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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Dynamic growth of economy reported for 2003 in Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – A dynamic expansion of Ukraine's economy continued in 2003, with the latest government figures showing that GDP (gross domestic product) growth in the last year rose by 8 percent, reported Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich on January 12.

"We had solid economic growth in 2003," said Mr. Yanukovich.

The country's industrial sector stoked an unprecedented fourth continuous year of strong economic growth by exceeding expectations and increasing production by 15.8 percent. At the beginning of 2003 government officials had forecast growth in the industrial sector at no better than 7 percent for the year.

Since the country's economy heated up in 2000, industrial production has expanded by 33 percent. It stimulated the economic expansion of 5.9 percent, 9.1 percent and 4.8 percent in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Valerii Lytvynskyi, an economist and advisor to the National Bank of Ukraine, said that NBU monetary policy helped to promote the latest industrial growth.

"The [prime] rate of the NBU [in 2003] went from 9.5 percent to 7 percent. It spurred economic growth, yet kept

inflation away from double digits," explained Mr. Lytvynskyi.

The NBU's chief concern at the beginning of the year was deflation, which stood at 0.6 percent as 2002 ended, the first downward price spiral ever recorded in Ukraine. That problem was rectified by the NBU and prices went the other way in 2003, rising by 8.2 percent. But the Ministry of the Economy said the rate was not a concern, inasmuch as it was a direct result of a hot economy.

The ministry placed most of the blame on flour and bread price increases, which were fueled by poor weather conditions in the spring that led to a poor grain harvest for 2003, as well as a grain sale scandal within the agricultural sector. At the close of the year, flour, bread, noodle and bakery product prices had risen by some 35 percent.

Speaking in Zhytomyr, Prime Minister Yanukovich said he would not allow grain prices to increase any further before the next harvest.

"We are making sure that there will be no more price increases for bread. The situation will be difficult until the next harvest," explained Mr. Yanukovich, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

Recently announced government fig-

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## Verkhovna Rada faces crisis, concludes its session prematurely

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn prematurely closed the winter parliamentary session on January 15, after opposition lawmakers continued to block the chairman's rostrum and paralyze the work of the legislative body.

It was the fourth consecutive day that members of the political opposition to the pro-presidential majority in Parliament did not allow for a plenary session to take place amid charges that the lawmakers had passed legislation illegally in order to move along a process of political reform the majority supports.

In fulfilling a warning that he would do so made two days earlier, Mr. Lytvyn brought the session to a close merely seven minutes into the legislative day, after opposition lawmakers again jammed the front of the session hall and did not allow parliamentary activity to begin.

Afterwards, Mr. Lytvyn criticized what he deemed the inappropriate behavior of the opposition in demanding that the Parliament reconsider a political reform bill it passed last week.

"Today they did not give us even the ability to close the fourth session in a civilized way," stated Mr. Lytvyn.

On January 13, the Rada chairman had

warned that the country faced a parliamentary crisis if the opposition forces continued to block the Parliament's work. He had said that it could become the death knell for the parliamentary system in Ukraine.

However, he rejected assertions by some lawmakers that President Leonid Kuchma might now dismiss the Verkhovna Rada before it reconvenes. The president has the right to call for new parliamentary elections if the legislative body fails to meet within 30 days. Ukraine's Constitutional Court is now considering how the constitutional wording can be interpreted, as requested by the president to do so last year. The Verkhovna Rada's spring session is scheduled to open on February 3.

Mr. Lytvyn's decision to end the morning meeting, which was followed by the playing of Ukraine's national anthem, closed a turbulent winter session. Nonetheless, the Rada chairman said he could not consider it a failure, inasmuch as the lawmakers had managed to pass 120 legislative acts.

What Mr. Lytvyn did not mention was that prior to bringing the session to a close, the Parliament leadership had hoped to pass several tax bills, documents used by the Cabinet of Ministers as a basis for developing the 2004 national budget in the expectation that they would be approved. Without them, the government might not be able to fulfill revenue targets.

The opposition lawmakers who stopped the last week of legislative work, chiefly from the Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko parliamentary factions, had decided, as it turns out, that the only way to return to the matter of political and Constitutional reform – which pro-presidential forces have said repeatedly would not be re-visited because the bills were legally approved – was to paralyze the work of the Parliament.

While stating that he remained optimistic that the opposition factions would not continue to paralyze the Parliament in the next session, Mr. Lytvyn added that he and the rest of the majority leadership would consider developing a sergeant-at-arms system for the Verkhovna Rada.

"If we again see attempts to illegally control the work of the Parliament, we will have to turn to a policing method," explained Mr. Lytvyn.

In blocking legislative activity for a fourth consecutive day, the Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko political caucuses had demanded that the Parliament reconsider its December 24 passage of a political reform bill, the first stage of a process of constitutional change that would give the legislative body the right to elect the head of state and bypass a direct popular vote.

(Continued on page 3)

## Chicago-based First Security bought by MB Financial Bank

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – First Security Federal Savings Bank, a 76-year-old Ukrainian institution based in Chicago, announced its sale to MB Financial Bank on January 12 for \$139.2 million.

The announcement was made jointly by Julian Kulas, president and CEO of First Security Federal Savings Bank, and Mitchell Feiger, president and CEO of MB Financial, in a statement released on the Internet that same day.

In the statement, Mr. Kulas said that the transaction would "allow our shareholders, many of whom are long-time customers and community members of First Security, the choice of obtaining an attractive cash price for their shares or obtaining, on a tax-deferred basis, shares in a strong, well-managed, community oriented bank."

"We [the First Security Board of Directors] considered this transaction very carefully and would not have approved it if we didn't think it would be in the best interests of our shareholders, our customers and our communities," Mr. Kulas said.

Mr. Kulas acknowledged that the news caught many people by surprise, particularly older Ukrainians who felt that by selling out First Security was losing its Ukrainian

identity. However, during a telephone interview with The Ukrainian Weekly on January 14, Mr. Kulas said First Security would retain its identity and he emphasized that all of the company's employees would be left in place, retaining their seniority, salary and even accrued vacations.

The statement formally announced that MB Financial Inc., the parent company of MB Financial Bank, and First Security Federal Financial Inc., parent of First Security Federal Savings Bank, agreed to merge, pending shareholder, regulatory and other necessary approvals. However, MB Financial Inc. will be the surviving corporation in the transaction, which is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2004. In addition, First Security Federal Savings Bank will merge with MB Financial Bank, leaving MB Financial as the surviving bank.

The transaction, valued at \$139.2 million, will be paid through a combination of MB Financial stock and cash. First Security stockholders will receive a cash payment equal to \$35.25 for their shares if they decide to sell, while First Security stockholders receiving stock will receive MB Financial shares valued at \$35.25 per share.

"We are looking forward to a smooth

transition and delivering the same high-quality personalized service with the familiar faces to which First Security customers are accustomed. In addition to offering First Security customers the same general banking products to which they are accustomed, we will offer them some new MB Financial products and services which they may find helpful in dealing with today's complex financial world," Mr. Feiger said in the statement.

According to Mr. Kulas, the transaction was initiated by First Security because "we wanted to allow our customers access to products and services which are simply not available to small community banks like First Security."

Mr. Kulas also noted that timing was a strong consideration in First Security's decision to initiate a merger. "We wanted to do this while we are still a valuable institution," Mr. Kulas told The Weekly. Officials at First Security first began discussing the possibility of a merger months ago and looked at 14 financial institutions before agreeing to join MB Financial.

The 40-year veteran of First Security, who has made known his intention to retire in the next year or so, said that larger banks have been aggressively moving into the

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## ANALYSIS

## Divisions within Social Democrats continue to cause conflict

by Taras Kuzio

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

The conflict that has been developing between Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine and Viktor Medvedchuk's Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) continues to snowball. It is difficult to see how the SDPU could remain a political force in Ukraine if Mr. Yushchenko wins the October presidential elections. The anger and frustration of national democrats after a Yushchenko victory are likely to be focused on Mr. Medvedchuk and the SDPU, rather than other oligarchic clans.

