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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXI

No. 38

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2003

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Embassy of Russia works against Senate resolution on Famine-Genocide

WASHINGTON — The Embassy of Russia in the United States has voiced its opposition to a Senate resolution that recognizes the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as genocide.

Radio Liberty reported last week that sources said Russian officials have contacted officials at the U.S. Department of State and in Congress in an effort to block the passage of Senate Resolution 202, which was introduced by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Contacted by Radio Liberty's Myroslava Gongadze, the press secretary of the Russian Embassy, Yevhen Khoryshko, stated: "We categorically disagree with this assessment of the famine in

Ukraine of the 1930s."

He continued: "Many aspects of the realization of the policies of the Soviet leadership of that time headed by Stalin were tragic for many peoples on the territory of the USSR, not only for Ukrainians, but also for Russians, Estonians, Chechens, Kazaks, Crimean Tatars and many others. In this case, American lawmakers are quite readily giving political assessments that have far-reaching consequences. This testifies to the lack of understanding on the part of American lawmakers of the juridical essence of the term 'genocide.' Again, I would like to underscore that the Russian side categorically disagrees with the evaluations contained in the American legislators' resolution."

"The policies of collectivization and the famine in Ukraine of the 1930s in no way fall under the juridical concept of genocide," he added.

Senate Resolution 202 — which carries the descriptive title "A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the genocidal Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933" — was introduced on July 28 and thus far has eight co-sponsors.

It states that "the man-made Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933 was an act of genocide as defined by the United Nations

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With reservations, Cabinet and Rada approve Ukraine's entry into common economic space

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers and Verkhovna Rada pushed through separate documents on September 17 in support of the country's entry into a common market with Russia, Kazakstan and Belarus.

The backing by the country's executive and legislative branches cleared away any vestige of internal opposition and paved the way for President Leonid Kuchma to sign an agreement on a common economic space with the three neighboring states, which was to take place on September 18, the second day of the Summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Yalta.

However, the new economic arrangement, if it comes to pass, would leave in serious doubt whether Ukraine could qualify for entry into the World Trade Organization and whether it could integrate into the European Union.

Making his first public remarks in Kyiv as the new United States ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst suggested during a press conference on September 18 that the common economic space was not in Ukraine's best interest if the country was serious about entering the WTO and the Economic Union.

"Of course, it is the Ukrainian govern-

ment's decision on what it wants to do with the united economic space, but I think there needs to be a careful look at how this agreement fits in with the country's aspirations to join the Euro-Atlantic community," explained Ambassador Herbst. "I believe it is in the interest of Ukraine not to take any step that will complicate that process."

However, the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers underscored in their statements that the treaty on a common economic space could not expound any ideas or goals that would contravene either the Constitution of Ukraine or the country's legislative base, or counter its efforts at Euro-Atlantic integration.

The Verkhovna Rada voiced its support with 290 voting in favor of the resolution. The 102 members of the Our Ukraine faction and the 18 that belong to the Tymoshenko Bloc did not take part in the vote.

The Cabinet of Ministers, which had twice failed to find consensus on the matter, unexpectedly issued a short four-paragraph statement in support of the Yalta signing at the beginning of its weekly session, while bypassing any further discussion on the matter as originally had been planned.

In the days leading up to the CIS

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New U.S. envoy arrives in Kyiv

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With little fanfare, Ambassador John Herbst arrived in Kyiv on September 13 to assume his duties as the fifth United States chief diplomat to Ukraine since the country gained independence in 1991.

In his first official meeting with Ukrainian officials, the former ambassador to Uzbekistan held a brief discussion on September 16 with Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Kostyantyn Gryshchenko — formerly Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. who was appointed to his new post on September 3 — and presented a copy of his credentials.

Afterwards, the two met briefly with the press. Reading in Ukrainian from a prepared text, the new ambassador stated that he seeks to improve relations between Kyiv and Washington.

"My main goal is to improve our bilateral relations in all aspects," explained Mr. Herbst.

Ambassador Herbst encouraged Ukraine to move toward Euro-Atlantic integration and held out hope that the 2004 presidential elections would prove that Ukraine is a solidly democratic country. He also praised Ukraine's participation in the U.S.-led stabilization force in Iraq.

At his first public appearance at a conference on human rights and freedom of speech, held on

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Questions remain on third anniversary of Gongadze's disappearance

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko, chairman of the parliamentary committee investigating the death of journalists announced on September 16 that it had unanimously approved a resolution calling on the Procurator General's Office to open an official investigation into the complicity of the highest echelons of state leadership, including President Leonid Kuchma, in the death of Heorhii Gongadze.

Mr. Omelchenko reported on the results of the committee's work during a rally held on Independence Square in the center of Kyiv on the third anniversary since the disappearance of the young Ukrainian journalist on September 16, 2000. Mr. Gongadze's beheaded remains were found a month later buried in a shallow grave outside Kyiv.

"I am forced to report on the work of the committee on the investigation into the death of Heorhii Gongadze here before you because Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn has refused to allow it to take place in the session hall," explained Mr. Omelchenko to some 2,000 people and politicians gath-

ered on the square.

Mr. Omelchenko, a member of the Tymoshenko Bloc in the Verkhovna Rada, had publicly accused the president and his cronies of corruption and com-

plicity in the death of Mr. Gongadze for some time, but this was the first time the committee he heads had officially sent documents to the Procurator General's

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National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko addresses a Kyiv rally held on the third anniversary of the disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze.

ANALYSIS

Communists come to the rescue of President Leonid Kuchma, again

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

Ukraine's ruling elites are fearful of the end of the Kuchma era. President Leonid Kuchma and his oligarchic allies have no candidate agreeable to the three main clans who could win an election and act as a neutral "umpire" between them.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, head of the Donbas clan's Party of Regions, is unacceptable to Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the presidential administration, and the rival Kyiv clan's Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU).

Mr. Medvedchuk is more fearful than the other two principal oligarchic clans of a victory by Viktor Yushchenko. Anders Aslund of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment believes that, whereas the Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk clans are evolving from oligarchs into businessmen, Mr. Medvedchuk's SDPU has no future.

In his opening speech at this month's Verkhovna Rada session, Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn indirectly attacked the SDPU for leaving its accumulated riches abroad, rather than reinvesting them in the Ukrainian economy. The crisis within the SDPU can be seen by its expulsion of the Verkhovna Rada's first vice-chairman, Oleksander Zinchenko, who unsuccessfully attempted to modernize the party and one of its television channels, Inter.

Renationalization and a reversal of the insider privatization that took place in the 1990s is unlikely. But a Yushchenko victory will be accompanied by intense pressure to launch investigations into high-level corruption. A recent poll found that 78 percent of Ukrainians believe that state action against corruption is purely "cosmetic." During the Yushchenko government Dr. Aslund calculated that between \$2 billion and \$3 billion was returned to the state budget from the oligarchs. National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhytko, himself leader of the Dnipropetrovsk clan's Labor Ukraine, admitted that capital flight in 2002 had totaled a record \$2.27 billion.

Ukraine could follow Russia, where President Vladimir Putin supposedly made a deal with the oligarchs whereby they would keep their wealth in return for staying out of politics. Such a deal in Ukraine would remove at a stroke the centrists from the political arena. But, as Mr. Kuchma points out in his new book, "Ukraine Is Not Russia," Mr. Putin has a KGB background and was trusted as outgoing President Boris Yeltsin's successor. Mr. Yushchenko would be elected as an opposition candidate without President Kuchma's blessing, making the issue of mutual trust more difficult.

A Yushchenko presidency would be forced to grapple with two additional issues. He would be unlikely to allow the oligarchs to continue to monopolize the media, particularly television. Here, Mr. Medvedchuk and Labor Ukraine oligarch Viktor Pinchuk would lose out most. Another area would be the need to clean out the Internal Affairs Ministry special forces who are accused of involvement in criminal and political violence.

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

Different oligarchs are pleading for Mr. Yushchenko to not launch criminal cases and other actions against them if he is elected. Ironically, these are the same kinds of activities that the authorities are themselves undertaking against the opposition, such as criminal cases against radical oppositionist Yulia Tymoshenko.

If President Kuchma's political reforms are adopted by Parliament, the 2004 elections are more likely to be free of violence and fair because Mr. Kuchma and the oligarchs will then have nothing to fear from a Yushchenko victory. Mykhailo Pohrebynskyi, an adviser to Mr. Medvedchuk, said in a recent interview in *Ukrainska Pravda* that, if the reforms are not adopted, there will be a violent and unfree election campaign, especially in the oligarchs' eastern Ukrainian heartland.

Three constitutional drafts have been drawn up by the executive to attempt to deal with the Yushchenko threat. The first two attempted to lengthen President Kuchma's term in office by postponing next year's elections until the parliamentary elections in 2006. This was blocked by the opposition and Mr. Kuchma withdrew his second draft in early August.

The third draft has successfully co-opted the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) from the opposition. The double standards here are palpable; when the national democrats cooperated with the CPU in opposition, Mr. Kuchma attacked them for working with "anti-state forces." The CPU did not back the parliamentary resolution on the 1933 Great Famine.

This is not the first time the Communists have come to Mr. Kuchma's and the oligarchs' rescue. In April 2001 the Kuchma-oligarch-CPU alliance brought down the Yushchenko government. During the height of the Kuchmagate crisis from November 2000 to the March 2002 elections, the CPU remained neutral, thereby allowing Mr. Kuchma to ride out the crisis. After the elections the CPU failed to reach agreement with Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine on the elections for Parliament chairman speaker. This allowed pro-Kuchma factions to elect former presidential administration head, Mr. Lytvyn, who won by one vote, that of CPU member Mykhailo Potebenko. As prosecutor-general during the Kuchmagate crisis, Mr. Potebenko shielded Mr. Kuchma from allegations of his involvement in opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze's killing.

In July, a month before the third draft, the CPU openly came out against Mr. Yushchenko. Interviewed by the *Kievskii Telegraf* newspaper and the *versii.com* website, both owned by the Labor Ukraine clan, CPU Chairman Petro Symonenko said, "In my view, the coming to power of Yushchenko is a threat to both the state and the people of Ukraine." In Mr. Symonenko's view, Mr. Yushchenko is "not a patriot of Ukraine."

The third draft of constitutional changes outlines plans to transform Ukraine into a parliamentary-presidential republic by changing the election of the president from direct popular vote to a two-thirds majority of parliamentary deputies. Until the 2006 elections pro-Kuchma factions will possess a slim majority in the Verkhovna Rada. Pro-Kuchma parliamentary majority leader Stepan Havrysh claims that he has 241 deputies. These, together with 62 Communists, give a slim majority of three

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ukrainians honor slain journalist

KYIV – Some 3,000 people gathered in Kyiv on September 16 to honor Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze on the third anniversary of his disappearance, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Gongadze's decapitated body was found at Tarascha near Kyiv in November 2000. The secret tapes made by presidential security officer Mykola Melnychenko linked President Leonid Kuchma and former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko to Mr. Gongadze's killing. "[Gongadze] was the only journalist who took a solitary stand against the authorities," opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko told the gathering. "Kuchma and Kravchenko should be at this meeting and [should] beg for forgiveness on their knees," she added, according to the *Ukrainska Pravda* website. Earlier the same day, a cross was erected at the site near Tarascha where Gongadze's body was found. "This is not just a symbol of the death of a man, this is a symbol of truth, of the fight for truth," Socialist Party Chairman Oleksander Moroz said during the ceremony. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New U.S. ambassador in Kyiv

KYIV – John Herbst, the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, presented his credentials to Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko in Kyiv on September 15, Ukrainian news agencies reported. "My primary goal is to improve our bilateral relations in all aspects," Mr. Herbst told journalists after his meeting with Mr. Gryshchenko, who until recently was Ukraine's ambassador to the United States. "As Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and the [Ukrainian] government, we, too, want to see Ukraine integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community," Interfax quoted Ambassador Herbst as saying. Mr. Herbst previously served as ambassador to Uzbekistan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada discusses single economic zone

KYIV – Following a request from Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the Verkhovna Rada on September 16 began to mull the controversial draft accord between Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine on the creation of a single economic zone, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who represented Kyiv in drafting the accord, told lawmakers that the document does not threaten Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization or its future integration with the European Union. Mr. Azarov also argued that the accord will not impair the country's sovereignty. Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko

said Kyiv should sign this accord with "reservations" in order to avoid violating the country's Constitution and legislation. Our Ukraine, led by Viktor Yushchenko, issued a statement on September 15 calling on President Leonid Kuchma not to sign this accord. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Economic zone on Cabinet's agenda

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers is expected on September 17 to adopt a stance on the possible signing of the draft accord between Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Ukraine on the creation of a single economic zone – which has provoked much controversy in Ukraine – by President Leonid Kuchma during a Commonwealth of Independent States summit in Yalta on September 18-19. Meanwhile, Labor Ukraine leader Serhii Tyhytko, who is also chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, has threatened that his party will recall its three representatives in Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet – Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk, Industrial Policy Minister Anatolii Miyalytsia and Economy Minister Valerii Khoroshkovskiy – if they fail to support the creation of a single economic zone of the four CIS states, Interfax reported on September 11. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma pushes single economic zone

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said in Luhansk on September 12 that the draft agreement on the formation of a common economic zone by Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine worked out earlier this year provides that every signatory to the agreement may independently adopt resolutions regarding the "format" of its integration with the others, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma's words seemed to address the fears shared by some Ukrainian lawmakers and Cabinet members that the agreement, if signed, could deprive Ukraine of some of its sovereignty and hamper Kyiv's integration with the European Union and NATO. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Committee recommends rejection of zone

KYIV – The parliamentary Committee for European Integration has recommended that President Leonid Kuchma not to sign an agreement on a common economic zone with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the signing of which is reportedly expected to take place at a CIS summit in Yalta on September 18-19, Interfax reported on September 10. The committee said it believes the agreement contradicts the country's course for the integration into Europe and the Constitution of Ukraine.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

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

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

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

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

Postmaster, send address changes to: Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
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The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, September 21, 2003, No. 38, Vol. LXXI

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National Rukh of Ukraine marks anniversary, pays tribute to Chornovil



KYIV – The National Rukh of Ukraine Party on September 8 celebrated 14 years since its inception, first as a civic organization and later as a political party. The organization played a decisive role in the drive for Ukrainian independence as the Soviet Union crumbled. The event was marked with a rally at the gravesite of Vyacheslav Chornovil, located at the historic Baikove Cemetery in Kyiv. Mr. Chornovil, who died under mysterious circumstances in a car accident in 1999, was one of the central founders of Rukh and its chairman until his death. Among those in attendance at the anniversary commemoration (as seen in the photo on the left) were the current Rukh Party chairman, National Deputy Borys Tarasyuk; a former chairman of Rukh, National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko; and Rukh party leaders, National Deputies Yuri Kliuchkovskiy and Lilia Hryhorovych. Also present were several hundred current Rukh members, including a large contingent of young activists (some of whom are seen in the photo on the right).

