 12-14 KLK Weekend and Annual Meeting Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion	October 31-November 2 Halloween Weekend costume party for youth and costume zabava for all
September 18-21 Reunion of Salzburg Gymnasium	November 7-9 Plast Orlykiada
September 26-28	November 15-16 UACC
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 3

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John's Ukrainian Montessori Preschool will begin its fifteenth year of operation. This is an individualized preschool program in the Ukrainian language for children between the ages of two and a half and five. For further information contact Olenka Makarushka-Kolodiy at (973) 763-1797.

Friday, September 5

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) announces a two-month celebration of modern Ukrainian art beginning on August 29. The event showcases award-winning Lviv-based artists Vasyl Bazhay (abstract painting) and Volodymyra Hankevych (artistic tapestries) in a premier U.S. exhibition. An opening reception honoring the Illinois Arts Council's unwavering support of UIMA will be held on Friday, September 5, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Located at 2320 W. Chicago Avenue, UIMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. For more information about the events or UIMA, call (773) 227-5522 or visit the website at www.uima-art.org.

Tuesday, September 9,
and Saturday, September 13

BOSTON: Volunteers are welcome to help with a food and humanitarian aid shipment to needy children, the disabled and the elderly in Ukraine by Father John Danylevich Foundation. On Tuesday, September 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., volunteers will sort food and aid, preparing them for packing. On Saturday, September 13, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., volunteers will pack the food and humanitarian aid into boxes, as well as seal, weigh and label the approximately 5,000 pounds for shipment. The sorting and packing will take place in the basement of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 24 Orchard-

hill Rd., Jamaica Plain, Mass. Lunch will be served, and there will be a door prize. Come and bring a friend. For more information, visit the website www.fatherjohn-foundation.org, or call (781) 944-9136. Donations are gratefully accepted and may be mailed to: Fr. John Danylevich Foundation, Inc., 68 Pine Ridge Rd., Reading, MA 01867.

Saturday, September 13

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian Heritage School (Nasha Ukrainska Ridna Shkola) will begin the 2003-2004 academic year at 9 a.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center with a full day of classes. On this day parents may register new students, purchase schoolbooks and speak with the school administration or the school board. Parents and guardians may call the school office (215) 663-5322 on Saturday morning, September 6, for any further information.

Sunday, September 14

NEW YORK: A gala concert celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day will be held at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Seventh Avenue and 27th Street in Manhattan beginning at 2:30 p.m. This "cultural event of the year" is co-sponsored by the United Ukrainian Americans Organizations of Greater New York and the newly formed Ukrainian Studio of Drama in New York. The director of the program, National Artist of Ukraine Ivan Bernatsky, promises an inspiring and atypical event. Performers include the Dumka Chorus directed by Vasyl Hrechinsky; Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky's exciting Syzokryli Dance Ensemble; renowned pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky; singers Lyubov Shchypchuk, Anna Bachynska and Roman Tsybala; violinist Adrian Bryttan; and artists of the Ukrainian Studio of Drama, Volodymyr Kurylo and Lyudmila Hrabovska.

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Give the college students in your family their own nine-month gift subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly is a great resource for students who plan to write college papers on topics about Ukraine, helps students keep in touch with the Ukrainian community throughout the United States and Canada, and gives students the opportunity to keep learning about their Ukrainian heritage once they leave home.

The subscription rate for the academic year is only \$40 (\$35 if the student is a member of the Ukrainian National Association).

To take advantage of this special offer, just fill out the form below and mail it with a check to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, PO Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Or, phone The Weekly's Subscription Department at (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042, and charge the subscription to your credit card.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____
(please type or print)

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE (optional): _____

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UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

September 13-14, 2003

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Festival Committee
and The Embassy of Ukraine

at

St Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral
15100 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring MD 20904

PROGRAM:

- > Greetings from H. E. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko – Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA and other Ukrainian & American Dignitaries.
- > Ukrainian Dancers – Lyman Sr. & Jr.,
- > Children's Ensemble Kozachata of the Embassy of Ukraine to the U.S.A.
- > Ukrainian Band – New Day from Philadelphia, PA
- > Bandura Trio Namysto Trenton, NJ
- > Duet Chereshenky NYC
- > Roman Tsybala – tenor
- > Stephan Havryliv – comedian from Canada
- > Iryna Raiko - solist
- > Concert Not to be missed - Violinist Wasył Popadiuk from Canada

ACTIVITIES:

- > All-Day Concerts and Performances on the main stage
- > Icon and paintings exhibits
- > Activities for Children
- > Market Place (Ukrainian Crafts, Arts, Paintings, Novelties, Ceramics, Jewelry, Clothing, Music/Videos, Books and much, much more...)
- > Ukrainian and American Foods
- > "Kozak" Beer Garden – featuring assorted Ukrainian Beers and Special Liqueurs

DANCE:

- > Saturday at 9:00 PM – Dance featuring Good Day & Wasył Popadiuk will be held in the St. Andrew Founders Hall

DIRECTIONS:

- > From DC Beltway 495 take 650 North (exit 28)

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