Ironically, the wholesale deterioration of relations between Our Ukraine and SDPU is not in the latter's interests. The former president and head of the SDPU parliamentary faction, Leonid Kravchuk, has always stood out as an example of moderation, recently cautioning President Leonid Kuchma that he will inherit a positive historical legacy only if a peaceful transfer of power takes place (such as Kravchuk himself organized in July 1994).

In an interview published in the January 10 issue of the newspaper Den (The Day), Mr. Kravchuk also criticized the manner in which the Constitutional Court's decision to allow President Kuchma to run for a third term is being used. In the same interview, Mr. Kravchuk warns that if Mr. Kuchma runs again this will lead to Ukraine's international isolation in the West. This would leave Ukraine with only one path, toward Russia, which Mr. Kravchuk would see as the undoing of his work in facilitating Ukraine's drive to independence in 1991-1992.

Mr. Kravchuk's views are echoed by Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk, who has remained close to the SDPU and whose Den newspaper is reportedly still financed by the party. Den has always stood out as a patriotic, pro-Western publication that espouses moderation compared to other rabidly anti-American SDPU newspapers, such as 2000 and Kievskie Viedomosti. Messrs. Kravchuk and Marchuk have long been advocates of Ukraine's membership in NATO. Therefore, this wing of the SDPU is in fundamental conflict with the pro-Russian wing led by Mr. Medvedchuk, who said at last year's SDPU congress that his party should become the leading advocate of Russian interests in Ukraine.

The conflict of interests within the SDPU between its pro-Western and pro-Russian wings is best seen in terms of Ukraine's non-European domestic policies, which clash with its declared goals of membership in the European Union and NATO. In the case of the EU, which is offering no membership prospects for Ukraine, there is no "carrot" for Ukraine's leaders to follow.

In the case of NATO this is different, as Ukraine could be invited to join later in the decade. The November 2002 NATO-Ukraine Action Plan includes an entire section devoted to non-military issues. Yet, these are being systematically infringed by the pro-Russian wing of Ukrainian politics, both by Mr. Medvedchuk, in his position as head of the presidential administration, and his brother, Serhii Medvedchuk, as head of

the Lviv Oblast State Tax Administration (now appointed deputy head of the State Tax Administration).

The Marchuk wing, on the other hand, is serious about its intentions to fulfill the military sections of the Action Plan. One wonders then how Mr. Marchuk must feel knowing that Mr. Medvedchuk is undermining his work. This is likely to lead to a postponement on upgrading Ukraine's Action Plan to a Membership Action Plan at NATO's summit later this year.

An example of the growing conflict between Our Ukraine and the SDPU can be seen in recent developments in the Zakarpattia Oblast town of Mukachiv. Speaking at this month's "Europe on the Path to a New Era" conference in Berlin attended by high-ranking EU officials and West European leaders, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for European Integration, head Borys Tarasyuk, described the Mukachiv events as a "cynical rape of democracy and parliamentarism in Ukraine."

In the June 20, 2003, mayoral elections, Our Ukraine candidate Vasyl Petiovka won and defeated his nearest rival, SDPU member Ernest Nuser, in a bitterly fought campaign. The SDPU had considered Zakarpattia as one of "it's" oblasts since the mid-1990s and this loss, therefore, was seen as a slap in the face.

The SDPU turned to the courts, claiming that the outcome of the vote had been rigged. A district court in Lviv agreed with the SDPU complaint. Mukachiv's election commission ignored the court decision and voted to confirm the election of Mr. Petiovka as mayor, refusing to order fresh elections. The Mukachiv election controversy was later reviewed by the Supreme Court, which confirmed that Mr. Petiovka was elected in a legitimate way.

However, on December 25, 2003, a presidential decree described the June election as illegitimate and installed as temporary mayor SDPU member Myroslav Opachka. The following day the City Council reconfirmed Mr. Petiovka as its head. Berkut riot police and Sokil special-task units were then flown in to prevent the council loyal to Petiovka from entering the building. Last week, Mukachevo's election commission voted to hold repeat mayoral elections on April 18.

Ukrainian Human Rights Ombudsman Nina Karpachova has sent an urgent inquiry to the Constitutional Court about the legality of the presidential decree. The Supreme Court also is investigating the issue. Meanwhile, Our Ukraine has held daily demonstrations outside Mukachiv City Hall and is planning to hold a parliamentary hearing on the subject. An attempt to hold a demonstration in support of the presidential decree failed to take place.

Our Ukraine believes the decree is illegal as the Constitution of Ukraine does not grant the president the right to appoint temporary mayors. Our Ukraine also believes that the disbanding of the election commission and the refusal to allow elected officials and parliamentary deputies into the building violated Ukraine's Constitution and law on local self-government as well as the European Charter on Local Government.

Mr. Medvedchuk's "managed democracy" is akin to that practiced in Russia and Azerbaijan, which continue to remain pro-Western. However, there is no room for a "managed democracy" inside NATO or the EU.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Referendum proposed on election process

KYIV – Three parliamentary opposition groups – Our Ukraine, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc – have proposed a nationwide referendum to resolve the ongoing dispute in Ukraine over direct versus indirect election of the president. On December 23, lawmakers from the pro-government majority and the Communist Party preliminarily approved a constitutional-reform bill calling for the election of president in 2006 by the Verkhovna Rada. The proposal to hold the referendum was voiced during a January 12 meeting of parliamentary-caucus leaders devoted to the current parliamentary controversy over a related constitutional-reform bill. According to Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, under the Constitution of Ukraine, any curbs on the rights of voters may be introduced only via referendums. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kuchma appoints three Cabinet ministers

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma made three new appointments to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on January 12, UNIAN and Interfax reported, quoting presidential spokeswoman Olena Hromnytska. Mykola Derkach was sworn in as minister of economy and European integration, Viktor Slauta as agriculture minister and Oleksander Neustroyev as minister of industrial policy. Mr. Derkach, a former ambassador to Lithuania, replaces Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, who cited obstacles to his ministry's activities when he resigned earlier this month. Mr. Slauta, a lawmaker from the Donetsk Oblast, takes over for Serhii Ryzhuk, who was appointed head of the Zhytomyr Oblast State Administration. Mr. Neustroyev assumes the industrial-policy portfolio from Anatolii Mialytsia. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine posts 15.8 % industrial growth

KYIV – The State Statistics Committee announced last week that industrial production in Ukraine grew by 15.8 percent in 2003, including an annualized 18.4 percent in December, Interfax reported on January 10. Ukraine's industrial output increased by 12.4 percent in 2000, 14.2 percent in 2001 and 7 percent in 2002. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### PM says presidential bid is up to Kuchma

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich told journalists on January 5 that President Leonid Kuchma should decide on his own whether or not to run for a third term as president in 2004, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yanukovich was responding to a question about sup-

port by pro-government forces for Mr. Kuchma as a joint candidate. The Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled last week that Mr. Kuchma may seek the presidency in 2004 despite a two-term limit in the Constitution that went into effect in 1996, during Mr. Kuchma's first term as president. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv to test Melnychenko tapes

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has allocated 850,000 hrv (\$159,000 U.S.) to allow the Justice Ministry to submit audiotape purportedly implicating President Leonid Kuchma and other senior Ukrainian officials in the 2000 killing of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze for international tests to determine its authenticity, Interfax reported on January 8. The tapes were recorded by Mykola Melnychenko, a former presidential security officer. The Ukrainian Procurator General's Office last year petitioned the U.S. Department of Justice to perform a joint analysis of the materials. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Russia and Ukraine agree on energy pact

KYIV – Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov and Ukrainian Energy Minister Serhii Yermilov signed a protocol on December 29, 2003, for an agreement on cooperation in 2004 in developing the fuel and energy sectors, Russian news media reported. The two countries had reached agreement in principle on the plan in September 2003. The two sides have agreed on the terms for supplying Russian fuel and energy to Ukraine, as well as for transiting Russian natural gas, oil and electricity to Europe via Ukraine. The energy agreement follows a December 24 meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in Ukraine's Black Sea port of Kerch, during which they moved closer to resolving a territorial dispute by signing a framework agreement on joint use of the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait. Under the agreement, Russia and Ukraine will set up a consortium to control joint use of the strait, Prime-TASS report. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Noted analyst compares Bush and Putin ...