– Roman Woronowycz



Questions remain...

(Continued from page 1)

Office requesting that it formally open a criminal case.

The Prosecutor General's Office acknowledged on September 18 that it had received documents from the ad hoc parliamentary committee.

Mr. Omelchenko, once a general in the now-defunct Soviet KGB and later in the Security Service of Ukraine, also implicated Verkhovna Rada Chairman Lytvyn, the president's chief of staff at the time of the disappearance and murder; the chairman of the State Tax Administration, Yuri Kravchenko, then minister of internal affairs; National Deputy Leonid Derkach, in 2000 head of the Security Service of Ukraine; and recently removed minister of internal affairs, Yuri Smirnov, who was then chief of the Kyiv militia; in the disappearance of Mr. Gongadze.

"Mr. Kravchenko and Mr. Smirnov arranged the death of Heorhii Gongadze," charged the national deputy. "The kidnapping was organized by the highest echelons in the land, including Kuchma."

Mr. Omelchenko noted that the Procurator General's office should have all the evidence it needs already on file, as it was obtained during the three years the office has investigated the disappearance and death. He added that still the country's top prosecutor had failed to identify and charge those persons responsible.

The rally, which lasted several hours, included a candlelight vigil and a march to the Journalists' Union of Ukraine, the site of a memorial to the more than one dozen journalists who have died under questionable circumstances in Ukraine since the country gained independence.

Leaders of the political opposition, including National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous parliamentary faction, Communist leader Petro

Symonenko and Socialist leader Oleksander Moroz, took part in the commemoration. National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko of Our Ukraine was not present.

Mr. Moroz eulogized Mr. Gongadze, the founder of one of the first Internet newspapers in Ukraine, as a figure of historical importance.

"I believe he will be remembered by history, and not just Ukrainian history. Already a book has appeared in the United States about him," explained Mr. Moroz. (Presumably the reference was to J.V. Koshiw's book "Beheaded" published in England.)

The national deputy also noted that, after three arduous years, government officials have yet to provide Mr. Gongadze's mother sufficient proof that the remains held in a Kyiv state mortuary are that of her son, so that she might finally bury him.

"Today we cannot say the words, 'May he rest in peace,' for his remains still have not been laid to rest, as primitive as that is," Mr. Omelchenko stated.

Lesia Gongadze, who had actively taken part in public demonstrations dedicated to determining the details behind the death of her only son, did not attend the rally. In an interview with a local newspaper, The Ukrainian Newspaper, Mrs. Gongadze's attorney, Andrii Fedur, said her pursuit of the truth and her fight with government officials had destroyed her health and left her unable to continue.

"Unfortunately, Mrs. Gongadze's health has worsened quite drastically," explained Mr. Fedur in the interview. "She basically has no means of existence. She lives alone in Lviv with her heartbreak. She receives a miserly pension. She doesn't have the money to travel to Kyiv. She addresses her concerns to the Prosecutor General's Office by mail, to which she receives no replies."

Mr. Fedur said that the Prosecutor General's Office refuses to meet with him and has not allowed him to review

the documents in its possession. He underscored once more that the authorities are doing everything possible to muddle the issue and prolong the investigation until it is forgotten.

"It has been a year since Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun announced that within a half year the Gongadze matter would be resolved. There is no end in sight," explained Mr. Fedur. "Only plenty of tongue-wagging is occurring – announcements and declarations. No one has been identified as responsible for the murder. No head has been found, and no one is searching for a head because most probably with the head lies the key to the reasons for Heorhii's death."

Mr. Fedur confirmed that Mrs. Gongadze was seeking further DNA testing, this time of her son's hair, which authorities had failed to do earlier.

He also noted that, while much had been reported in the press about the possible involvement of law enforcement officials in the death of the young journalist, the Procurator General's Office has not traveled that path. Mr. Fedur explained that a testament written by Ihor Honcharov, who headed a special militia force before he was reassigned – in which he acknowledged responsibility for the death of Mr. Gongadze and the kidnapping and murder of other Ukrainians – would never be fully investigated.

"The letters from Ihor Honcharov, unfortunately, will not have any serious consequences. No one will examine the facts that

were revealed in them, which would help to determine the truth in the Gongadze matter" said Mrs. Gongadze's lawyer.

The Institute of Mass Information received the 13 pages of diary-like scribbles after Mr. Honcharov's death. The former special forces leader died while in pre-trial detention awaiting completion of an investigation into corruption charges leveled against him. His family has said that he was beaten repeatedly while in prison. Also in question is why the government cremated his body soon after his death and before an inquiry into the circumstances of his death could be held. The documents received by the institute were marked with the inscription "open after my death."

In them, Mr. Honcharov implicated nearly all the persons named by National Deputy Omelchenko in the disappearance and death of the Ukrainian journalist. The documents have been acknowledged by experts to be authentic.

On the same day as the rally on Kyiv's Independence Square, a much smaller commemoration took place in a wooded area south of Kyiv near the town of Tarascha, where Mr. Gongadze's beheaded body was found in November 2000.

At the site, several lawmakers, including Mr. Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine faction, unveiled a memorial cross, carved in granite, to honor Mr. Gongadze. The following day a requiem service was held at St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Kyiv.

70th anniversary of The Ukrainian Weekly

The Ukrainian Weekly will mark its 70th anniversary on October 6, 2003. With this milestone in mind, The Weekly is preparing a special anniversary section in its October 5 issue. Any community leaders, correspondents, readers and others who would like to send in materials related to the anniversary (e.g., commentaries, greetings, letters to the editor) are asked to submit those materials by September 29.

OBITUARY: Olena W. Stercho, lawyer, human rights activist, 48

PHILADELPHIA – On September 2 the Ukrainian American community suffered a great loss, the sudden and untimely death of Olena W. Stercho, Esq. Parastas services were held on Friday, September 5, 2003, at Nasevich Funeral Home in Philadelphia, with the Very Rev. Dr. Ronald Popivchak, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Bridgeport, Pa., officiating. On Saturday, September 6, a requiem liturgy was celebrated at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, followed by interment at the parish cemetery.

“Olenka,” the daughter of Irena and the late Dr. Peter G. Stercho, is survived by her husband, Peter Choma; her mother, Irena Stercho; her brother, Dr. Yuriy P. Stercho, with his wife, Diane, and their son Peter; her sister, Maria Stercho, with her husband, Paul Gillespie; her mother-in-law, Olga Choma; her uncle, Mychaylo Urbhan; and her god-daughter, Olena Honcharuk. She is survived as well by a community of friends and colleagues much saddened by her loss, many of whom traveled from great distances to attend her funeral.

Ms. Stercho's life was marked by important milestones that were remembered by those attending the parastas, the requiem liturgy, the tryzna (memorial repast) that followed, and the intimate weekend-long gatherings of friends and colleagues who met to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual.

Olena W. Stercho was born on August 8, 1955. Her childhood was similar to that of most children raised by parents who had survived the terrible years of World War II and who had come to the United States in hopes of living a peaceful and secure life.

Ms. Stercho graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Beta Gamma Sigma from Drexel University in 1977 with a B.S. in economics. She attended the University of Pennsylvania Law School and graduated with a Juris Doctor degree in 1980. Soon afterwards she was awarded a prestigious clerkship with Judge Judith Jamison with the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

She became an associate at the Offices of Richard F. Stern in Jenkintown, Pa., in 1982, and from the start, was successful in developing a loyal following among the firm's clients who relied on her analytical skills and devotion to their matters. She became a partner in 1989 and took on the major responsibility of managing the firm, which continued to grow in size. In 1996, at Ms. Stercho's urging, she and her partner, Richard Stern, decided to form a title abstract company. Ms. Stercho decided on the name, and Terra Abstract Inc. was formed. The company now has a separate staff and is thriving.

Ms. Stercho was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Montgomery County Bar

Association, and was admitted to practice before all courts in Pennsylvania, including all federal District Courts and Pennsylvania's Supreme Court. Her ability to handle difficult and protracted legal matters earned her the respect and admiration of her clients and was instrumental in making Stern and Stercho a successful law firm.

It was her love of the law and her belief in justice, as well as her keen interest in her Ukrainian heritage, that prompted Ms. Stercho to become a member of the Philadelphia-based Ukrainian Human Rights Committee. She was a key figure in the committee's work on behalf of Ukrainian dissidents and political prisoners. With other committee members, she helped organize countless demonstrations and community meetings with leading Ukrainian political activists, such as Ivan Drach, Dmytro Pavlychko, Mykhailo Horyn, Vyacheslav Chornovil, and Mykola and Raisa Rudenko.

In her capacity as the UHRC's vice-president, Ms. Stercho frequently traveled to Washington for meetings with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and State Department representatives on the issue of human rights in Ukraine. She was also actively engaged in the UHRC's efforts to disseminate information about the Great Famine of 1932-1933 and other atrocities perpetrated against the Ukrainian people by the Soviet regime, and served as the UHRC's legal counsel.

Her articles on the UHRC's activities, as well as those based on her personal observations of human rights issues in Ukraine, were frequently published in The Ukrainian Weekly. Other articles penned by Ms. Stercho for The Weekly covered topics as diverse as sailing and the arts.

Ms. Stercho's dedication and commitment to the Ukrainian community were evidenced in other significant ways. She served on the supervisory committee of Philadelphia's Ukrainian Self Reliance Federal Credit Union and on the board of directors of the Ukrainian National Choir, contributing her time and talent to strengthen both organizations.

Life for Ms. Stercho meant approaching problems, large and small, as puzzles to be solved, inconveniences to be battled with enthusiasm, energy and efficiency. Her one word answer to anything she perceived as unfair, or unethical, or defeatist was “unacceptable.” She was strong, opinionated, compassionate, generous in spirit and creative, always managing to combine the traditional with the innovative, often doing things her own way.

Always learning and always curious about new things, she found nothing in life to be mundane. She lived her life with a passionate intensity, whether it was practicing law, gardening, fighting for human rights,



Olena W. Stercho

cooking, shopping, music, driving, preparing legal briefs or writing introspective and insightful articles or letters to the editor.

For many years, Ms. Stercho hosted a pysanka party in her home, a tradition that evolved into a long-anticipated gathering of women of varying ages, some Ukrainian, some not. It was a core group that grew as the years went by, one that permitted the women attending to express their individual creative inclinations while bonding with one another and forging fast and enduring friendships.

One of Ms. Stercho's greatest passions was sailing. In 1993 she and a small group of Ukrainian Americans with a similar love of nautical adventuring took a sailing vacation in the British Virgin Islands. It was during this trip that the idea of establishing yet another tradition arose and, thus, the Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. was born. Ms. Stercho was one of the 13 founding members and served as the association's president in 1995-1996. As editor of the UANAI's newsletter, she devoted much effort and energy to writing articles about the group's activities and apprising members of upcoming adventures.

One of the members of the UANAI was Petro Choma, and it was during these sailing trips and during social gatherings at the homes of friends that Ms. Stercho discovered that her good friend Petro was becoming far more than a friend. As time passed, Olenka and Petro found that they had much in common and much to share with one another – for a lifetime. They were married by Father Ronald Popivchak at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church on September 13, 1997, in a beautiful ceremony attended by family and friends who recognized a marriage of true hearts and minds.

Almost six years later, many of these friends gathered at the same little church in Bridgeport to bid a final farewell to a woman who had been so dear to them in innumerable ways. Well over 200 people gathered to weep, to offer condolences to a grieving husband, mother, sister and brother, and to share with one another special memories and reflections of a special individual who had touched so many lives in so many different ways. All of those who were privileged to call Olenka “friend” instinctively knew this was a person who would never betray a confidence, would always be loyal, would always offer a helping hand.

And though a spark has been extinguished all too soon, it will be rekindled over and over again in hearts and minds that will forever hold Olenka dear.

The family has suggested that donations in memory of Ms. Stercho may be sent to: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; or The Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, 1901 Vine St., Philadelphia, PA 19103-9358.

– compiled by Tamara Stadnychenko

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: August 2002

Amount	Name	City
\$500.00	UNA Branch 125 Sisterhood of Annunciation	Chicago, Ill.
\$150.00	William Pastuszek Oksana Zakydalsky	Swarthmore, Pa. Toronto, Ontario
\$100.00	Mary Andreyko Yaroslav and Karen Ann Chelak	Albany, N.Y. Morristown, N.J.
\$55.00	George Babchuk	Crown Point, Ind.
\$50.00	Bohdan and Olena Buchynsky Mykola and Irene Rakush	Glendora, Calif. Miami Beach, Fla.
\$45.00	Andrei Harasymiak Marty Smith	New York, N.Y. McLean, Va.
\$40.00	Roman Hyszczynskij	Topeka, Kan.
\$35.00	Anthony Koltuniuk	Hoffman Estates, Ill.
\$30.00	Terry Gawryk	Chicago, Ill.
\$25.00	Natalia and Boris Bilash Tatyana Koropecyk-Cox John Koshikar Marian Maslak Jerry Petrasz Orest and Judy Tataryn Wasyly Wowchuk George Wyhinny	Millburn, N.J. Gainesville, Fla. Pisgah Forrest, N.C. Lakewood, Colo. Chicago, Ill. San Jose, Calif. Naperville, Fla. S. Barrington, Ill.
\$20.00	Svitlana Andrushkiw Roman and Julianna Maziak	Maplewood, N.J. Bloomfield Hills, Mich.
\$15.00	Frank Bugryn Gene Diduch Joseph and Luba Kladko In memory of Lubomyr Koltuniuk Halyna Polatajko Sonia Prokopetz	Bristol, Conn. Augusta, Ga. Sunnyvale, Calif. Denver, Colo. Bethel Park, Pa. Toronto, Ontario

Teodozia Sawycka M. Tataryn Joseph Zucofski	Riverside, Conn. Warren, Mich. Port Carbon, Pa.
\$10.00 William Adamshick Ellen Barlit Gregory Burbelo Natalia Chaykovsky Michael Gamrat Cathy Kotlar R. Melnyk Daria Samotulka Bohdan Storozuk Walter Tyshko Suzanne Wash	Perth Amboy, N.J. North Falmouth, Mass. Westerly, R.I. Morris Plains, N.J. Montreal, Quebec Wyckoff, N.J. Indianapolis, Ind. Hillsborough, N.J. Gold River, Calif. Winnipeg, Manitoba Davis, Calif.
\$5.00 Peter and Andre Ilnat Merle and Bonnie Jurkiewicz Hilary Kuzuw Alexander Malycky Lawrence Mannix Victor Nadozirny Ola Movchan-Iwanicki Ivan Pavlak Millie Pochtar Natalie Sorce Helen Tatarsky Michael Tereck	Brooklyn, N.Y. Toledo, Ohio Franklin Park, N.J. Calgary, Alberta Detroit, Mich. Cleveland, Ohio Warren, Mich. Hyde Park, N.Y. Pequannock, N.J. Hillsdale, Mich. Warren, Mich. Troy, Mich.