MOSCOW – Writing in the newspaper Izvestia on January 8, Fedor Burlatskii, a former adviser to Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov and Mikhail Gorbachev who is now president of the Academy of Science's Political Science Council, noted that U.S. President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Putin have similar characters and political experience. Both men are reserved, but tough and capa-

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## Serhii Medvedchuk, Lviv Oblast tax chief, named to No. 2 post in Ukraine's State Tax Administration

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Almost exactly two weeks after the controversial arrest of a high-profile Lviv businessman on charges of tax evasion, which many Lviv politicians said was politically motivated, the head of the State Tax Administration of Lviv Oblast, Serhii Medvedchuk, received a promotion and was named first deputy chief of the national office on January 12.

The promotion, effected by presidential decree, was announced as Ukraine began implementing a flat, across-the-board 13 percent income tax, a reduction passed by the Verkhovna Rada last year and intended to raise budget revenues by drawing shadow income out into the open.

The promotion came after Mr. Medvedchuk the younger brother of President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff, had become the center of an increasingly antagonistic situation in Lviv between his

oblast tax agency and businesspeople aligned with the Our Ukraine political bloc.

Several lawmakers in the Verkhovna Rada said on January 14 that while the promotion of Mr. Medvedchuk to the number two slot in the State Tax Administration was obviously a move to reduce the political temperature in Lviv, it could also be the result of preparations for the presidential campaign season.

National Deputy Volodymyr Bondarenko, a member of the Our Ukraine faction, said the move was not simply a career advancement, but part of a larger reorganization of President Kuchma's closest cronies in preparation for the elections.

"This is part of a re-positioning of the political clan in preparation for the 2004 vote," stated Mr. Bondarenko. "The president wants his most loyal supporters in the key positions. But there is another factor. Mr. Kuchma seems to have understood

that the situation in Lviv has gone too far, so the president decided now is the time to begin the moves."

Our Ukraine, headed by former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, and the Social Democratic Party-United, headed by Mr. Medvedchuk's brother, Viktor, have been political enemies for several years. The enmity between them has heated up as the presidential elections approach. Mr. Yushchenko is considered the favorite in the October elections, along with whoever is chosen from the pro-presidential political bloc For a United Ukraine.

Our Ukraine activists in Lviv, including National Deputy Yevhen Chervonenko, a leading figure in the oppositionist political grouping who owns a Lviv-based transportation firm and a beverage firm, both known as Orlan, have repeatedly accused local tax officials of politically motivated harassment of their businesses since the younger Medvedchuk became Lviv's chief tax man.

When the Lviv Oblast Council passed a no-confidence measure on September 29 regarding Mr. Medvedchuk's policies in Lviv in the hope that President Kuchma would take note and replace him, the president responded by firing four raion representatives to the Lviv Oblast State Administration who had supported the call for the Lviv tax chief's dismissal.

Then, on December 30, Lviv tax police

arrested high-profile businessman Markian Ivaschyshyn, co-founder of the oppositionist newspaper, Lviv Hazeta – who also owns a popular entertainment center, Dzyga – on three charges of failing to declare income. Mr. Ivaschyshyn, who was released after being charged, called the charges baseless. He said his arrest was the continuation of a pattern of harassment by Mr. Medvedchuk's people that has occurred since June 2003.

Mr. Medvedchuk replaces Oleksii Shytria, who had been a high level member of the State Tax Administration even before its reorganization, when it was known as the Main State Tax Inspectorate. The presidential decree releasing Mr. Shytria from his post offered no reason for the dismissal.

Mr. Medvedchuk will report to State Tax Administration Chief Yuriy Kravchenko, a controversial figure associated with the Melnychenko tape scandal and the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze.

Some political voices are suggesting that Mr. Medvedchuk could eventually lead the State Tax Administration, given the influence his older brother enjoys with President Kuchma. A Ukraina Moloda story from January 14 stated that Mr. Kravchenko could soon return to head the state militia as minister of internal affairs, leaving Mr. Medvedchuk in charge of enforcing tax collection in Ukraine.

## Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

The bill is part of a plan of political reforms that President Kuchma is pursuing that he has said would turn Ukraine into a parliamentary/presidential state, more in line with European traditions. It includes plans for constitutional amendments that would give a parliamentary majority the right to appoint a prime minister and government – plus a new provision that empowers the Rada to elect the president – should they receive approval by a two-thirds parliamentary majority in the next session.

Oppositionist lawmakers, however, believe it is an effort by state authorities to ensure that power remains in their hands. The opposition to Mr. Kuchma states that the political reforms can be attained without amending the Constitution.

Several foreign diplomats and international organizations have stated that the reforms themselves would be democratically valid if pursued constitutionally, but have questioned whether it was proper to push the changes in a presidential election year.

Our Ukraine and Tymoshenko faction lawmakers have repeatedly accused the pro-presidential parliamentary majority of ramrodding the bill through the Parliament. The majority used a hand vote – in which 286 lawmakers were officially counted as supporting the bill – after opposition members did not allow for either an electronic or roll call vote by taking control of the administrative tables and chairman's rostrum each time an attempt was made to bring the issue to a vote.

Opposition members said after the vote that many of the bill's supporters voted with two hands and that the numbers who voted in favor of political reform were greater than the actual number of lawmakers present in the session hall at the time.

"Our position is that, first of all, parlia-

mentary voting to abolish the popular election of the president is against the law and must, therefore, be reconsidered," explained National Deputy Viktor Pynzenyk, who heads the Reforms and Order Party and an Our Ukraine faction leader, who added that "it is illegal to allow the removal of a constitutionally-granted right to elect without a national referendum."

On January 13 Mr. Lytvyn suggested that Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko Bloc had reneged on a deal that the representatives of the various factions had patched together late the previous night, which would have unblocked the Parliament's work.

Mr. Lytvyn explained that both sides had agreed on what some lawmakers called the "Moroz compromise." Mr. Lytvyn said that Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko faction leaders had said they could support the political reform bill if provisions were included that would allow the 2004 presidential elections to remain a direct popular vote and delineate that no constitutional amendments could be approved without electoral support for them as expressed in a national referendum.

The failed proposal was dubbed the "Moroz compromise" after it was proposed by Socialist faction leader Oleksander Moroz, an opposition leader who has supported the controversial political reforms since he struck a compromise with President Kuchma late this past summer. The two politicians agreed at the time that the constitutional amendments should include a change that would allow the Parliament to elect the president.

Our Ukraine members said they decided that they could not support the compromise because they had also demanded a provision in the new bill that elections would take place on a proportional, by-party, basis, which the pro-presidential parliamentary forces had backed away from after initially consenting to support it.

## Dynamic growth...

(Continued from page 1)

ures stated that Ukraine barely managed to harvest 20 million tons of grain last year – half of what it collected in 2002 – when the harvest came in at a figure just short of 40 million tons.