TOTAL: \$1,895.00

*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

SUMA credit union, UMANA support Weekly's Copies for Congress project

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Donations of \$1,000 each from the SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America have provided a good start to The Ukrainian Weekly's Copies for Congress fund-raising campaign for fall 2003.

In late July, The Weekly sent letters to Ukrainian credit unions and national organizations seeking financial support for its Copies for Congress project, which provides complimentary subscriptions to U.S. senators and representatives. "Our mission as a newspaper of record that serves, and is supported by, the Ukrainian American community has been to present vital information rarely conveyed by other news media. ... The Ukrainian Weekly's editorials have informed our legislators about our community's concerns and rallied readers to insist on congressional action on issues important to us," wrote Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz.

The letter also noted: "Distribution of The Ukrainian Weekly to members of Congress serves our entire community, but the cost of the free subscriptions – some \$30,000 per year – is borne by The Ukrainian Weekly – a large expense for our publication. We feel very strongly that these copies should continue to reach our senators and representatives, and we believe that you agree. After all, The Weekly is the only newspaper that provides such information consistently, coherently and accurately."

The SUMA credit union, which is based in Yonkers, N.Y., and has branch offices in Spring Valley, N.Y., and Stamford, Conn., noted in its letter that, in response to The Ukrainian Weekly's letter, its board of directors had approved "a donation of \$1,000 to your newspaper to help support your cause."

Signed by Treasurer/Manager Ihor Makarenko, the letter underscored that "Our board of directors appreciate your work in providing the United States Congress with copies of your valuable newspaper."

The UMANA donation was accompanied by a letter signed by George Hrycelak, M.D., executive director of UMANA, that read: "The board of directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America once again take great pleasure in supporting The Ukrainian Weekly's 'Copies for Congress' project." In 2002 also the association had contributed \$1,000 to the Copies for Congress project.

The UMANA letter noted that the donation was unanimously approved at the August 2003 executive board meeting upon a motion by Dr. Bohdan Iwanetz, president.

Each donation of \$1,000 is acknowledged with a special sponsor's acknowledgment featured prominently on page 3 of our newspaper which notes: "This issue of The Ukrainian Weekly is reaching all members of the U.S. Congress thanks to the generous sponsorship of ..."

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – JUNE 2003

Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 5/2003	6,444	13,367	2,921	22,732
Total Inactive Members – 5/2003	7,457	16,781	0	24,238
Total Members – 5/2003	13,901	30,148	2,921	46,970

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 6/2003				
New members	6	13	0	19
New members UL	0	2	0	2
Reinstated	0	6	2	8
Total Gains:	6	21	2	29

Losses in 6/2003				
Died	0	21	0	21
Cash surrender	1	3	0	4
Endowment matured	14	18	0	32
Fully paid-up	17	15	0	32
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	2	19	0	21
Certificates lapsed (active)	6	6	18	30
Certificate terminated	1	3	5	9
Total Losses	41	85	23	149
Total Active Members – 6/2003	6,108	12,357	2,725	21,190

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 6/2003				
Paid-up	17	15	0	32
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	2	19	0	21
Total Gains	19	34	0	53

Losses in 6/2003				
* Died	2	34	0	36
* Cash surrender	6	8	0	14
Pure endowment matured	1	5	0	6
Reinstated to active	0	6	0	6
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	1	8	0	9
Total Losses	10	61	0	71
Total Inactive Members – 6/2003	7,621	16,205	0	23,826
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 6/2003	13,639	28,562	2,725	44,926

(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

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Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Famine and Russia's denials

The Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, defines genocide as: "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, such as: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

The definition above lays the groundwork for the topic of this week's editorial: the Russian Embassy's attempt to derail the U.S. Senate resolution commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. A front page story in this issue, which is based on a Radio Liberty report, indicates that representatives of Russia have contacted officials at the U.S. Department of State and in Congress in an effort to block passage of the resolution, introduced in late July by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission. The reason: the resolution characterizes the Famine that was perpetrated on the orders of Joseph Stalin as "an act of genocide as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention."

The press secretary of the Russian Embassy, Yevhen Khoryshko, told Radio Liberty: "We categorically disagree with this assessment of the famine in Ukraine of the 1930s. ... The policies of collectivization and the famine in Ukraine of the 1930s in no way fall under the juridical concept of genocide." Furthermore, he chided U.S. lawmakers for facilely "giving political assessments that have far-reaching consequences" and stated that this readiness to issue such an evaluation of the Famine "testifies to the lack of understanding on the part of American lawmakers of the juridical essence of the term 'genocide.'"

The Russian Embassy spokesperson's comments come in the wake of a statement made back in August by Russia's ambassador to Ukraine, Viktor Chernomyrdin, who said that Russia has no intention of apologizing for the Stalin-era famine: "We're not going to apologize ... there is nobody to apologize to." The envoy went so far as to suggest that perhaps it is the Georgians who owe Ukrainian an apology since, after all, Stalin was Georgian – this despite the fact that Russia, by its own choice, is considered by the international community to be the successor state to the USSR, and, therefore, any apology in the name of the USSR is Russia's to make.

Clearly then, the genocide deniers are hard at work.

All of the above makes it even more imperative that we Ukrainian Americans – and all those we can rally to our cause – must work to secure passage of Senate Resolution 202. During this 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide we can accept nothing less than full acknowledgment that the "Holodomor" (as it is known in Ukrainian) that killed 7 million to 10 million of our brethren in Ukraine was unmitigated genocide. So, get on the phone, write those letters and send those e-mails to your senators to urge them to sign on as co-sponsors of this landmark resolution that unequivocally states the truth.

Sept.
22
2002

Turning the pages back...

One year ago, in our issue dated September 22, 2002, we reported that Kyiv was the scene of violent protests as special forces beat protesters in the early morning hours of September 17. The militia also tore down and swept away a tent city the anti-

Kuchma movement had established only hours before. The police action came after some 25,000 people had marched through the city center on September 16 and held a mass public rally in Kyiv's European Square calling for the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma.

"The protest – called 'Arise Ukraine!' – was organized by the president's political opponents to coincide with the second anniversary of the disappearance of Heorhii Gongadze, the young journalist who had become the center of a protracted controversy in Ukraine after audiotapes ostensibly implicating Mr. Kuchma and his cronies in the disappearance became public several months later," wrote Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau.

Three separate columns – representing three different political ideologies – marched down the streets of the city, shouting "Kuchma Out." They converged at European Square, where Viktor Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine bloc, along with leaders of opposition factions in Parliament, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Socialists and Communists, awaited them. Rally speakers cited the need to put aside ideological differences in order to oust Mr. Kuchma.

Afterwards, demonstrators set up more than 150 tents on either side of the presidential offices and in front of the Cabinet of Ministers Building. They demanded that the president accept a petition and resolutions passed during the rally and agree to meet representatives of the opposition. Only about 1,000 protesters remained when state militia officers began congregating in ever-increasing numbers around the Presidential Administration Building after midnight. By 4 a.m. on September 17 observers estimated that close to 10,000 militia had gathered at the spot. Wearing black helmets and bulletproof vests, and wielding flexible batons and metal shields, officers of the Berkut special forces encircled the tent city, taking apart tents and flaying the protesters. In less than 15 minutes the tent city was gone and the protesters were scattered.

In an interview with *The Standard*, a newspaper published in Austria, where Mr. Kuchma was at the time of the demonstrations, the Ukrainian president said the existence of the opposition movement and the demonstrations being held were sufficient proof that democracy in Ukraine is alive and well. "We are still learning democracy and how people can demonstrate their disagreement with state policy."

Source: "Protesters in Kyiv demand Kuchma's resignation," by Roman Woronowycz, *Kyiv Press Bureau, The Ukrainian Weekly, September 22, 2002, Vol. LXX, No. 38.*

FOR THE RECORD

UACC appeal to Ukraine's government regarding common economic space

Below is the text of an appeal of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council to President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn.

The Presidium and membership of the UACC are deeply disturbed by the Ukrainian government's announced intention to sign an agreement on September 18, 2003, between Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan to establish a common economic zone. Such an agreement would strike a serious blow to Ukraine's national interests.

While understanding the importance of Ukraine's developing commercial ties with the above-mentioned countries, the UACC nevertheless wants to call attention to the fact that, on the basis of the declarations of the president's administration, the members of the Cabinet, and the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine has set itself on the path of integration into European structures, with the aim of becoming a full member of the European Union.

Establishing a common economic zone with the above-mentioned nations, therefore, will bring Ukraine no benefit and will serve only to allow interested parties a means of manipulating Ukraine's foreign economic policies.

Such a step may mark the beginning of the end of Ukraine's control over its own independent economic development.

Over the course of Ukraine's 12 years of independence, the direction for the development of its economic and political infrastructure has never been clearly specified. Meaningless promises and empty phrases have continually characterized the pronouncements issued by the highest echelons of power. Ukraine has led a zig-zag course between the CIS, NATO and a stance of supposed complete neutrality. This lack of a clearcut policy has played into the hands of those who have been undermining Ukraine's national interests for their own enrichment.

The only path for Ukraine to reach economic independence is to clearly define its foreign economic and political aims and to hold firmly to the chosen course of integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. For these reasons, integration into a Russian, Belarusian and Kazak common economic zone ought to be resolutely rejected.

For the Presidium of UACC:

Ihor Gawdiak
President

Dr. Roman Baranowskyj
Secretary

NEWS AND VIEWS

St. John's School alive and well, and on the road to more progress

by Myron Martynetz

NEWARK, N.J. – On September 3, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School opened its doors for its 64th year of educating young Ukrainian American students in the Newark metropolitan area. Timid kindergartners, holding on to their mommies' hands, were welcomed to the school by eighth graders steeped in the traditions and customs of the school. After the opening liturgy and orientation, the students were treated to a picnic as a way of starting off the school year on a happy note.

Little did the youngsters know of the work and effort needed to keep those school doors open.

Historic and sweeping changes have occurred at St. John's School since the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor, announced that St. John's Parish would no longer be able to support the school. A grassroots effort was launched to raise funds, restructure the school and develop the trust needed to convince the Parish Council and Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka that the school can and must survive. The concerted effort of the entire community, led by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Development of St. John's School, culminated in the creation in June of the independent St. John's School Board, with Dr. Ross Robak elected president.

The independent school board, with its own constitution and by-laws, has allowed St. John's School to formulate its own budget, separate from the

Myron Martynetz is a member of St. John's School Board and chairman of the St. John's Festival Committee.

parish's, and to forge ahead into the future. Entrusted with nearly \$200,000 in donations, the board will oversee operation of the school and report to the archbishop on a quarterly basis.

One of St. John's School Board's first decisions, after extensive interviews, was to appoint Natalie Kudryk, a longtime teacher at St. John's, as the first lay principal in the school's history. The dynamic Mrs. Kudryk has already instituted progressive changes by implementing a new optional uniform consisting of navy "skorts" for girls and white polo shirts and navy vests for both boys and girls. Sister Stephanie was added to the faculty as first grade teacher and Sister Zenovia continues to teach second grade; thereby preserving the religious presence at the school.

The school board members have met every week during the past summer and have already produced the following innovations and improvements:

- purchased or obtained through donations all new computers for the computer lab;
- wired all of the new computers into a network with a server and back-up server for teacher control and greater computer teaching ability;
- sent all teachers to workshops for improved computer use in teaching;
- held conferences with outside educators in the community to share new teaching concepts;
- consulted with grant-writing professionals and identified potential new benefactors;
- drafted standards and criteria for

(Continued on page 16)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Faith in God is key to change in Ukraine

Dear Editor:

When The Ukrainian Weekly arrives at my home, the first thing I look for is the column by Myron Kuropas. He is a great storehouse of knowledge and wisdom, putting this gift to use with brilliant writing.

The August 31 column "Why can't they be like us?" is especially insightful. In my view, the personality of the Soviet citizen was formed and shaped in large part by terror. Throughout history, the people whose descendants lived under the Soviet regime did not experience the Reformation, the Renaissance and the Enlightenment which led to our Western way of thinking. But the main curse was state-enforced atheism. Churches were persecuted, destroyed, or corrupted.

It is amazing how well the Ukrainian people have valiantly survived all these cruelties and tragedies. Despite these unbelievable hardships, I find the Ukrainian people to be extremely hospitable and warm. This characteristic is true regardless of age, socioeconomic level or education. Here in America, as well as in Ukraine, it is a wonderful experience to work with Ukrainians.

The hallmark of those who are least affected by the Soviet mentality are those who are committed Christians. They put their faith in God, not in the state — which could never be trusted.

I try to be careful in making generalizations about various groups or nationalities. All mankind is afflicted with sin — manifested as selfishness, arrogance, estrangement, pride, ungratefulness and more. These traits exist in people from all parts of the globe. American individuals, organizations and businesses are not exempt. Only the transforming power of Jesus Christ can redeem individuals from their sinful state, and set them in the right relationship with God and with their fellow man.

I am most grateful to The Weekly for providing information and insights that educate its readers about Ukraine.

Clifford Netz
Maple Grove, Minn.

An invitation to meet with Trenton activists

Dear Editor:

My answer to Myron Kuropas' question "Why can't they be more like us?" is: "I'm glad they are not." I am a member of the Third Wave (post-World War II) immigration.

Psychoanalysis of the general Soviet population does not describe the Fourth Wave (post-independence) immigration that settled in Trenton, N.J. They are patriotic and hard-working, and are willing to donate their time to help the Ukrainian community. Eighty percent of the board of the Ukrainian Home are from the Fourth Wave. As every Ukrainian knows, being a member of an "uprava" means that you do the work.

Within a year or two of coming here, their children are at the top of their classes and winning awards. They are proud to be Ukrainians and will be a great asset to the Ukrainian community. They will also be a great benefit to America.

They are also more entrepreneurial than the Third Wave. The Third Wave is very well educated, but we are not risk

takers. I think we own fewer businesses than any other ethnic group. The Fourth Wave is not afraid to risk and are starting businesses. They also place a lot of importance on education.

At the time that the Fourth Wave started arriving, our institutions and churches were empty. The youngest people at liturgy were in their 50s. The Ukrainian community was dying off. The Third Wave may not have lasted another generation. The arrival of the new immigrants breathed life and vigor into our institutions.

The Third Wave (post-World War II) immigration had a few advantages:

1. They were here legally. They could get any job they were capable of doing. Many of the Fourth Wave are here illegally, which makes it hard to step into professional jobs for which they are well-educated.

2. The Third Wave was ruthlessly cut off from contact with Ukraine. They could concentrate on bettering themselves and building up our Ukrainian community. The Fourth Wave sends a large percentage of their earnings home to their families.

I would like to ask Dr. Kuropas to visit Trenton sometime. I would like to introduce him to many of these new immigrants. I am sure he would like them and be very impressed by them.

Roman Kuzyk
Trenton, N.J.

Re: pride and respect for national anthems

Dear Editor:

From time to time we hear and read about Americans of Ukrainian descent being criticized for speaking in Ukrainian in public by those who overhear us on the street, in restaurants, at social events, etc.

Attempts to embarrass or shame us into avoiding speaking in our native tongue is more than rude, it is insensitive. Actually, we should see it for what it really is — a form of bigotry. Sadly, there are those who do not quite understand what the United States truly is — the home of freedom for people of all backgrounds.

Yet, we Ukrainians at times tend to take this wonderful freedom for granted and do not demonstrate our pride as citizens of this great country when opportunities present themselves. Examples of this are seen year after year at our major Ukrainian summer festivals.

Ever notice that most of the crowd does not sing when "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played, yet raise their voices aloud to sing the Ukrainian national anthem? Makes a person wonder.

Paul S. Ewasko
Dalton, Pa.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Ukraine is not Russia: the latest version

Leonid Kuchma has written a new book, "Ukraine is not Russia." You'd think that issue was resolved once and for all in December 1991 when Ukrainians overwhelmingly voted for independence, but apparently not. Written with the help of a team of historians, President Kuchma describes his 513-page book as "explanatory for those millions of people in Ukraine and Russia who do not understand this simple truth."

Mr. Kuchma is to be commended for writing his book, but I must say he's not even the first to have written Ukraine is not Russia. At least three others authored the same book, albeit with different titles.

Mykhailo Hrushevsky, wrote his own version of "Ukraine is not Russia" with the 10-volume History of Ukraine-Rus'. When he first started it in the 1890s, Ukraine was "Little Russia," a region of "Greater" Russia; the Ukrainian language a mere dialect. Kyiv was identified as the cradle of Russian civilization; modern Russia as the only descendant of Kyivan Rus'.

Hrushevsky disagreed fundamentally with that historical interpretation. Working out of the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia (Halychyna) where Ukrainian culture could develop freely, he tapped into a wealth of geological, archeological and archival sources to demonstrate how the Ukrainian nation developed independently of any other and showed the continuity between Kyivan Rus' and modern Ukraine.

Hrushevsky's thesis, of course, conflicted not only with Russian historiography, but with Russian imperial policy as well. In less than a generation, history itself confirmed its soundness when the Russian Empire collapsed in 1917 and Ukrainians rallied to a state of their own, electing Hrushevsky as its president.

Hobbled by the accumulated weight of serfdom, illiteracy and Russification that had oppressed Ukrainians for centuries, Hrushevsky's republic soon succumbed to multiple invasions and revolutionary chaos. Still, the view that Ukraine is a separate political entity with a distinct language and culture had become widely accepted and Lenin's Bolsheviks were forced to accept a Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

Led by Education Commissar Mykola Skrypnyk, Ukrainians embraced Lenin's stated nationality policies with unbridled enthusiasm. Pent up for generations, Ukrainian culture in the 1920s erupted in a multifarious renaissance of every art form: theater, literature, cinema, painting, radio, dance, music. In short order, the country was transformed: writing in 1927, an American reporter noted how "[in 1924] Russian still held its own as a dual language. But today one could almost walk the streets of Kiev, or Kiiv, as the Ukrainians insist on calling it, without realizing the city has any connection with Russia." Skrypnyk, who spoke fluent Russian, went so far as to communicate with Joseph Stalin through an interpreter to underscore the principle of equality between the Ukrainian and Russian languages.

During the height of the cultural revival in 1929-1930, Skrypnyk published four volumes of his speeches, brochures and articles. His basic message? Ukraine is not Russia. As for Hrushevsky, he took a position at the Academy of Sciences in Kyiv and quietly resumed work on his History.

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

The Renaissance of the 1920s, we know, ended with the Famine and Terror of the '30s followed by World War II in the '40s. It wasn't until 1970 that another Ukrainian leader, Communist Party Secretary Petro Shelest, published a version of "Ukraine is not Russia," calling it "Oh Ukraine, Our Soviet Land!"

Taken at face value, Shelest doesn't say anything earth shattering. Ukrainians, he wrote, had finally achieved a "national state [that was] a powerful industrial country with a highly developed agricultural sector..." As for Ukraine's culture? "Despite the burden of national oppression throughout the centuries, the Ukrainian people have been able to preserve and develop their language, wonderful national traditions, above all the tradition of the struggle for freedom and created classic Ukrainian literature." Who could object to that? As Kuchma says in his own book, this is a simple truth.

Still, asserting that Ukraine is a separate country with its own language and culture has always seemed to bother a lot of Russians who saw the mere existence of the Ukrainian nation as an affront and a threat. In 1863, for example, Russia's Internal Affairs Minister decreed, "a Little Russian language has not, does not and cannot exist" and banned the publication of books in Ukrainian, a language he insisted did not exist in the first place.

If Skrypnyk's policy was a reaction to Tsarist Russification, then Stalin's Terror and Famine in Ukraine were a reaction to Ukrainianization. Soviet propaganda condemned Skrypnyk for promoting "counter-revolutionary nationalistic rubbish," and "alienating the Ukrainian language from Russian." With torture and a show trial looming, Skrypnyk committed suicide in 1933.

For his part, the 65-year-old Hrushevsky was attacked as "the ideologist of the Ukrainian counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie," and "the untamed enemy of Soviet rule." Arrested and exiled, he died under somewhat mysterious circumstances, the result of an operation.

The Ukrainian Renaissance ended with the destruction of nearly 80 percent of Ukraine's cultural elite and 7 million farmers, their wives and children starved to death.

Against that ghastly backdrop, the Kremlin perceived Shelest's book 37 years later as yet another threat. Moscow rolled out the tired charge of "national narrow-mindedness" and purged the author. Shelest was allowed to live, but ended up in exile.

Although, Mr. Kuchma is careful to explain that he doesn't intend for his book to pit Ukrainians against Russians, implicit in his decision to publish is the charge that for many Russians, nothing's changed. They're still unwilling to accept Ukraine's legitimacy. Some Ukrainians question that as well. On the other hand, there's no denying that indeed a great deal has changed. Besides independence and the bureaucratic infrastructure that goes with it, Ukraine has an army and police force, nation-building tools that Hrushevsky, Skrypnyk and Shelest never had.

So what do I think of Kuchma's book? Since he wrote it in Russian, a language I don't understand, I can't comment until I get a Ukrainian (or English) translation. In the meantime, I'm waiting to hear what Russian President Putin thinks of it. Maybe he'll be inspired to write a book of his own. I have the perfect title: Ukraine is not Russia.

THE 12th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

Saskatoon

by Al Kachkowski

SASKATOON – The third Ukraine Day in the Park, Saskatoon's newest annual summer festival, was staged August 23 by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatoon Branch. The festival took place in downtown Saskatoon's Kiwanis Park immediately north of the city's landmark hotel, the Delta Bessborough. A record attendance of over 4,000 was recorded.

Eighteen performing groups from Saskatoon, North Battleford and Prince Albert provided a dynamic program of entertainment on the large outdoor stage.

The day began with an ecumenical moleben prayer service held at 11 a.m. at the fountain adjacent to the festival site. Clergy from the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches of Saskatoon led the service.

Following the prayer service, the raising of the flag of Ukraine was presided over by Eugene Krenosky, UCC-SPC president, assisted by two youths, Carmella Kondra and Jason Uhryn. All present then sang the Ukrainian national anthem, "Sche ne Vmerla Ukraina."

Activities then moved to the festival site, where participants enjoyed food and beverage service supplied by vendors representing various Ukrainian organizations. Cultural displays and children's activities attracted interest while everyone waited for the concert to start at 2 p.m.

Masters of ceremonies George Hupka and Lesia Sorkokan-Normand opened the stage program by welcoming everyone present and noting the significance of the day conducted in conjunction with the 12th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine. They then called Mr. Krenosky



The crowd enjoys a performance by the Saskatoon School of Dance.

of Regina to deliver greetings. Mr. Krenosky challenged the organizers to "continue to develop and grow your Ukraine Day in the Park so that it becomes one of the premiere cultural events in Saskatchewan in 2005 as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our province."

The four-hour stage show that followed

was opened and closed by the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble and the Yevshan Ukrainian Folk Ballet Ensemble. Other local groups performing were Larissa and Tania Makuch, bandura duet; Alexandra Hartshorn, tsymbaly; Hurkit, violins and guitar; Tut i Tam, instrumental ensemble; and Super Carpathians, instrumental ensemble. Also in the spotlight were Saskatoon dance groups, Vesnianka, Rushnychok, Sonechko, Zuravel, Sonia's School of Dance, the Saskatoon School of Dance, as well as two bands, Zvook and the Skylarks. Guest troupes from out of town were the Barveenok Dancers from Prince Albert and two older adult dance groups, Rika of Prince Albert and Zorya of North Battleford.

A colorful atmosphere was provided by the array of tents, yellow and blue streamers and red "kalyna" (actually balloons) in the trees. The comfortable and beautiful surroundings overlooking the South Saskatchewan River resulted in a pleasant and relaxing day for all present.

The cultural display tents accommodated an art display of works by Olena and Valeri Zintchouk, books by authors Danny Evanishen and Larry Warwaruk, a genealogy display by Bohdan A. Bayda and sou-

venirs by Taras Bayda of Fialka Promotions.

At 6:30 p.m. the stage filled with the 200 performers and other young people present for the much-anticipated balloon launch. Approximately 600 blue and yellow helium-filled balloons were released as the recorded patriotic vocal rendition of "Hey vy, Kozachenky" by Nazarij Yaremchuk filled the air with soul-stirring music. This was followed by the Ukrainian national anthem, sung as the balloons receded as mere specs in the blue sky.

The evening concluded with dancing to music provided by two live bands, the Skylarks and Zvook.

Event chairman Slawko Kindrachuk summed up of the festival this way: "We were blessed with wonderful weather, happy volunteers, talented performers and an enthusiastic crowd. It's really encouraging to see an increase in attendance."

A report on the day's activities was provided by Global Television that same evening.

Organizers thanked all the financial contributors and especially the event's major sponsors: the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, Rainbow Cinemas and the government of Canada.

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Kids enjoy Saskatoon's Ukraine Day in the Park.

Future leaders attend USUF Youth Leadership Program

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation hosted its 2003 Youth Leadership Program (YLP) on August 2-8. This special “Washington experience” introduces college students, age 18-22, to some of the essential elements of leadership in a weeklong program of meetings and discussions at some of DC’s key institutions.

Through interaction with leaders in Washington, students learn about public policy, the political process, U.S.-Ukraine relations, the importance of the Ukrainian American community in U.S.-Ukraine affairs, the organizations active in Ukraine, the need for activism and the wide genre of careers available in Washington.

Youth Leadership Program participants are selected on the basis of their academic excellence and proven leadership experience. Learning from last year’s experience that international students gain and add much to the overall value of the program, the foundation opened the 2003 Youth Leadership Program to international students, particularly to those with demonstrated experience in U.S.-Ukraine relations and/or Ukraine-West relations. Of the 13 students, there were four Ukrainian citizens, one Polish citizen, seven Ukrainian-Americans, and one American.

The 2003 Youth Leadership Program participants were: Alexander Aguilera of Papillion, Neb., a freshman at the University of Nebraska at Kearney; Vasyl Dutchak of Chernivtsi, Ukraine, a graduate of the International Business School in Groningen, the Netherlands; Volodymyr Hirnyk of Stamford, Conn., a student transferring from International Business School in Groningen, to the University of Connecticut; Aleksandr Kalashnik of Binghamton, N.Y., a recent graduate of Binghamton University (SUNY); Volodymyr Makar of Brooklyn, N.Y., a student transferring from Mount Allison University in (Canada) to the University of Amsterdam; Orest Sopka of Parma, Ohio, a junior at Carnegie Mellon University; Wolodymyr Szczupak of East Setauket, N.Y., a freshman at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Rustem Umerov of Kyiv, a senior at the National Academy of Management (Kyiv); Nataliya Chapovska of Ternopil, Ukraine, a senior at Bethany Lutheran College; Tamara Heimur of Randolph, N.J., a recent graduate of New York University; Justyna K. Jerzewski of Chicago, a senior at DePaul University; Lada Roma Pastushak of Richboro, Pa., a freshman at Rider University; and Natalie Shevchuk of Matawan, N.J., a senior at the College of New Jersey.

Program activities

The official program opened on Saturday evening at the home of Robert and Nadia McConnell, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. YLP participants, USUF staff and interns, and other friends of the foundation were present. Guest speakers Maj. Gen. Nicholas Krawciw (U.S. Army, Ret.) and Ambassador William Green Miller, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine gave formal presentations on their careers with the U.S. Department of Defense and State Department and their insights on the prospects and problems of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Students met with Paula Dobriansky, undersecretary of global affairs, and Steve Pifer, deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs at the U.S. State Department.