Ukraine's banking sector also showed healthy growth in 2003. The country's monetary supply grew by 95 billion hrv, another contributing factor to inflation. Banks were able to capture some of that currency as deposits by commercial and

legal structures increased by 55.7 percent to 29 billion hrv. Private individuals also showed a decidedly increased inclination to trust Ukraine's financial institutions by depositing 32.3 million hrv into bank accounts, an increase of 67.2 percent over the previous year.

The amount of credit extended by Ukraine's banks rose dramatically in 2003 as well, to 67.8 billion – a 61.4 percent increase. The average interest rate for hryvnia loans fell from 19.5 percent at the beginning of the year to 17.8 at year's end, while the average rate for foreign currency loans stood at 11.2 percent.

## Ukrainian version of latest Harry Potter book was first translation released in Europe

by Oksana Zakydalsky

LVIV – Harry Potter made headlines again in Ukraine during 2003, as the Ukrainian translation of the fifth volume in the beloved series was launched in Kyiv on November 6. And, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" in Ukrainian was the first translation to be issued in Europe.

But this was not the milestone that most pleased its publisher, Ivan Malkovych, who was quoted as saying, "We did not set out to be the first in Europe. The most important thing for us was the fact that by publishing volume 5 three months before the Russian version comes out we will be able to pull over to the Ukrainian side thousands of readers who read the previous volumes in Russian." (The previous Ukrainian Harry Potters came out after they were already in print in Russian).

The 2003 schedule of publication of translations of volume 5 was: Ukraine – November 6, Germany – November

6, Netherlands – November 22, France – December 22 and Russia – February 22, 2004. The book was launched in Lviv on November 7.

The Ukrainian volume 5 is published, as were the previous four volumes, by Mr. Malkovych's A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA publishing house, with a first printing of 60,000 volumes, already oversubscribed. The translation once again is by Viktor Morozov, and the cover designed by the publisher's artist, Vladislav Yerko.

Most translated versions – for example, Polish, Czech and Russian – use the American-designed cover and Mr. Malkovych said he is very proud of the fact that the Ukrainian publication – like the German, French and Italian – received the right to have its own cover design.

Mr. Malkovych is also pleased that he has received a large order for the books from two of Russia's biggest publishing houses and plans to go to Moscow in December to launch the Ukrainian translation.



Viktor Morozov, who translated book 5 of the Harry Potter series into Ukrainian, autographs copies of the book during its launch in Lviv.

## OBITUARIES

### Renata Babak, 69, opera star who defected from the Bolshoi

SILVER SPRING, Md. – Renata Babak, the internationally known mezzo-soprano who defected from the Bolshoi Opera in 1973, died at her home in Silver Spring, Md., on December 31, 2003, at the age of 69.

Ms. Babak was born in Kyiv and studied at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in Leningrad (present-day St. Petersburg). She was a soloist at the Kyiv Opera and subsequently at the Leningrad Opera, performing in Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and Canada.

An international star with 10 years' experience at the Bolshoi, she defected while the opera company was playing at La Scala in Milan. As reported in the January 2 issue of *The Washington Post*, "Ms. Babak, who had been prohibited by the Soviet secret police from traveling outside the Soviet Union for the previous six years," was ultimately able to evade the agents who kept her under surveillance. The great escape occurred after the first act of Mussorgsky's five-act opera "Khovanshchina," followed by immigration to Canada, where Ms. Babak was in hiding for two years.

Ms. Babak's U.S. debut in Carnegie Hall in 1975 garnered enthusiastic reviews. Her voice was described (in 1982) as "both big and sweet, tremendously powerful and superbly controlled in its upper register, with only a small, piquant touch of the vibrato so often over-indulged by Russian singers."

After her initial move to New York, she left for Washington at the invitation of George London, then general director of the Washington Opera. However, Mr. London's death cut short the prospect of collaboration. Ms. Babak joined the faculty of the Washington Conservatory of Music and, according to *The Washington Times*, "gave recitals and sang roles that critics said did not often offer her the chance to use her extraordinary voice to its fullest."

Music critic Joseph McLellan wrote in *The Washington Post* in 1984: "Babak's career has been nowhere near as spectacular as her talent deserved. She has an extraordinary mezzo-soprano voice, retaining its power in the dramatic soprano range, and it has won critical superlatives wherever (all too seldom) she has performs – in the Washington area usually at concerts connected with human-



Renata Babak

rights causes."

As noted in *The Washington Post*, "The KGB had undermined her career before she defected, not only by prohibiting foreign appearances, but also by failint to publicize her appearances and by prohibiting her from singing Ukrainian pieces."

"In 1979, when the Soviet Embassy sponsored an exhibit of Russian art at the Renwick Gallery, Embassy officials very publicly canceled the exhibit because Ms. Babak was scheduled to perform nearby," *The Post* noted.

Ever since her defection, Ms. Babak continued to be an outspoken critic of Soviet repression. In 1986 Ms. Babak, who ultimately was able to contact her parents in Kyiv at the time of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster, gave press interviews condemning the Soviet government's handling of the crisis.

Ms. Babak became a U.S. citizen in 1993 and taught Russian for 10 years, until 2001, through an Agriculture Department program.

Her last opera performance was in 1997 in Tchaikovsky's "Iolanta" with Opera Camerata of Washington. She continued to sing recitals until 2002.

### Dr. Miroslav Labunka, 76, retired professor of history

PHILADELPHIA – Miroslav Labunka, retired associate professor of history at LaSalle University, died suddenly on December 2, 2003, at Albert Einstein Medical Center. He was 76.

Born in Kotiv, Ukraine, on March 23, 1927, he attended secondary school in Ukraine and Germany, and completed his secondary school education by receiving his Abitur Diploma through the auspices of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Traunstein, Germany.

He attended theological seminary in Hirschberg, Germany, and Culemborg, Holland, earning a B.A. in philosophy and theology. He received a master's in history in 1955 at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and then emigrated to the United States in 1955, settling in New York City. He earned a master in library science in 1958 at Columbia University and worked in the Columbia University Libraries from 1956 to 1965. Later, he received his Ph.D. in history at Columbia University in 1978.

In 1965, he and his family relocated to Philadelphia, where he joined the faculty at LaSalle College. He was an associate professor of history and retired in 1993. During his time at LaSalle, he was also a visiting professor at St. Clement's Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome from 1976 to 1995; and research associate at the Harvard University Ukrainian Research Institute and visiting professor at the Philosophical Institute of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany, from 1982 to 1993.

In 1993 he was named dean at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Ukrainian Free University. He was appointed rector in 1995, a post he held until 1998.

In 1998 Prof. Labunka was awarded knighthood by Pope John Paul II, Equitus OSGM (Order of St. Gregory the Great) for his lifetime of work and dedication to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Ukraine's Ministry of Education for his significant contribution to Ukrainian culture and education.

His professional memberships included: the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences (USA), the American Association of College and University Professors, the International Association of Ukrainian Scholars, the Shevchenko Scientific Society (USA), the Ukrainian Association of Journalists (USA), and the Association of Ukrainian Librarians (USA).



Dr. Miroslav Labunka

He was also an active member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, where he was a co-founder of the "Orden Chrestonostsiv" fraternity and the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics (Rome Branch); and was a board member of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society (USA) and the Association of Parents and Teachers of Ukrainian Secondary Schools (Philadelphia).

In 1988 Prof. Labunka was the sponsor of an honorary doctorate at LaSalle University for Cardinal Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky; in 1992 he co-sponsored an honorary doctorate, also at LaSalle, for Leonid Kravchuk, then president of Ukraine; and in 1996, he co-sponsored honorary doctorates at the Ukrainian Free University for Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Archbishop Myroslav Marusyn, secretary of the Congregation of Eastern Churches.

Also in 1988, under the aegis of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Prof. Labunka, along with his colleagues Profs. Omeljan Pritsak and Ihor Sevcenko of Harvard University, co-organized an International Congress commemorating the Millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine. The congress was held in Ravenna, Italy, and was marked by the attendance of pre-eminent scholars from throughout the world, including the Soviet Union.

Due to the generosity of the Millennium of Rus'-Ukraine Christianity Committee in New York, the proceedings of the congress were subsequently published under the editorship of Profs. Pritsak, Sevcenko and Labunka as a special issue of the scholarly journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*.

Prof. Labunka was a specialist in Eastern European medieval history and published numerous articles on the subject. He was the author of a monograph on the "Legend of the Novgorodian White Cow," which was published in 1998 at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich through the generosity of Dr. Wolodymyr and Anna Rak, benefactors.

He leaves behind two sons, Alex with his wife, Luba and Illia, with his wife, Olenka; a daughter, Iya; and three grandchildren, Matthew, Andrew and Nina. He also leaves behind a sister, Marusia, in Ukraine. He had recently remarried following the death seven years ago of his wife, Maria nee Rovenchuk. They had been married 44 years.

### USUF publishes inaugural issue of business journal Potential

by Olenka Dobczanska

WASHINGTON – The inaugural issue of the business magazine *Potential*, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's newest bilingual publication, has been printed in Ukraine. *Potential* is a journal that promotes business and economic development in the U.S. and Ukraine by creating and sustaining communication and cooperation between American and Ukrainian businesses, educational institutions and government agencies.

*Potential* strives to be timely by reporting on current business news and events and by analyzing current trends and developments in the Ukrainian and American economies. *Potential* hopes to also become a unique and essential business reference guide for leaders in government and business in the United States and Ukraine by publishing directo-

ries of businesses with contact information and how-to articles on various aspects of conducting successful businesses.

The publication is produced in the Washington offices of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation by Managing Editor John Kun, USUF Senior Advisor for Government Relations and Foundation Development Morgan Williams and USUF Economic Development Program Manager Irene Mokra. Staff members who worked on the first issue included USUF summer interns Andriy Shekhovtsov and Lyudmyla Polyun, USUF Program Associate Miriam Bates, USUF Administration Associate Marko Serbinsky, as well as interns Yuriy Piskalyuk and Olga Sukhanova.

The inaugural 52-page issue intro-

(Continued on page 5)



## Message from the UNA president regarding former UNA sales agent Joseph Binczak

Dear UNA Members:

On January 7, New Jersey Superior Court Judge Salem Ahto sentenced former Ukrainian National Association sales agent Joseph Binczak, who pleaded guilty to stealing from the association, to three years in state prison and imposed a condition of restitution, requiring Mr. Binczak to pay approximately \$570,000 to the UNA.

In November 2002 we informed our members that the State of New Jersey had brought criminal charges against Mr. Binczak, accusing him of theft, forging signatures and falsifying documents in a scheme to fraudulently obtain funds from the annuity accounts of seven UNA members. In September

2003, Mr. Binczak voluntarily pleaded guilty to charges of theft by deception and awaited sentencing.

The UNA is pleased that this case is coming to an end. Nonetheless, we remain stunned by Mr. Binczak's deep violation of our community's trust. For almost two years the UNA quietly cooperated with New Jersey state authorities to gather evidence about these acts of theft that occurred between 1996 and 2000. No Ukrainian National Association policyholder suffered any financial loss, since the UNA made full and immediate restitution to our victimized members.

At the sentencing on January 7, which was attended by UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak, Mr.

Binczak's attorney claimed in his defense that Mr. Binczak, 39, had an uncontrollable gambling problem that caused him to steal. Currently, according to the state prosecutor's office, Mr. Binczak has no assets. He has repaid \$60,000 of the \$633,700 that he stole from the UNA. Mr. Binczak also stole \$133,000 from a client in Pennsylvania, who had an account with Conesco. He will serve the sentence handed down in Pennsylvania concurrently with his sentence in the New Jersey prison. The UNA will continue to pursue Mr. Binczak and any of his future assets through actions in civil court.

Thankfully, over its 110-year history, the UNA has never been the victim of

fraud. Yet, financial fraud is epidemic in America these days. Therefore, we ask that all our members carefully review, not just the information that they receive from the UNA, but also from other financial institutions. As we have noted before, though it is good to trust each other, we must remember our Ukrainian folk adage "God protects those who protect themselves."

We thank all of our members for their continuing support and loyalty, and look forward to serving you in the future.

Fraternally yours,  
**Stepan Kaczaraj**  
President

Ukrainian National Association

## U.S. Department of Energy to provide additional \$1 million to Chernobyl center

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador John Herbst announced on December 29, 2003, during a visit to Slavutych, that the U.S. government will provide \$1 million in funding over the next two years to the International Chernobyl Center for Nuclear Safety, Radioactive Waste Management and Radioecology in Slavutych.

The United States and Ukraine jointly established the center in 1996. The main goal of the center is to become a national and international resource for nuclear safety and research. The center conducts its main activities through its two laboratories – the Laboratory of Engineering Research and Technology and the International Radioecology Laboratory.

The center plays an important role in mitigating social and economic impact on the city of Slavutych by directly employing its residents. It employs approximately 65 full-time personnel, and has additionally employed up to 100 Chernobyl nuclear power plant workers as contractors for specific projects.

The U.S. government has previously provided more than \$12 million for infrastructure, analytical and research equipment, operations, training, communications, marketing and business development of the center. The additional funding announced on December 29, 2003, will be used for the center to obtain licenses and certificates, to provide management and technical training, develop business and marketing plans, to continue to support operations and maintenance of the International Radioecology Laboratory, and to further promote the center to domestic and international markets.

### Fact sheet: U.S. assistance to Slavutych and Chernobyl

The G-7 countries, the European Commission, and Ukraine signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the closure of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in December 1995, in Ottawa. That memorandum set in motion a sustained program of intensive cooperation between Ukraine and Western governments

and international financial institutions.

The G-7 countries and other donors have provided nearly \$1 billion in grant funds for Chernobyl site safety projects, for decommissioning facilities and to repair the Chernobyl sarcophagus. In the MOU, the G-7 and European Union also recognized that the closure would adversely affect the surrounding region and agreed to prepare, in cooperation with Ukraine, a Social Impacts Action Plan, which was completed in 1997.

But, while the G-7 and the European Commission can help mitigate the social costs associated with this transition period, ultimately the responsibility lies with Ukraine in taking the next steps to facilitate worker retraining, diversify the regional economy and improve the local tax base in order to maintain an appropriate level of social services. Collectively, the donors have provided approximately \$30 million to establish several programs to mitigate the social and economic impact of Chernobyl closure.

As part of the international assistance, the United States has provided more than \$220 million for improving nuclear safety, stabilizing and reconstructing shelter, constructing waste management facilities at the Chernobyl industrial site and implementing several programs in the city of Slavutych to mitigate social and economic impact due to the permanent closure of the Chernobyl plant.

Nuclear Safety: Since 1992, the United States has been providing safety improvement assistance to Soviet-designed nuclear power plants in Ukraine. For the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration:

- provided a safety parameter display system to improve operations;
- supplied a wide variety of equipment for fire, worker and radiological safety;
- supported the development of improved maintenance procedures and provided diagnostic equipment; and
- completed repairs to the Unit 3 and 4 ventilation stack.

Chernobyl Closure: The United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration assisted in implementation of the following critical activities related to Chernobyl closure:

- provided radiation dose reduction equipment and procedures to reduce the radiation exposure of shelter workers;
- supported and participated in the studies and the development of specific project plans related to stabilization and long-term reconstruction of the Chernobyl Shelter;
- commissioned the Chernobyl replacement plant; and
- conducted assessments and developed technical plans for decommissioning Units 1-3.

Socio-economic Impacts: United States

projects for mitigating social and economic impact of the Chernobyl closure on city of Slavutych include the following.