Ms. Dobriansky, a Ukrainian American, currently oversees humanitarian assistance to Iraq and Afghanistan and has worked with several programs in Eastern Europe in the past, including Ukraine. She explained that, despite the exigencies of Iraq and Afghanistan, there is a constant: “Ukraine matters.” Though U.S.-Ukraine relations went through some rough times in the second Kuchma administration, Ms. Dobriansky affirmed that the objectives and goals of the United States remain the integration of a democratic Ukraine into the Western community.

One of the most memorable meetings of the week was with Gloria Steele, deputy assistant administrator of the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Ms. Steele highlighted some of the target areas of USAID’s programs in Ukraine, such as HIV/AIDS, corruption, agricultural reform, trafficking in women, and the importance of programs like the Youth Leadership Program that support the development Ukraine’s future leaders.

Ms. Steele then opened the meeting to the students and asked for their comments on the Youth Leadership Program. Mr. Umerov, a student at the National Academy of Management in Kyiv and a native of Crimea, said, “I didn’t know the definition of transparency before this program. Now I know the definition of transparency because I have seen it. I can now return and share what I learned here back in Ukraine.”

The students also responded to some of Ms. Steele’s opening comments with their own suggestions for new



Participants of the 2003 Youth Leadership Program in front of the White House.

USAID activities in Ukraine. In regard to AIDS and HIV, Mr. Makar explained, “Ukraine’s youth has no occupation. There are no longer pioneer clubs from the past. They are a ‘generation of hooligans’ and have nothing to do. What needs to be done about this? We need to organize clubs and activities for youth in the small and large cities in Ukraine.”

Mr. Dutchak added, “Education is a problem as well – I think that’s why drugs and HIV is such a problem. Ukraine also needs programs to keep its young men within the country. Many have nothing and leave Ukraine because they don’t want to be on the street and don’t want to get involved in illegal activity.”

Participants also met with George Beebe, special advisor to the vice-president for national security affairs, at the vice-president’s Ceremonial Hall in the Old Executive Office Building. Mr. Beebe commented on the war on terrorism, which he said is also a war of ideas to make the world safer, better and more secure. Ukraine needs to be

part of this effort as a “producer of security, not a consumer.” As Ukraine reforms internally, “it will become an example and can demonstrate what success is to the rest of the newly independent states,” he stated.

To understand the Ukrainian perspective on U.S.-Ukraine relations, students met with Volodymyr Yatsenkivskyi, minister-counselor at the Embassy of Ukraine. Mr. Yatsenkivskyi outlined the history of U.S.-Ukraine relations, the role of the Ukrainian American community in those sustained relations, and motivated students to believe in the future of U.S.-Ukraine relations by taking part in them. “We can be successful if you can be successful. A lot depends on you to make a difference. Everything is in your hands. Anyone who wants business with Ukraine can have it. Today is a time for opportunities,” he underscored.

Participants learned about the power of advocacy in a

(Continued on page 15)



The group with officials of the Close Up Foundation in Washington.

With reservations...

(Continued from page 1)

Summit in Yalta, the two branches of government engaged in heated and fractious internal discussions on the matter of the economic union, which was originally proposed by Moscow and Kyiv in February after earlier efforts by President Kuchma to give Ukraine some trading strength by arranging a free trade zone for the region had failed.

Since then, much of the debate within the corridors of power in Kyiv had concentrated on how deeply Ukraine should enter into an economic relationship with the three other countries. While President Kuchma and the Ukrainian government had stated repeatedly that they saw no need to go further than the initial stage of a free trade zone, Moscow had suggested that the end goal should be a customs union with a single currency, in effect, a common market.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet could not find consensus on supporting the move into a common market during two previous sessions. Three ministers whose voices were key to which way the Cabinet would go on the matter – Minister of Economy and European Integration Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and Minister of Justice Oleksander Lavrynovych – had twice voiced concerns as to how the document, if signed, would affect Ukraine's European integration and membership in the WTO.

Justice Minister Lavrynovych had also expressed doubt that it was constitutionally allowable to give a supranational body decision-making authority over Ukrainian economic policy, as foreseen in the economic union if it were taken to the stage desired by Moscow. The Ukrainian Constitution does not allow for the laws or

polices of any supranational body to supersede Ukrainian law.

The three ministers were tasked on September 10 with preparing an analysis to determine what needed to be done to bring the treaty into line with Ukrainian policy and law to be presented at the September 17 session.

As the Cabinet of Ministers session began and as journalists waited for word on how the ministers would go on the matter of the economic agreement, several lawmakers present to observe the meeting abruptly entered the press room to inform that a statement announcing government approval for the economic zone had been issued without a roll call vote and even before the formal meeting had begun.

National Deputy Taras Stetskiv of the Our Ukraine faction said that Mr. Lavrynovych and Mr. Gryshchenko failed to show for the session, while Mr. Khoroshkovskiy walked out after the statement – ostensibly approved by a majority of the Cabinet – was read by the prime minister.

The resolution, read to journalists by Prime Minister Yanukovich's press secretary, Taras Avrakhov, stated: "Ukraine should and will realize the creation of a 'common economic space,' in a format and within limits that do not hamper Ukraine's course toward European and Euro-Atlantic integration and its accession to the World Trade Organization."

The four-paragraph statement was signed by Prime Minister Yanukovich.

Mr. Stetskiv said he was most taken aback by the fact that the government failed to address the analysis the three key ministers had developed as tasked.

"There are seven or eight points to which they expressed very proper and very specific reservations. The reservations very specifically pointed out which positions Ukraine could support and which it

couldn't," explained Mr. Stetskiv.

The lawmaker said that in his opinion the prime minister had rammed the more general statement through the government outside the formal process, which "now opens the door to Ukraine's gradual entry into the Russian economic zone."

Minister of the Economy and European Integration Khoroshkovskiy had led the internal dissent within the government over Ukraine's participation in the common economic space, which largely took the form of a heated spat with First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who had helped formulate the draft treaty.

The disagreement between the two government officials over how to proceed played out in the Verkhovna Rada during a special Government Day session on September 16 dedicated to the matter.

During his presentation to the parliamentary session Mr. Azarov extolled the benefits the treaty would give Ukraine, including the development of new markets for its products and, most importantly, a single price for energy sources, which he said would finally "raise the country's standard of living."

"Russia fully understands what this [treaty] means: the same price for energy sources," stated Mr. Azarov.

Mr. Azarov also said that during his recent participation in the WTO's Cancun conference he had been told of no roadblocks to membership in the trade organization should Ukraine join Russia, Kazakstan and Belarus in a common market.

He repeatedly emphasized that the treaty was simply a framework agreement and that each country would determine the level of its integration, which meant Ukraine could agree to become part of a free trade zone but avoid the deeper integration entailed by a customs union.

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy, who followed the first prime minister to the podium

with his presentation, was quick to point out errors in Mr. Azarov's remarks. First he noted that Kyiv must keep in mind that the intentions and interests of the four countries who would become part of the common market are very different.

"For our Russian colleagues at the highest echelons, the customs union for them is the minimum level of cooperation, while for us the maximum level is a free trade zone," said Mr., Khoroshkovskiy.

The minister of the economy also corrected Mr. Azarov's observation that Ukraine would receive reduced oil and gas prices from Russia – a matter that has often been at the heart of the problems between the two countries and has led to massive Ukrainian debt owed to Moscow.

"Regarding the price of energy, let us understand clearly here that [the inability to get a single price] is the main reason all our earlier efforts to engage Russia in a free trade zone had failed," explained Mr. Khoroshkovskiy.

National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko, a leader of the opposition and the former chairman of United Energy Systems, at one time the leading energy trading firm in Ukraine, was more direct regarding price benefits for energy sources when she addressed the legislative body a bit later.

"Mr. Azarov should know the difference between tariffs and prices and should know that in this agreement tariffs will be leveled, but that prices, which are not set by the Russian Federation because all the companies are now private, will be set by those firms," explained Mrs. Tymoshenko.

Other dissenting voices heard during the special parliamentary session noted that the agreement violates the Constitution of Ukraine, because it provides for a supranational body made up

(Continued on page 23)

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Ukraine's Iryna Merleni is top female wrestler at World Championships

by Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – Ukraine won a gold and a bronze medal at the 2003 Freestyle Wrestling World Championships in New York on September 12-14, and qualified six out of a possible 11 wrestlers for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.

Ukraine's Iryna Merleni (née Melnyk) won her third consecutive World Championship in the women's 48-kilogram (105.5 pound) division and will defend her title as the best in the world at next year's Summer Olympics.

"This is amazing, I can't believe it," Merleni said to her coach after a dramatic gold medal match. The Ukrainian defeated Patricia Miranda of the United States 5-4 in the final in front of some 13,000 fans at Madison Square Garden. With only seconds left in the match, Miranda tried desperately for a point to send the match to overtime but came up short.

After she won, Merleni broke down in tears and hugged her coaches, saying, "Three times, three times, I can't believe it."

After the match Miranda said she was disappointed with her performance: "I didn't do what I needed to do for my wrestling, and it wasn't as much about anything she [Merleni] did."

However, Merleni so dominated the competition in the opening round – earning 26 points in her first three matches while giving none up – that she also earned the title of top female wrestler for the 2003 World

Championships.

In freestyle wrestling competitors win matches by either pinning an opponent – when a competitor's two shoulder blades touch the mat – or by acquiring the most points during the match. If a match is tied after six minutes, competitors wrestle in a three-minute sudden-death overtime period where the first person to score a point wins the match.

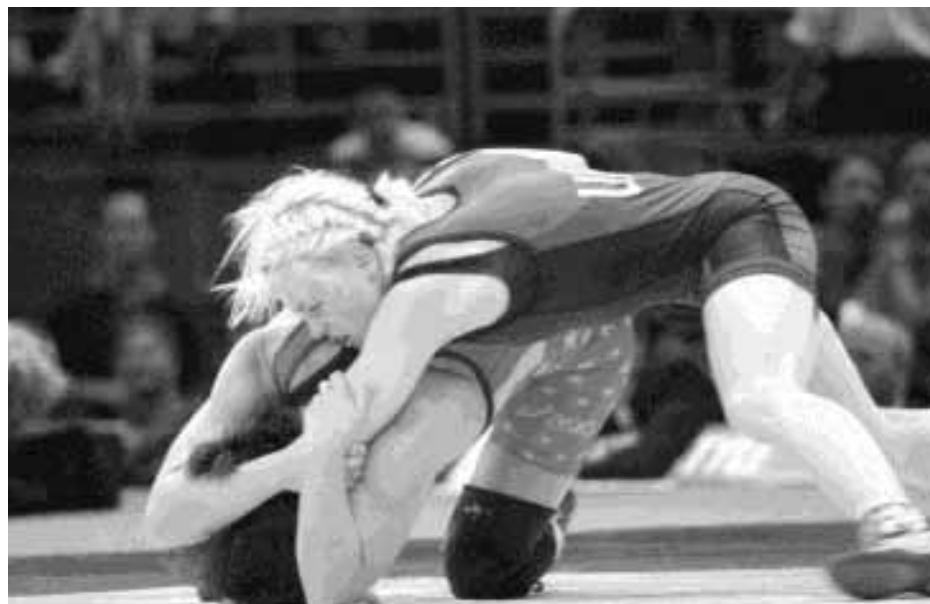
Unlike Greco-Roman wrestling, freestyle wrestling lets competitors use their legs (for pushing, lifting or tripping) and hold opponents below the waist. Wrestlers are expected to always attack; any passivity or delay on the part of a competitor could mean points for the opponent.

In addition to Merleni, Ukraine's Liudmila Golovchenko qualified for next year's Olympics with a fourth-place finish in the women's 63-kilogram (138.75 pound) division. Both women will be part of history as women's wrestling will make its Olympic debut next year.

Considering Merleni's dominance in her weight class, she could conceivably be one of the first women to win an Olympic medal in her sport.

"She's talented and very fast," said Switzerland's Karin Wild, an opponent of Merleni in the first round. "I think she's got to be the person to watch in Athens."

Merleni pinned Wild 1 minute and 7 seconds into the match; next she pinned Peru's Livanis Rivera in 55 seconds. She won her



Andrew Nynka

Ukraine's Iryna Merleni steps behind America's Patricia Miranda to earn a point during their gold medal match in New York City's Madison Square Garden.

final first round pool bout, 11-0, 2 minutes and 38 seconds into the match, giving her a bye until the quarterfinals, where she beat Japan's Sakamoto Makiko 5-2. Merleni won her semifinal bout 6-1 against Li Hui of China, setting up the final against Miranda.

In the first round of competition athletes are placed, based upon a random draw with no seeding, into a pool of three or four athletes. The athlete must win that pool in order to advance into the single-elimination brackets. The winners of the semifinals compete for the gold and silver medals, while the losers of the semifinals compete for the bronze medal and fourth place. All of the other final placements are determined by a point scoring system.

On the men's side, Ukraine's Oleksander Zakharuk won a bronze medal in the men's

55-kilogram (121 pound) weight class. Zakharuk lost to Uzbekistan's Dilshod Mansurov in the semifinal match, 5-4, but rebounded to take the bronze with a dramatic overtime win against Iran's Mohammed Aslani. With the score tied 2-2, Zakharuk threw Aslani to the mat 22 seconds into the extra period to win the match 5-2.

Ukraine missed out on two other opportunities to medal when Serhii Priadun and Golovchenko lost their bronze medal matches and dropped to fourth place.

Priadun, wrestling in the men's top weight class of 120 kilograms (264.5 pounds), lost his match to heavily favored Ali Reza Rezaei of Iran by a score of 3-0. Although the loss relegated Priadun to

(Continued on page 14)



Gold medalist Iryna Merleni stands atop the medal podium as Ukraine's national anthem is played. Silver medalist Patricia Miranda of the U.S. is on the left and bronze medalist Li Hui of China is on the right.

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The Zuk family is searching for any archives/documents relating to the life of Bishop Joseph A. Zuk, Ph.D.

Born in the village of Pidkamin in what is today's Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast in 1872, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Innsbruck in 1899.

Became Rector of Lviv Theological Seminary in 1907-1908, Vicar General and Papal Proto Notary of Bosnia, 1908-1914, Rector, Mitered Prelate, Papal Nuncio in Vienna, 1914-1920.

Surveyed Ukrainian North American Churches in Toronto, Montreal, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

He converted to Orthodoxy in 1927, became Bishop of the UOCA in 1932 and the leader of the pan-Orthodox Synod, murdered by the NKVD on Stalin's direct order, Red Army day, 1934 in Florida.