- International Chernobyl Center: The United States Department of Energy established the International Chernobyl Center for Nuclear Safety, Radioactive Waste Management and Radioecology in 1996. The center conducts its main activities through its two laboratories, and helps the city of Slavutych mitigate the social and economic impacts of Chernobyl closure by employing city residents. The center employs 65 full-time workers.

- Off-Site Training and Crisis Center: The United States Department of Energy equipped and established the former Chernobyl Offsite Emergency Response Center as the National Ukrainian Training Center for Ukraine's nuclear emergency preparedness personnel.

- Slavutych – Richland Community Partnership: The United States Agency for International Development is supporting a community partnership program between Slavutych and Richland, Washington.

- Worker Assistance Initiative: The United States Department of Labor worked closely with the city of Slavutych and the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant to provide employment transition services economic development guidance and funding for economic renewal and business consulting to restructuring enterprises.

- Small Business Incubator: The United States Agency for International Development established the Slavutych Business Incubator in January 2001 to foster business skills development through training and information services, and the provision of office space.

- Micro-Credit Facility: The United States and its international partners established a Micro Credit Finance Bank for Slavutych in June 2001. The facility has provided loans to assist small-to-medium business enterprises to expand their operations and also has assisted the start up of numerous small businesses.

- Humanitarian Assistance: The United States introduced several humanitarian assistance organizations to Slavutych. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund provided medical supplies to the Slavutych hospital and other health care organizations. The Medical Service Corporation International conducted thyroid and psychosocial screening of children.

- Chernobyl – Hanford Visit: The United States Department of Energy facilitated discussions of the Chernobyl management with the Department of Energy's Hanford Site in the state of Washington to determine similarities between the two sites for work force restructuring and potential economic development for the city of Slavutych.

## USUF publishes...

(Continued from page 4)

duces the editorial team and gives an overview of the foundation's programs. Greetings and congratulations from important players who promote U.S.-Ukraine business are interspersed throughout the issue. They include messages from Anatoliy Kinakh, president of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and the Federation of Employers of Ukraine; Rep. Marcy Kaptur, (R-Ohio); Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs; Tim Honey, executive director of Sister Cities International; and Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance.

Each subsequent issue will contain an overview of the latest developments in Ukraine-U.S. trade and business relationships. The variety of articles that will be contained in each issue is intended to appeal to a wide audience.

Feature articles will highlight a company or institution, along with an interview with a company representative. For example, the first issue contains an interview with Jed Sunden of KP Publications, which counts the Kyiv Post among its publications, and with Yaroslav Lyubinetz of Soft-Serve Inc., a Lviv-based software company that is successfully operating in Eastern Europe and the United States. There are also interviews with Michael Considine, BISNIS trade specialist for Ukraine and Moldova at the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Natalka Jaresko, president and CEO

of the Western NIS Enterprise Fund.

Potential will also contain very practical articles designed to serve as reference material for people interested in business ventures in Ukraine. How-to articles in the first issue include one by Nestor Scherbey on "How to Export to Global Markets." The former U.S. commercial attaché in Kyiv, Andrew Bihun, provides suggestions on how to do business with U.S. companies in "An Overview of Cooperation between Ukraine and U.S."

Valuable reference information can also be found in articles which list opportunities for internships and study in the U.S. available to Ukrainians, a guide to selected U.S. government projects currently under way in Ukraine, and an overview of industries, the business climate and opportunities in the state of Iowa.

Mr. Kun said he is pleased with the first issue: "Through Potential, I hope you will see the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation as an NGO that is deeply committed to Ukraine's democratic future ... I believe we can offer information that will be valuable and useful to both Ukrainians and Americans, and that we can bring more political and business attention to support Ukraine's democratic development."

To receive a free copy of Potential, where business opportunities are endless, readers may contact the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation by mail, phone (202) 347-4264 or e-mail bizlinks@usukraine.org. The foundation is looking for feedback in order to improve subsequent issues of this unique publication and would like to hear readers' ideas and insights.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Anniversary of ill-fated Pereiaslav Treaty

The year 2004 marks the 350th anniversary of the ill-fated Pereiaslav Treaty of 1654, the pact between Ukrainian Kozak Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky and Russian Tsar Aleksei Mykhailovich, whereby Ukraine became a protectorate of the tsar of Muscovy. The military alliance, which was ratified by a Kozak council in Pereiaslav on January 18, 1654, was usurped by Russia and brought Ukraine centuries of oppression – first under tsarist Russia and then under the Soviet Union.

Soviet historians, of course, saw the treaty as formalizing the desire of the Ukrainian and Russian people to unite in a single Russian state. Indeed, on the 300th anniversary of the treaty, which was celebrated in 1954 as a “reunion” of Ukraine and Russia, a huge arch of friendship was erected in Kyiv.

It was back on March 13, 2002, that President Leonid Kuchma had issued a decree “On the Commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Pereiaslav Kozak Council of 1654. The decree, which was but one example of Ukraine drawing nearer to Russia at that time, raised the ire of the scholarly community and Ukrainians worldwide. First to react in the diaspora was the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. In a June 14 open letter, the CIUS argued that, “Intentionally or not, the presidential decree of March 13 politicizes historical scholarship in order to legitimize a possible change in the foreign policy of Ukraine and reorient the historical consciousness of the Ukrainian people.”

Inasmuch as the presidential decree called for conferences, publications and other commemorative activities involving the scholarly community, the CIUS told its colleagues in Ukraine: “Your participation in these measures – commemorating an event that most historians on the organizing committee continue to regard as a decision forced upon our ‘great Bohdan’ – will lend legitimacy to those forces in Ukraine and beyond that seek to resurrect the empire that Pereiaslav helped create. That would be a disservice to Russia and Ukraine, whose progress requires not the rebuilding of the empire but the development of democratic nation-states.” (For information on CIUS resources on the Pereiaslav Treaty, see the commentary by Dr. Frank Sysyn on page 7.)

The CIUS representatives wrote: “Do the authors of the decree and members of the organizing committee not understand that they are preparing to commemorate the anniversary of an event that led to the abolition of the independent Ukrainian state formed under Bohdan Khmelnytsky’s leadership? The March decree calls into question not only the historical legitimacy of Ukraine’s current independence, but also the official genealogy of the Ukrainian government. ... Ukraine’s first president, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, regarded Pereiaslav as a mistake and declared an ‘end to orientation on Moscow’ in 1918.”

In July 2002 the World Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian World Congress protested the presidential decree and called on Mr. Kuchma to withdraw from observances of the anniversary, which they called “one of the blackest dates in our history.” Other signatories to the open letter to Kuchma included the leaders presidents of scholarly institutions, such as the Shevchenko Scientific Societies of Europe and Poland, and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Science in the U.S.A. The Shevchenko Scientific Societies in Canada and the United States issued their own protest statement, also in July. Soon thereafter, the International Congress of Ukrainian Studies, meeting in Chernivtsi in August, also issued a formal protest.

Similarly, in a statement released to the press in July 2002, the Ukrainian World Congress noted that “the Pereiaslav Treaty was not a ‘voluntary reunification’ but the beginning of a long period of enslavement of Ukraine by Russia.” Furthermore, it noted that “this presidential decree is a striking example of national irresponsibility. The government of an independent country has decreed to officially observe an event that resulted in its people’s enslavement and loss of statehood.”

Now the anniversary year is upon us. What should one expect from the commemorations of the Pereiaslav Treaty of 1654? We do not have the answer to that question, but we know that we must be prepared to respond to distortions of Ukraine’s history. And we must be armed with the facts. Thankfully, the CIUS has once again taken the lead on this matter by making available to the public significant information resources that will be invaluable in countering what some quarters still insist is cause for celebration by both the Ukrainian and Russian nations.

Jan.  
24  
1993

### Turning the pages back...

On January 24, 1993, the front page of The Ukrainian Weekly reported that Ukraine’s President Leonid Kravchuk had reaffirmed his position on the CIS Charter, i.e., that the independence of Ukraine is paramount.

Mr. Kravchuk underlined that, in accordance with a resolution of Parliament, his principal task as president is “to strengthen the legal foundations of his independent state as an object of international law and not to allow the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to be transformed into some kind of state entity with its own organs of power and authority.”

That is why, he said at a press conference after returning from a January 15, 1993, summit meeting in Moscow with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the proposed CIS Charter “does not satisfy the needs of Ukraine and, from a legislative point of view, it cannot be signed.” This, he emphasized “is our position – expressed concisely and clearly.”

President Kravchuk told reporters that, “as a result of the haste with which certain leaders of CIS member-states act on certain political questions concerning the CIS, the Ukrainian populace has become divided into distinct groups,” based on their opinions of the proposed Commonwealth Charter. He said he considered both those who demand immediate ratification of the CIS Charter (for example, members of the former Communist Party of Ukraine), and those who demand Ukraine’s immediate withdrawal from the CIS to be extremists.

Source: “Kravchuk reaffirms position on CIS Charter,” by Borys Klymenko, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 24, 1993, Vol. LXI, No. 4.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Rule of law in Ukraine: forward or backward?

by Judge Bohdan A. Futey

As we enter the year 2004, Ukraine stands at a crossroads: one route leads to integration and acceptance into the European and international communities; the other to regression and reversion to a country where the rule of law is selectively applied and undermined for the benefit of those who possess power.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the attention that has been given to the recent decisions of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and to the recent events that transpired in the Verkhovna Rada.

The Constitution of Ukraine explicitly designates the Constitutional Court as “the sole body of constitutional jurisdiction in Ukraine.”<sup>1</sup> The court’s mandate entails providing “the official interpretation of the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine.”<sup>2</sup> The court is responsible for hearing and deciding issues involving conformity of laws, presidential decrees and other legal acts with the Constitution. Decisions of the court are final; Article 150 of the Constitution establishes their authority: “On the issues envisioned by this Article, the [Court] adopts decisions that are mandatory for execution throughout the territory of Ukraine, that are final and shall not be appealed.”<sup>3</sup>

Since the court’s inception on January 1, 1997, its judges have occupied a position that occurs once in the development of a nation. They have the unique opportunity to shape the law and the legal system in the same manner as Chief Justice John Marshall did in the United States in *Marbury v. Madison* 200 years ago.<sup>4</sup>

Initially, the Constitutional Court lived up to the great challenge it had undertaken. In “*Re Residents of City of Zhovti Vody*,”<sup>5</sup> the court interpreted three articles of the Constitution with the cumulative effect of affirming that citizens shall have access to the courts for the protection of rights. Further, in the *Ustylenko* case, the court held that: 1) an individual has a right to obtain information about oneself, regardless of whether it is in possession of national or local governmental authorities; 2) certain provisions of Ukraine’s law on information must be understood as to prohibit the collection of any information, retaining it and/or disseminating it without an individual’s consent.<sup>6</sup> In addition, in 1998 in “*Re Law on Election of Deputies to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*” the court declined to address the provision of the election law establishing a 4 percent threshold for party representation in the Parliament, because its resolution would entail deciding a “political question.”<sup>7</sup>

Most pertinent to the present controversy, however, is the case “*Re Dual Mandates of Verkhovna Rada Deputies*.” The court held in 1997 that national deputies elected after June 8, 1995, may not simultaneously hold two state positions.<sup>8</sup> The court reasoned that the Constitutional Agreement, which first established the prohibition against dual mandates, was in place as of June 8, 1995, and, therefore, any national deputy

elected after said date was bound by its terms. The court, however, excluded national deputies who were elected between March 27, 1994, and June 8, 1995. The court explained that those national deputies could hold dual mandates because at the time they were elected there was no such prohibition.

With the principles enunciated in Chapter XII of the Constitution in mind, as well as court’s decision in “*Re Dual Mandates of Verkhovna Rada Deputies*,” the recent decision clearing the way for President Leonid Kuchma to seek a third term is unsupportable. The Constitution provides that the court’s decisions are binding. The court’s decision concerning the prohibition on dual mandates was not overturned, and, therefore, remains on the books as a ruling to be adhered to. While the dual mandates decision was referenced by the court in the latest decision, its holding was limited to the proposition that laws could not be retroactively applied.

Nevertheless, the dual mandates decision and the “third term” decision are logically inconsistent. In the dual mandates decision, when examining which law to apply to disputes concerning national deputies, the court looked to the constitutional norm in place at the time the individuals were elected. Applying this decision and its reasoning would lead to the conclusion that the constitutional norm in place at the time president Kuchma was elected controls. The Constitution adopted in 1996 and prior legislation addressing presidential term limits have consistently limited the President to two terms: the 1978 Constitution of Ukraine SSR; the 1991 Law on the President; 1994 Law on Election of the President; and the 1995 Constitutional Agreement reached between the Parliament and President Kuchma, and signed by President Kuchma. For instance, the 1994 Law on Election of the President, Article 2, Section 2, under which President Kuchma ran for the first time and was elected, provides:

“In order to be elected as the President of Ukraine a person must be a citizen of Ukraine with the right to vote, not younger than 35 years of age, who has resided in Ukraine no less than 10 (including the last five) years, and speaks the state language. One and the same person cannot be elected President of Ukraine for more than two terms.”<sup>9</sup>

The applicable law as well as the constitutional norm in place at the time President Kuchma was elected, as well as at the time President Kuchma ran for re-election in 1999, limited the president

(Continued on page 17)

<sup>1</sup> Constitution of Ukraine, Chapter XII, Article 147.

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Article 150.

<sup>4</sup> See *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137, 2 L. Ed. 60 (1803) (establishing the doctrine of judicial review).

<sup>5</sup> *Visnyk Konstytutsiinoho Sudu Ukrainy* 1 (1998):34.

<sup>6</sup> “*Re K.H. Ustylenko*,” *Visnyk Konstytutsiinoho Sudu Ukrainy* 2 (1997):31.

<sup>7</sup> This decision is similar to that reached by the United States Supreme Court in *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962).

<sup>8</sup> “*Re Dual Mandates of Verkhovna Rada Deputies*,” *Visnyk Konstytutsiinoho Sudu Ukrainy* 2 (1997):5.

<sup>9</sup> 1994 Law on Elections of the President, Article 2, Section 2 (emphasis added).

*Judge Bohdan A. Futey serves on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in Washington and has been active in various rule of law and democratization programs in Ukraine since 1991. He served as an advisor to the Working Group on the Constitution of Ukraine that was adopted June 28, 1996.*

## COMMENTARY

## The Pereiaslav anniversary and CIUS

by Dr. Frank Sysyn

While the Ukrainian community in the diaspora has been occupied with the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the genocidal Famine of 1933, it has paid little attention to another anniversary looming – the 350th of the Pereiaslav Agreement and Council of January 1654. This is in marked contrast to the 300th anniversary, when the community mobilized against the Soviet celebration of the Pereiaslav Council as an act of the “reunion of Ukraine with Russia” and effectively lobbied the press and media to ensure that the Soviet interpretation would not be affirmed.

Even before Ukraine’s president, Leonid Kuchma, issued a decree on the commemoration of the Famine, he issued one on the commemorations of the Pereiaslav Council, which – reminiscent of Soviet celebrations – called for school competitions and artistic endeavors. Framed as part of the presidential tilt towards Russia, the decree was met with protests from the Ukrainian intelligentsia and criticism from the International Congress of Ukrainian Studies, which met in Chernivtsi in August 2002.