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CONCERT REVIEW: "Moisei" and the Forte String Quartet with guest soloists at the Grazhda

by Bohdan Markiw

JEWETT, N.Y. – The 21st season of the Music and Art Center of Greene County's summer concert series concluded with outstanding performances of classical music as part of "Music at the Grazhda," with the two final concerts held on August 30 and 31.

The August 30 concert was a special event with the return of a special guest artist, the distinguished Ukrainian composer/pianist Myroslav Skoryk. The program featured a presentation based on Maestro Skoryk's new opera "Moisei" (Moses). The opera, which is based on an eponymous poem by the early 20th century Ukrainian poet Ivan Franko, had its premiere in 2001 at the century-old Solomea Krushelnytska Theater for Opera and Ballet in Lviv. During his visit to Ukraine, Pope John Paul II stopped at the Lviv opera house to meet with the composer and to give his blessing to the work.

The concert program commenced with Maestro Skoryk giving an overview of the opera's plot, which is centered on the trials and tribulations of Moses in leading his people out of Egypt, a story that can well relate to Ukraine in present times.

He then introduced the noted Ukrainian baritone Oleh Chmyr, who was to sing the principal arias from the opera, accompanied on the piano by the composer himself. Three of the arias rendered were those delivered by Moses: "Solitude has Enveloped Me," "Woe to You, Disobedient People" and "You Pledged to Hear the Words about Jehovah's Kindness." Another two arias

Bohdan Markiw, an orchestral conductor, concert violinist and chamber musician, is recently retired longtime librarian at Yale University and director of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir in New Haven, Conn.

Ilnytskyj's book wins top prize in Ukraine at publishers' forum

LVIV – Prof. Oleh S. Ilnytskyj's book "Ukrainian Futurism, 1914-1930," released in Ukrainian translation in August 2003, was recognized as best in the "Scholarly and Professional Literature" category at the 10th National Forum of Publishers held in Lviv on September 11-14, reported the American Association of Ukrainian Studies, citing news media reports from Ukraine.

The forum is the most popular and largest book fair and gathering of publishers in Ukraine. A jury of prominent scholars and writers chose top publications in several categories. Last year the forum attracted between 30,000 and 40,000 attendees. This year, more than 520 representatives from the book industry had booths at the Palace of Arts in Lviv. Winners were announced at the Lviv State Theater of Opera and Ballet during the forum's opening ceremonies.

The English-language version of Prof. Ilnytskyj's book on Futurism, published by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and distributed by Harvard University Press, won the 1997 Best Book Award from the American Association of Ukrainian Studies. His more recent scholarly work, "Concordance to the Poetic Works of Taras Shevchenko," co-authored with Dr. George Hawrysch, won the 2003 Best Book Award from the same association.



Maestro Myroslav Skoryk (left) and baritone Oleh Chmyr (right), with Volodymyr Vynnytsky, music director, after the concert held on August 30 at the Grazhda as part of the Music and Art Center of Greene County's summer classical music series. The concert program presented excerpts from Maestro Skoryk's opera "Moisei" (Moses) as well as the composer's piano works and songs.

sung by Moses' antagonist, Datan, were also undertaken by Mr. Chmyr, namely, "He Who Pretends to be a Prophet" and "Futile Thread, Futile Prophecy."

In each aria Mr. Chmyr, who was in splendid voice, modulated the color of his voice to reflect the feelings conveyed by the lyrics as well as to differentiate between the two characters, Moses and Datan.

Mr. Chmyr's velvety voice in "Solitude" was especially moving.

However, Datan's aria "He Who Pretends" was the vocal highlight of the performance. In it, Mr. Chmyr's voice turned from ironic to that of a thunderous avalanche, that resounded with the refrain "He will be stoned."

To give the audience a better sense of the opera, the concert program also included a video presentation of the work made during a performance at the Lviv Opera house.

The concluding part of the program was devoted to the celebration of Maestro Skoryk's 65th birthday. Among featured works were "Masterpieces for Piano," written and played by the composer, and three of his songs as sung by Mr. Chmyr.

The concert proved to be an unforgettable and moving experience. A memorable evening ended with sustained applause.

The August 31 concert featured the Forte String Quartet, resident at the Brooklyn Conservatory. The ensemble comprises Mikhail Kuchuk and Oleksandr Abayev, violins; Roumi Petrova, viola; and Stas Orlovsky, cello.

The program opened with an inspired reading of Franz Schubert's "Two Cellos Quintet," in which the quartet was joined by the star Ukrainian cellist Natalia Khoma. The performance had the warm glow and subtle contours that the music invites with both cellists, producing a rich singing tone and a lovely Viennese lilt.

The second part of the concert consisted of an exquisite rarity, the "Concerto for Piano, Violin and String Quartet" by composer Ernest Chausson (1855-1899). This four-part masterpiece featured two superb Ukrainian soloists, the violinist Yuri Kharenko and the noted pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky. Mr. Kharenko solidly dedicated himself to "sing" his exquisite violin part with silky sound, while Mr. Vynnytsky skillfully scooped up thematic notes from the wild cascades of runs and arpeggios.

The audience responded with a standing ovation, calling upon the musicians to take repeated bows.

The 21st season was the production of the center's new music director, Mr. Vynnytsky and the new executive director, Ika Koznarska Casanova.

With such an outstanding set of final concerts, the new management is to be congratulated, with best wishes extended for future programs forming part of the "Music at the Grazhda" series.



Members of the Forte String Quartet and guest soloists at the closing concert of the series held on August 31: (from left) Natalia Khoma, Stas Orlovsky, Mykhail Kuchuk, Roumi Petrova, Volodymyr Vynnytsky and Yuri Kharenko; (missing from the photo: Oleksandr Abayev).

Excerpts of Skoryk's "Moisei" presented at Embassy of Ukraine in Washington

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Since its premiere in Lviv in 2001, Myroslav Skoryk's opera "Moisei" (Moses) has been staged in only two other cities, in Kyiv and Warsaw, and very few aficionados of Ukrainian classical music here are familiar with the work.

On September 8 they had a chance to get at least a hint of what the opera looks and sounds like when the composer himself introduced the work at a concert evening at the Embassy of Ukraine with the help of baritone Oleh Chmyr and a video recording of the first performance.

The event, which also served to mark the composer's 65th birthday, was held in conjunction with the Embassy's celebration of the 12th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

In the first half of the program, Mr. Chmyr, accompanied by Mr. Skoryk on the piano, sang five short arias from the opera, three as Moses and two as his antagonist, Datan, which was followed by three video excerpts of the opera's prologue, ballet and epilogue. Mr. Skoryk introduced and provided the context for each piece.

The second half of the concert was devoted to Mr. Skoryk's other works: piano pieces, among them his widely popular "Melodiya," and "Hanterski Vizerunky," jazzy musical images of Hunter, N.Y., which were performed by the composer, and a few songs based on folk melodies performed by Mr. Chmyr.

This was not the first time Mr. Skoryk's works have been performed in Washington, nor was it his first personal appearance here. Over the past five years a number of his compositions have been performed by Ukrainian artists and ensembles in The Washington Group Cultural Fund concert series and have received good reviews in the press. In 1998 the fund hosted his 60th anniversary concert, with the Leontovych String Quartet, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and the composer himself at the piano.

Mr. Chmyr, who had performed leading operatic roles in Ukraine, Russia and Poland, now teaches voice in New Jersey and most recently has appeared in the New Jersey State Opera production of Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci."

With Ambassador Kostyantyn



Yaro Bihun

Composer Myroslav Skoryk and baritone Oleh Chmyr performing at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.

Gryshchenko recalled to Kyiv to become Ukraine's new foreign affairs minister, the evening was opened by his deputy, and now acting chief of mission, Volodymyr Yatsenkivskyi. Also on hand to greet the artists and guests was Natalia Gryshchenko, the former ambassador's wife, who had not yet left for Ukraine.

The concert was followed by a reception.

The evening was not without a few drawbacks and glitches, which served to detract from what would otherwise have been a uniquely enjoyable event.

The Embassy's piano developed a sticking hammer mechanism early in the concert, which Mr. Skoryk had to attend to on more than one occasion, as well as a noisy pedal. And – as the composer apologized before and after its showing – the quality of the video, which was pro-



Natalia Gryshchenko, the wife of Ukraine's new foreign affairs minister, joins composer Myroslav Skoryk (left) and baritone Oleh Chmyr following their concert at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

(Continued on page 14)

THE ART SCENE: Still lifes by Alexander Motyl featured in "After Hours" exhibit

MALVERN, Pa. – An exhibit titled "After Hours," featuring the still lifes and figures in oil of Alexander Motyl and Lauren Acton, respectively, opens at The Tori Collection's gallery on King Street, on Friday, September 26. The exhibit will be on view through November 8.

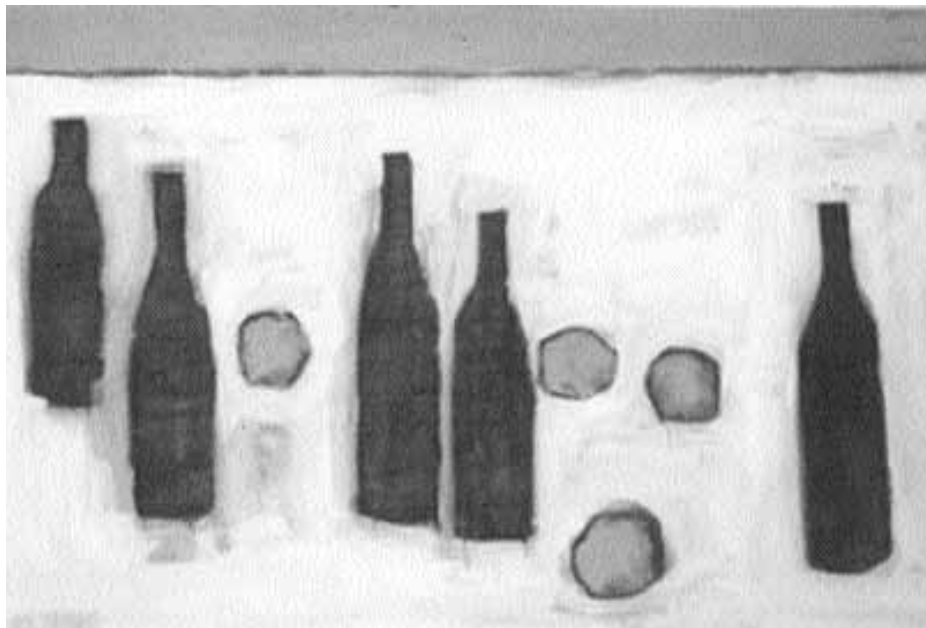
Dr. Motyl, a professor of political science at Rutgers University and author of numerous books and articles, is widely regarded as an expert on the subject of nationalism in Eastern Europe. He is also one of the gallery's leading artists. For this exhibition, Dr. Motyl presents a new series of still lifes using images of bottles.

The evolving corpus of Dr. Motyl's work, which, as noted on the Tori Collection website, is "tersely styled and quietly rendered, ... hovers between cityscape, still life and figures. Inspired by his reverence for the ordinary, Motyl's most representational work projects the prosaic features of urban architecture. Personalized by the artist through a pictorial and symbolic focus, Windows align the artist's gaze with the viewer's emotion."

With regard to the artist's recent work, the site goes on to note that "Motyl presents a series of angular, elongated nudes braced against starkly simplified landscapes. Through the meditative beauty of such fig-

ures, Motyl extends the mood of solitude and introspection of his earlier work."

Dr. Motyl studied painting with Leon Goldin at Columbia University. Since his first exhibit in a group show at the gallery



"Day's End," acrylic on canvas by Alexander Motyl, 36 x 24.

of the Ukrainian Artists' Association of America in New York City in 1975, and subsequently, in 1980. He has taken part in a number of exhibits including "Habitats," Agora Gallery, New York, 1998; "Metro Art," Ward-Nasse Gallery, New York, 1999; Solo Show, Columbia University, New York, 1999; and, The Phyllis Lucas Gallery, New York, 2000).

Dr. Motyl's previous exhibits at The Tori Collection include: "Emergence: The Artistry of Color and Perception" held in New York in October 2001 and in Villanova, Pa., in November 2001.

Also featured in the exhibit are oils by Lauren Acton. Ms. Acton's sensuous and expressive images of the nude capture the emotions of human relations. Ms. Acton, who studied abroad in Paris and Italy, completed her studies at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University.

The Tori Collection has recently

(Continued on page 15)

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Excerpts of Skoryk's ...

(Continued from page 13)

jected onto a small, old and yellowed
screen, did not do the opera justice.

The professionally recorded two-CD
album of the opera, however, more than
made up for what was lacking in the
evening's program, as those who pur-
chased the CD became aware. The same
is true for Oleh Chmyr's CD, "European
Vocal Miniatures," with pianist
Volodymyr Vynnytsky accompanying,
which includes art songs by Schubert,
Schumann, Mahler, Chopin and other
composers rarely, if ever, recorded by
Ukrainian artists. Unfortunately, judging
by the stacks of CDs left at the conclu-
sion of the reception, not too many
guests availed themselves of this oppor-
tunity.

The Washington concert was the sec-
ond of four scheduled appearances by
Messrs. Skoryk and Chmyr, which began
August 30 at the Grazhda in Jewett, N.Y.
Subsequent concerts were also scheduled
in Cambridge, Mass., and Newark, N.J.

Ukraine's Iryna Merleni...

(Continued from page 11)

fourth place at the World Championships,
he qualifies to compete in next year's
Olympics.

The top 10 wrestlers in each of the seven
men's weight classes qualified for the
Olympics, while the top five women in the
48-, 55-, 63- and 72-kilogram weight classes
qualified to compete in Athens, Greece.

Golovchenko came up short in her semi-
final match against heavily favored Kaori
Icho of Japan, 4-0. She then lost her bronze
medal match to Canada's Viola Yanik after
Yanik pinned her 2 minutes and 44 seconds
into the contest.

A disappointment for the Ukrainian
men's team was the performance of multiple
world champion Elbrus Tedeev. Prior to the
start of the World Championships many
wrestling experts believed the Ukrainian
would medal. Although Tedeev said he was
disappointed with his sixth-place finish, his
performance earned him a spot at next
year's Olympics.

Tedeev lost in the quarterfinals 6-4 to
Irbek Famiev of Russia and said losing to
the eventual world champion was not a con-
solation. "I should have won that match. I
did several things wrong early and it ended
up costing me," Tedeev said.

Prior to the start of competition,
Ukraine's head wrestling coach was denied
a visa to enter the United States. Members
of the country's coaching staff and delega-
tion said they could not say why the coach
was denied entry. Tedeev said his head
coach's absence had little to do with his per-
formance.

Ukraine's Vadym Tasoyev also earned a
spot at the 2004 Summer Games with his
eighth-place finish in the men's 96-kilogram
(211.25 pound) division.

Other Ukrainians who wrestled but did not
qualify for the Olympics were: Inessa Rebar,
who finished 11th in her weight class (51
kilograms/112.25 pounds); Tatiana Lazareya,
10th place (55 kilograms/121
pounds); Oksana Shalikova, fifth place
(59 kilograms/130 pounds); Katerina
Burmistrova, eighth place (67 kilo-
grams/147.5 pounds); Svitlana Sayenko,
12th place (72 kilograms/158.5 pounds).

Ukrainian men who did not qualify for
the 2004 Summer Olympics included:
Vasyl Fedoryshyn, 24th place (60 kilo-
grams/132 pounds); Zaza Zazirov, 12th
place (74 kilograms/163 pounds); and
Alik Muzayev, 21st place (84 kilo-
grams/185 pounds).

The World Championships are sched-
uled to be aired in the United States on
ESPN2 on October 22 at 5 p.m. and
October 23 at noon.

Future leaders...

(Continued from page 9)

panel briefing with three of the founding members of the Action Ukraine Coalition, former Congressman Charles Dougherty and Vera Andryczyk and Zenia Chernyk of the Ukrainian Federation of America. The panelists spoke on how Action Ukraine works to advance a democratic Ukraine by developing more effective channels of communication between the U.S. Congress and the Ukrainian American community.

Earlier in the week, students also had the chance to hear Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, speak about the history of his organization and the important role of the Ukrainian American community in his work.

At a meeting at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Vera Andrushkiw, program director of the Community Partnerships Project, provided a brief history and role of the Ukrainian American community and introduced the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, its beginnings, current projects and how they can get involved with USUF.

In another panel, the foundation welcomed three former Peace Corps volunteers in Ukraine, Ken Bossong, Jason Campbell and Michael Kiefer. Each discussed their reasons for choosing the Peace Corps, their work and the realities of life abroad, offering entertaining stories, and some of their most rewarding experiences.

In addition to the meetings around town, participants had the chance to attend leadership training seminars at the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest non-profit and non-partisan citizenship education organization. Close Up Vice-President Charles Tampio led group discussions on leadership styles, the nature of leadership in democracy and how to determine one's personal leadership skills.

The program concluded on Friday morning with a certificate ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko Monument in downtown Washington led by USUF President

McConnell, Vice-President John A. Kun, CPP Project Director and Program Coordinator Miriam Bates. Mayor Petro Pshenyshniuk from Pervomaisk and Mayor Roman Sushko from Kalush, two Ukrainian officials visiting with the Community Partnerships Program, also attended. Both mayors expressed their gratitude for being invited to the closing ceremony and their hope that Ukraine's youth will one day have the opportunity to participate in a similar program.

The USUF is already looking ahead to the third annual Youth Leadership Program 2004. The foundation's hope is that the Youth Leadership Program will inspire many in the Ukrainian American community's next generation to follow lives of leadership and service on behalf of the immediate community and U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Like last year, the 2003 Youth Leadership Program was free to participating students. All program costs, including lodging, were borne by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. The foundation is very appreciative of the financial support provided by individuals and organizations of the Ukrainian American community.

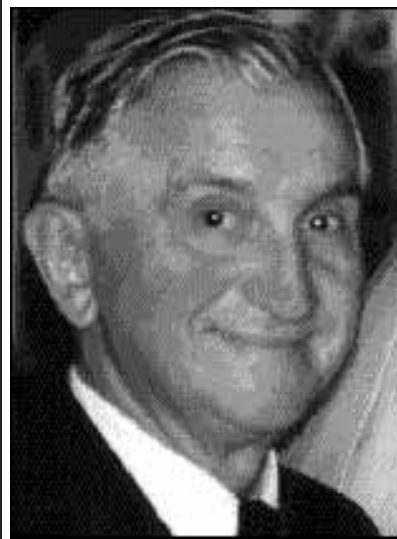
Still lifes...

(Continued from page 13)

opened its new gallery in historic Malvern. As in the main collection, it has on display a wide range of contemporary fine arts featuring a number of leading international artists living in and outside the United States, including Cuba, England, France, Italy, Japan and Taiwan. Exhibitions featuring a solo artist or group show are held every two months.

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The work of both artists may be seen on The Tori Collection website, www.toricollection.com.



ROMAN MICHAEL KYSILEWSKYJ, M.D.

Roman Kysilewskyj, 71, died after a long battle with cancer at his home Tuesday morning August 19, 2003.

Dr. Kysilewskyj was born in Stanislaw (now Ivano-Frankivsk) Ukraine, November 21, 1924, son of a well known Professor of Languages. He lived in Lviv until forced at age 17 to flee with his family through Slovakia, Austria and Germany to escape the communist regime. He graduated medical school from Germany's Erlangen University in 1950, then emigrated to the US for his internal medicine residency at Mountsides Hospital in Montclair, and the VA Hospital in Cleveland. He served as Captain of the US Army Medical Corps from 1953-1955, and was stationed in Korea for 16 months during the war.

In 1957, Dr. Kysilewskyj married Joan Chierski, a nurse at Mountsides Hospital, and began his private practice in internal medicine in Bloomfield, NJ. He served the Bloomfield School System as school physician for 17 years. As board member of the Ukrainian Medical Association, Dr. Kysilewskyj organized debutante balls at the Pierre and Waldorf Astoria Hotels in New York City for 25 years. In 2000, he was honored by the State of NJ for 50 years of service practicing medicine, and in April 2003 was awarded an honorary plaque from the Bloomfield Board of Education. He retired from his medical practice shortly thereafter, having served his community for nearly half a century.

An avid Cosmos soccer and Devils hockey fan, Dr. Kysilewskyj's love of travel took him and his family throughout the U.S. and Europe. He was known for his classic ballroom dance techniques, as well as his life long skiing enthusiasm. He played violin from an early age and played in an orchestra in Richard Wagner's city of Bayreuth, Germany. His affection for the ocean made him a frequent visitor to the beach and the casinos in Atlantic City, while trips to Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera quenched his appetite for the arts. All these passions were shared by his family and are being passed down to his beloved grandchildren. His patients will remember Dr. Kysilewskyj as probably the only doctor left in the world to make house-calls everyday. He was a gentleman and a gentle man.

Dr. Kysilewskyj is survived by his second wife, Maria. He was the beloved father to Lisa and her husband Christopher Lovernii, Paul and Roth and her husband, Dean Fiorino, as well as five grandchildren: Christine, Diana, Darian, Maximilian and Luke. He was a dear brother to his sister, Alexandra Tkacz and brother, George Kysilewskyj.



With deep sorrow we inform friends and colleagues that our dear husband and father

Alexander Skop

born in Nemyriv, Vinnytska Oblast, Ukraine, on December 16, 1927, passed away on Wednesday, September 3, 2003 in San Diego CA.

The funeral liturgy was held on Monday September 8 at St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

He will be sorely missed by his devoted family and many friends across North America and Ukraine.

Wife — Sophie Skop
Daughters — Vera Skop, Nadia Skop-Shlichta
Son in Law — Peter Shlichta

Vichna Yomu Pamiat!

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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St. John's School...

(Continued from page 6)

financial aid with the goal of having all immigrant students paying the full \$3,000 tuition by their third year;

- instituted a scholarship program with recognized donors;

- instituted real-time auditing, separate checking accounts and quarterly budgets overseen by both the Board and the Parish Trustees;

- established a standing committee of professional contractors, engineers, and electricians to oversee maintenance, improvements and repairs to the school buildings;

- conducted a thorough inspection of the school buildings with a four-page list of needed maintenance and repair work;

- completed cosmetic improvements to the outside of the school;

- created an alumni relations and donations program;

- instituted an active recruitment program for newly arrived Ukrainian immigrants, as well as established families;

- conducted numerous in-house service programs for faculty and staff; and

- opened lines of communication with surrounding Ukrainian parishes in New Jersey, including Whippany, Jersey City, Hoboken and Elizabeth.

The new school board is committed to developing St. John's School to its fullest potential. Many more steps need to be taken.

The primary need is for more students, as this brings down the cost of operating the school. Unfortunately, last year's uncertainties over the future of the school led to numerous students transferring. That trend

will be reversed. As parents are being asked to bypass their local schools, the board's goal is to have St. John's academic, technical and extracurricular activity program become better than any competing public or parochial school in the area. The computer and upper grade math programs already have been upgraded and the faculty that has brought accolades to St. John's academically over the years has been retained.

The obvious drawing card of Ukrainian language and heritage instruction, as well as religious education in the Ukrainian Catholic rite cannot be duplicated. There is no more nurturing or caring school than St. John's, where each child is special. Disciplinary problems are rare, and a healthy environment conducive to learning is maintained by caring teachers and sharing students. Children who speak little English and those who speak little Ukrainian help each other and form lasting bonds.

Continuing fund-raising and financial support from the community is needed to maintain the school. To this end, numerous fund-raisers will be held during the course of the upcoming school year, beginning with the annual St. John's Ukrainian Festival on Saturday, September 27, from noon to 6 p.m., followed by a dance from 7 p.m. to midnight on the church and school grounds in Newark. Admission to the festival is \$5 and includes a lengthy entertainment program featuring professional Ukrainian entertainers, as well as student performers.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a day of Ukrainian music, dance, food, arts, crafts and fun. Take the opportunity to visit the school and hear further news of the school and upcoming events.

New U.S. envoy...

(Continued from page 1)

September 18 at the post-graduate school of Kyiv State University, the new U.S. envoy commented during a meeting with the press on the fact that nearly a week into his job he had yet to officially present his credentials to President Leonid Kuchma. Diplomatic tradition calls for a new ambassador to be received by the head of state before beginning his work.

“I understand that the president is a very busy man. I just arrived in Kyiv and I have not yet been in Crimea,” explained Mr. Herbst, referring to the fact that President Kuchma had been in Yalta for most of the week preparing for the summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Mr. Herbst stated during the press conference that he would continue to involve himself in human rights issues, as he had done while ambassador to Uzbekistan, and to interact with all participants in the country's political processes, including non-governmental organizations and the mass media.

“In Uzbekistan the Embassy and I stayed in close contact with human rights supporters. The U.S. is strongly supportive of democracy movements around the world,” explained Ambassador Herbst. “I

intend to maintain the same contacts here.”

The new envoy to Ukraine said he also would continue to support efforts to find the murderers of Heorhii Gongadze, the Ukrainian journalist whose death caused the development of an opposition movement after state leaders were implicated. He mentioned that he would continue the policy of his predecessor, Ambassador Carlos Pascual, to support the development of a free press in the country, as well as other democratic institutions.

Mr. Herbst again noted at this appearance that Washington wanted to see Ukraine more closely tied to European and Western international structures and warned that Kyiv's entry into an economic union with Moscow, Minsk and Astana could hurt the process.

He also emphasized that Kyiv is high on Washington's list of diplomatic and foreign policy priorities.

“The Embassy in Kyiv is one of the most important U.S. embassies in the world,” explained Mr. Herbst. “The work that is to be done between Ukraine and the U.S., particularly at this time, is extremely important not just for Ukraine but for the U.S. as well. I consider it a great honor that President [George] Bush and Secretary [of State Colin] Powell chose me for this position.”

The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

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

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

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Ohio couple celebrates 65th wedding anniversary

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, Ohio – Nicholas and Mary Szmagala Bobeczko were married 65 years ago on August 6, 1938, at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church on West Seventh Street.

A divine liturgy with the Rev. Canon Dr. John A. Ropke, pastor, and Dr. Michael Kulick, deacon, officiating was held on Sunday, August 3, at St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church in Parma, Ohio, in honor of the couple's 65 years together.

The Bobeczkos are the proud parents of Gerald, who resides in Berlin, Md., with his wife, Mary Jo; and Daniel and his wife, Oxana, of Mentor, Ohio. The immediate family members gathered at a local restaurant for a small celebration.

On Thursday, August 7, Nicholas and Mary Bobeczko flew to Berlin, Md., where on Saturday, August 9, Gerald and Mary Jo Bobeczko had a lovely dinner at their home.

Four generations were present at the memorable get-together: Paul and Laura Bobeczko, with Alex and Zachary, from Arlington, Va.; Anne and Joseph Callis, with Emily and Megan of Wayne, Pa.; Karen and Paul Ridder with twins Andrew and Katherine Ridder of Wayne, Pa. Grandson Daniel Bobeczko Jr. of Cleveland also attended.

The Bobeczkos are active members of Ukrainian National Association Branch 102 of Cleveland. Nicholas was Financial Secretary in 1947-1956, while Mary assisted her husband with the duties of a secretary. Both are very active with the UNA Seniors that meet at Soyuzivka every year in June. They also volunteer in the community with senior projects.

The Bobeczkos have attended many UNA conventions – Nicholas as a delegate and an active member of the Elections Committee during many conventions and Mary as a guest. Members of the Szmagala, Woloshyn and Bobeczko families who were unable to attend the anniversary celebrations in August got together at a restaurant in Parma to celebrate the 65th jubilee as well as the 86th birthday of Mary S. Bobeczko, who was born on September 6, 1917.

Mrs. Bobeczko is a daughter of the late Dmytro and Bronislawa Szmagala. Mr. Szmagala was a UNA Supreme Advisor for 25 years.



Nicholas and Mary Szmagala Bobeczko

In honor of Nicholas and Mary S. Bobeczko the children of Gerald and Mary Jo Bobeczko, have purchased a brick at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka.

Communists come...

(Continued from page 2)

to change the Constitution of Ukraine.

In reality, the majority have only 226 to 228 deputies and the CPU only 60, giving them less than the 300 plus votes required (i.e., only 286 to 288). Chairman Lytvyn, therefore, has predicted that the third draft will not be adopted before the October 2004 presidential elections.

If the lack of 12 to 15 votes is overcome and the constitutional changes are in fact adopted, President Kuchma could be elected by his parliament majority to become prime minister, to whom many of the current powers of the president would pass. Although Mr. Kuchma is constitutionally unable to be elected president for a third term, he could still survive politically by entering government, thereby postponing any problems surrounding his immunity – thanks, of course, to “anti-state” forces.

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Kharkiv Oblast livestock experts visit farms and agencies in Ohio



Olena Kulyk of Kharkiv Oblast examines a sample of the alfalfa Ohio's Mohrfield Farms had to purchase this year because wet fields didn't yield enough feed for its cows.

by Jan Sherbin

CINCINNATI – With much of Ukraine's farm yield down substantially this year, the learning experiences of a group of livestock experts from Kharkiv Oblast currently visiting the United States are especially important.

The group – a dozen people who work in farm management plus three government agriculture officials – spent three weeks in the Midwest in a quest to increase and modernize farm production. Though some of those farms specialize in pigs, still others in cows, and others in poultry, they all need to feed their livestock.

At Mohrfield Farms in Pleasant Plain, Ohio, the group saw prize-winning Holstein dairy cows. They were particularly interested in the growing procedures Mohrfield Farms uses to produce its cow-feed mixture. The group noted the proportions of hay, silage, corn, and protein and mineral additives that Mohrfield Farms uses to raise 1,500-pound animals.

Striking a chord with the Kharkiv group was Mohrfield Farms' grain-growing experience this summer. With extensive rains in the Midwest, Mohrfield Farms couldn't grow what it needed and had to buy alfalfa from a Western producer.

At Greenacres organic farm in Indian Hill, Ohio, the group saw the "rotating pasture" method of feeding livestock. Greenacres rotates its animals every three days. Cattle get first crack at virgin pasture so they get the most nutritious grass. When they move on, horses come next, then sheep, then poultry. Wastes from the animals fertilize the pasture, to which the animals return when new grass replaces what they've eaten.

"Many of our processes and methods can help them learn how to compete better in a market economy," said Bruce Vaillancourt, who organized the group's study tour on behalf of Cincinnati's Center for Economic Initiatives. "They need to outperform some of the other former Eastern Bloc countries, such as Poland and the Czech Republic, that export food to Ukraine and also are joining the European Union."

The EU gives farm subsidies, he noted, while Ukraine doesn't. "Outperforming the other countries is the only way Ukraine will be able to protect and expand its markets. Also, it will be better for Ukraine's economy if they have strong agricultural production of their own rather than relying heavily

on imports from European Union countries," he explained.

Mr. Vaillancourt booked the group to visit farms of various sizes, universities, trade associations, state agricultural organizations and agricultural extension agents throughout the Midwest to expose the group to the full supply chain and support organizations necessary to sustain the types of improvements America has been able to achieve.

Especially important were meetings with government agriculture officials, who explained that their objective is to assist farmers and outlined ways to do that.

The group's August 11-31 study tour was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Center for Economic Initiatives ran a similar livestock study tour in 2001 and has been tracking results. "We found that the 2001 group reduced their operating costs by an average of 18 percent and increased productivity by an average of 36 percent, just in the first year after their tour," Mr. Vaillancourt noted.

Gareth Jones



- Hero of the Ukrainians and world's witness to the communist holocaust

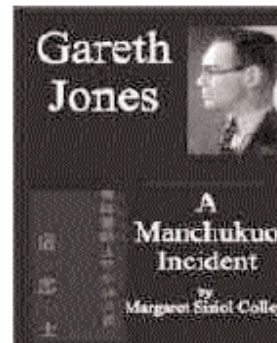
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Vice Prime Minister Vitalii Haiduk told journalists on September 10 that he opposes the creation of a supranational controlling body as stipulated by the draft agreement on the common economic zone of the four CIS countries. (RFE/RL Newsline)

EU commissioner urges "Wider Europe"

KYIV – The European Union's Commissioner for Enlargement Guenter Verheugen told Ukrainian President Kuchma at a meeting in Crimea on September 11 that Ukraine and the European Commission should focus on talks regarding the signing of a joint-action plan within the EU's Wider Europe initiative, Interfax reported, quoting presidential spokeswoman Olena Hromnytska. Mr. Kuchma reportedly said during the meeting that "Ukraine's strategic course toward European integration remains unchanged." The following day, Mr. Verheugen met with lawmakers from the Verkhovna Rada's Commission for European Integration, headed by Borys Tarasyuk. According to Mr. Tarasyuk, the EU official expressed hope that Ukraine's intention to form a common economic area with three other CIS countries will not change Kyiv's course toward integration with Europe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

292 deputies said to support reform draft

LUHANSK – President Leonid Kuchma said in Luhansk on September 12 that 292 lawmakers now back the constitutional reform draft recently submitted to the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax reported. Constitutional amendments in Ukraine need 300 votes in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada for approval. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Cabinet submits 2004 budget draft

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has registered a 2004 budget draft, Interfax reported on September 10. The document submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers projects budget revenues at 58.2 billion hrv (\$10.9 billion) and a deficit of 2.37 billion hrv. The government expects that GDP in 2004 will grow by 4.8 percent, while the annual inflation rate will be 6 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada vice-chair thrown out of SDPU

KYIV – The Political Bureau of the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) on September 10 expelled Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Oleksander Zinchenko from the SDPU, Ukrainian news agencies reported. SDPU lawmaker Nestor Shufrych said Mr. Zinchenko was ousted for failing to put his signature to a draft constitutional reform plan that was recently prepared by the presidential administration and lawmakers from the Communist and Socialist parties. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Nazi hunter makes offer in Romania

BUCHAREST – Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem, on September 12 in Bucharest offered a \$10,000 reward to anyone providing information leading to the prosecution of war criminals, Reuters and AFP reported. Mr. Zuroff has headed a similar "Operation Last Chance" in the Baltic states and Ukraine, which exposed 241 suspected war criminals and sent 55 of them to prosecutors. Mr. Zuroff said "Romania was a satellite state of Nazi Germany and actively participated in the implementation of the Final Solution," yet, "not a single Holocaust perpetrator has been investigated, let alone prosecuted in post-Communist Romania," according to Agence France-Presse. Reuters quoted Mr. Zuroff as asking: "Does Romanian society, Romanian leadership have the courage to bring

these people to justice? This is what we hope will happen." (RFE/RL Newsline)

German pilot pays fine for trespassing

KYIV – Erhard Ulver, a 74-year-old German pilot, has paid a fine of 3,400 hrv (\$640) and left Ukraine with two other German senior citizens, Interfax reported on September 16. Ukrainian police on August 18 detained Mr. Ulver and his two passengers for flying a private airplane to Dnipropetrovsk, eastern Ukraine, without permission. According to the agency, the three Germans were meeting friends and doing some sight-seeing during their one-month stay in Dnipropetrovsk. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poland begins new visa regime

WARSAW – Polish consulates in the Belarusian cities of Miensk, Brest and Hrodna, and the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Lutsk and Odesa, have begun issuing visas for Belarusians and Ukrainians with validity as of October 1, the PAP news agency reported on September 5, quoting the Polish Foreign Ministry. To comply with the European Union's visa policy, Warsaw introduced visas for Belarusians and Ukrainians as of October 1, signing relevant intergovernmental accords with Miensk and Kyiv earlier this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)



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Embassy of Russia...

(Continued from page 1)

Genocide Convention" and notes that "the United States Government's Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and his associates committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933, using food as a political weapon to achieve the aim of suppressing any Ukrainian expression of political and cultural identity and self-determination." (The full text of the resolution was published in The Weekly on August 10. It will appear also on The Ukrainian Weekly's website: www.ukrweekly.com.)

According to Helsinki Commission Staff Adviser Orest Deychakiwsky, "This resolution is important because it very directly and unambiguously characterizes the 1932-1933 Famine as a genocide. No

previous resolution has done that."

List of co-sponsors grows

S. Res. 202 is now co-sponsored by eight senators: George Voinovich (R-Ohio), Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.), George Allen (R-Va.), Norm Coleman (R-Minn), Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) and Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.). The resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, where it awaits further action.

For information about the Famine resolution, readers may call the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, (202) 737-6090 in Washington or (212) 505-1765 in New York; or the Ukrainian Federation of America, (215) 663-9191 in Philadelphia. Information is also available via e-mail from Mr. Deychakiwsky at orest.deychak@mail.house.gov.

With reservations...

(Continued from page 10)

of representatives of the four countries to dictate trade policy and tariffs. The voting weight of the body would be divided up according to the gross domestic product (GDP) of each member-state, which would effectively give Russia at least 70 percent of the total vote and Ukraine only about 10 percent.

"Within this body, all our rights are absolutely given away. In any vote, 9.9 percent of the voting weight would go to Ukraine and 83 percent to Russia," argued Ms. Tymoshenko. "We could say that we love Russia with all our hearts, but that arrangement would not meet the interests of Ukraine."

Mr. Kuchma's leading supporters in the Verkhovna Rada also expressed strong reservations with the economic treaty. National Deputy Stanislav Stashevskiy, a member of the For a United Ukraine fac-

tion, noted during his presentation as chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Foreign Relations that, not only did the agreement violate the Constitution because it would force Ukraine to execute the decisions of a supranational authority, but it would close the door on WTO entry and EU membership.

"A presidential decree clearly spelled out a free trade zone and a customs union as the goals of Euro-integration," stated Mr. Stashevskiy.

He added that "a customs union means that tariffs and taxes would be changed to a single norm, which meant that we could join the WTO only together [with Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan]" and concluded that "our involvement [in the common economic space] must be minimal and limited to a free trade zone."

After the treaty is signed by the four states it must receive parliamentary approval in all four national legislatures before its provisions could be implement-

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

September 26-28

Conference of Spartanky
Plast Sorority

September 27-28

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new Trail Cleaning Weekend
Paintball Games on Soyuzivka's
new groomed paintball field
- \$30/game

September 28-30

Reunion of Mittenwald Schools

October 17-19

Plast-KPS Convention

October 31-November 2

Halloween Weekend
costume party, haunted house,
pumpkin picking and carving,
slumber party for kids and
costume zabava for all
Saint George Academy Class of 1978
High School Reunion

November 1-2

Paintball Games on Soyuzivka's
new groomed paintball field
- \$30/game

November 7-9

Plast Orlykiada

November 15-16

UACC

November 21-23

UNA General Assembly

November 27-30

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, September 22

PHILADELPHIA: The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, which began its academic year on September 8, will hold registration for new students at 6 p.m. in the Ukrainian Educational Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. The school accepts students age 4 and above (students must be 4 by September 1). For further information contact Nina Prybolsky, (610) 591-2492 or (215) 572-1552.

Saturday, September 27

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art and the Ukrainian Language Society invite the public to a literary evening featuring poet Vasyl Makhno to be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 7 p.m. Introductory remarks will be by Prof. Bohdan Rubchak. For additional information call the UIMA, (773) 227-5522.

Monday, September 29

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is pleased to announce that its first lecture of the fall semester will be given by George Grabowicz, Dmytro Cyzevskyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Harvard University. The lecture, titled "Taras Shevchenko as Poet and Painter," will take place at 4-6 p.m. in the institute's seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave. Directions can be found on the HURI website: www.huri.harvard.edu, or you may phone the Institute, (617) 493-4053, or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Thursday, October 2

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Iskra Ukrainian Dance Group, under the direction of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, will be holding registration for new students at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, 7 Jefferson Road and Route 10 East. Beginners's registration: 4:45 p.m.; intermediate students; 6 p.m.; and advanced students; 7:15 p.m. Please bring your dance wear and shoes. For more information call Karen Chelak, (973) 543-3202, or e-mail moyehoist@aol.com.

Saturday, October 4

DANBURY, Conn.: The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the Danbury Ice Arena are hosting "Viktory for Kids," a charity gala skating show featuring World and Olympic Champion Viktor Petrenko, and an all-star cast including World and Olympic Champions Brian

Boitano, Ilya Kulik, Katya Gordeeva, Evgeni Plushenko, U.S. National Champions Timothy Goeble, Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev, and the Ukrainian National Ice Dance Champions Grushina and Goncharov, among others. This one-night-only performance will be held at the Danbury Ice Arena's Patriot Rink, 1 Independence Way in downtown Danbury. Tickets: \$100, \$125 and \$150. All proceeds to benefit CCRF's hospital partnerships and neonatal programs in Ukraine. VIP reception and celebrity auction will be held at the Colorado Brewery and Steakhouse. For more information contact Irene Oleksiak, (860) 652-0458, or call the Danbury Ice Arena, (203) 794-1704.

Sunday, October 5

CHICAGO: St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, corner of Rice and Leavitt streets, will hold its AutumnFest celebration for adults and children, at noon-10 p.m. Come and enjoy music and dancing, along with Ukrainian and American food and drink. For further information call Patti Mackiw, (800) 488-4280, ext. 6578.

Monday, October 6

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is holding a lecture by Nadia Diuk, director, Europe and Eurasia at the National Endowment for Democracy. Dr. Diuk's lecture, titled "The First Free Generation: Youth, Politics and Identity in Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan," will take place at 4-6 p.m. in the institute's seminar room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave. Directions can be found on the HURI website: www.huri.harvard.edu, or you may phone the institute, (617) 493-4053, or e-mail huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Saturday, October 18

NEW YORK CITY: The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, the Ukrainian Institute of America, and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America invite the public to the "Fall Zabava in New York City," which will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., starting at 9 p.m. Music to be provided by Tempo. Admission: \$30, students; \$40, members; \$50, non-members; cash bar; black-tie optional. Please make checks payable to Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America. For more information visit www.uesa.org, e-mail, nyc@uesa.org or call Marco Shmerykowsky, (212) 719-9700.

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New York City School

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* Classes begin Saturday, September 20th. *

Beginner Level	3:00 - 4:30 pm
Intermediate Level	4:30 - 6:00 pm
Advanced Level & Ensemble Class	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Syzokryli Ensemble Rehearsal	8:00 - 9:00 pm



Newark School

St. John the Baptist Auditorium
Bardonia and Ivy Streets

* Classes begin Tuesday, September 23rd. *

Beginner Level	3:15 - 4:30 pm
Intermediate Level Girls	4:30 - 6:00 pm
Intermediate Level Boys	5:30 - 7:00 pm

To REGISTER or for more INFORMATION contact
Roma Pryma Bohachevsky at: 215-258-2936
SYZOKRYLI@yahoo.com