On June 14, 2002, three historians from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), Zenon Kohut, Serhii Plokhii and Frank Sysyn, wrote an open letter to their colleagues in Ukraine affirming their support for freedom of intellectual inquiry in Ukrainian historical research and calling on their colleagues not to be seduced by blandishments of the authorities to take part in this obvious political gambit. Realizing the importance of providing reliable historical information on the Pereiaslav events, CIUS has undertaken a number of steps to provide such scholarly information for the academic and Ukrainian communities.

CIUS Press made John Basarab’s book “Pereiaslav 1654: A Historiographical Study” its featured book of the month in December 2003. The volume is a thorough study of the documents of the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations, including translations of the most important texts. The volume examines the views of the most important scholars who wrote on the Pereiaslav treaty from the 17th century to the 1970s. More information about this volume, as well as other publications and order forms, can be found on the CIUS Press website at [www.utoronto.ca/cius](http://www.utoronto.ca/cius).

At the same time, the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research has completed the editing of the English translation of Volume 9, book 1, of Mykhailo Hrushevsky’s “History of Ukraine-Rus’,” which takes the reader up to the eve of the Pereiaslav events. The volume, which will be published in 2004, together with the already published Volume 8, which covers the period 1625-1650, will provide readers with the views, in English, of Ukraine’s greatest historian on the Khmelnytsky Uprising and the background of the Pereiaslav Treaty. The Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine project has made a general entry on the Pereiaslav Treaty accessible to Internet

*Dr. Frank E. Sysyn is director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS, University of Alberta and the editor in chief of the Hrushevsky Translation Project. During the spring semester, 2004, he is affiliated with the Harriman Institute of Columbia University, where he is teaching two courses in Ukrainian and East European history.*

users around the world on the its website at [www.encyclopediaofukraine.com](http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com).

CIUS has also taken an active role in funding and producing a major volume on the Pereiaslav Council and Treaty that has just been published in Kyiv by Smoloskyp Press for the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and Source Studies, the Shevchenko Scientific Society (USA), and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. Pavlo Sokhan served as the main editor, and Iaroslav Dashkevych as the associate editor. Titled “Pereiaslavsk Rada 1654 Roku (Istoriografii Ta Doslidzhennia)” (The Pereiaslav Council of 1654 [Historiography and Research]), the 888-page volume printed in 5,000 copies includes 21 articles.

Part I contains five reprints of classical works of Ukrainian historiography by Mykhailo Hrushevsky, Viacheslav Lypynsky, Rostyslav Lashchenko, Andrii Iakovliv and Oleksander Ohloblyn, as well as five reprints of scholarly-publicistic essays by Mykhailo Drahomanov, Dmytro Dontsov, Roman Bzhesky, Zynovii Knysh and Mykhailo Braichevsky.

Braichevsky’s piece is accompanied by the notes of the criticisms (in fact attacks) in the 1970s of his lengthy essay “Annexation or Reunion?” by members of the Institute of History of the Soviet Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, as well as his replies to the critics, edited and commented on by Ihor Hyrych.

The second part of the volume has six articles on Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, and English-language historiography by Frank Sysyn, Volodymyr Kravchenko, Oleksii Ias, Viktor Brekhunenko, and Mirosław Nagielski, as well as five new studies on the problem by Viktor Brekhunenko, Viktor Horobets, Taras Chukhlib, Serhii Plokhii and Iaroslav Fedoruk. The monumental volume is being launched in many cities throughout Ukraine in order to permit the Ukrainian public to gain a deeper understanding of the historical events of 1654 and how they have been interpreted since.

“Pereiaslavsk Rada 1654 Roku” is available from CIUS Press for \$64.95 and can be ordered by e-mail ([cuis@ualberta.ca](mailto:cuis@ualberta.ca)), mail (CIUS Press, University of Alberta, 450 Athabasca Hall, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E8), phone (780-492-2973), or fax (780-492-4967).

CIUS is also co-sponsoring an international conference on the Pereiaslav events that will be held in Kyiv in this month precisely 350 years after the meeting of the council. The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for scholarly discussion of the Pereiaslav Agreement and its consequences and to counter the anti-epic official celebrations.

As well, the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research and the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine of CIUS are sponsoring a conference in cooperation with colleagues at St. Petersburg University in May. The goal of the conference is to gather an international group of scholars in a Russian setting to discuss various interpretations of Russian-Ukrainian relations, including the Pereiaslav events.

CIUS has striven to ensure that academic circles and media worldwide, the Ukrainian diaspora and the Ukrainian public will have authoritative material on the Pereiaslav Treaty and Council. At a time when these historical topics are the subject of political and ideological struggles, these information sources are of exceptional importance.

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



## A unified community needs the UNWLA

“The rebirth of our statehood requires hard work among all segments of our society,” wrote Mary Beck in the May 1933, issue of *Zhinochy Svit*. “We will not reach our objective if we place the entire burden on the backs of fathers, husbands and sons.”

In the history of the Ukrainian American community, women have more than carried their share of the burden. On the whole, it has been my experience that when it came to organizational life, men often did much of the talking, while women usually did most of the work. This is especially true of women associated with the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (Soyuz Ukrainok Ameryky).

Inspired by the success of the American feminist movement, as well as by the work of their Ukrainian sisters in Polish-occupied eastern Galicia, Ukrainian American women began to organize nationally in the early 1920s.

The first Ukrainian women’s organizations in the United States were established locally, in such large urban centers as Chicago, where the Ukrainian Women’s Alliance was created as a fraternal insurance society in 1917, and New York City, where the Ukrainian Women’s Society (UWSNY) was born in 1921.

Early on, however, it was clear to these progressive women that localism was not enough. National unity was necessary in order for Ukrainian women to become truly effective. The stimulus for this unity came from Ukraine, via Canada.

In March 1925, the UWSNY received a letter from the Society of Olha Kobylanska, a Ukrainian women’s society in Canada, mentioning that a world congress of the International Council of Women was scheduled for Washington in May. Money was needed to underwrite the cost of sending a Ukrainian female delegation from western Ukraine. The UWSNY responded by calling a women’s rally for New York City in April and, with the assistance of other local Ukrainian women’s organizations, created an ad-hoc women’s congress for the purpose of raising the required \$250. The goal was reached and the money was sent to the League of Ukrainian Women (Soyuz Ukrainok) in western Ukraine.

When the Polish government refused to issue passports for the Ukrainian delegation, Soyuz Ukrainok in Ukraine selected Dr. Hanna Chikalenko-Keller – then living in Switzerland – as the official representative of Ukrainian women at the Washington conclave. Ukrainian American women decided to participate as well and sent two representatives: Olga Lotocky of the UWSNY and Julia Jarema of the Ukrainian Democratic Club.

During her stay in the United States, Dr. Chikalenko-Keller urged Ukrainian women to create a national organization in America similar to Soyuz Ukrainok in Western Ukraine. At Dr. Chikalenko-Keller’s suggestion, the American ad hoc congress committee was transformed into a new organization, the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (Soyuz Ukrainok Ameryky) and the same executive board, headed by Julia Shustakevych, was retained.

Efforts to expand the ranks of the newly established UNWLA beyond the confines of the East coast proved difficult until the arrival of Olena Kisilevsky, a Ukrainian member of the Polish Senate. In her travels to various Ukrainian American communities, she urged other Ukrainian women’s organizations to unite with the UNWLA. A UNWLA convention, billed as “The First

Congress of Ukrainian Women in America” was held on May 29-30, 1932, in New York City with 68 delegates, representing some 40 branches, in attendance.

Adopting a new constitution, delegates passed resolutions pledging support for: progressive labor and local legislation, women’s rights and the improvement of international relations. Other resolutions addressed organizational expansion, assisting Ukrainian women with naturalization and full support for Ukraine’s independence movement. A significant resolution revolved around familiarizing the American public and Ukrainian youth with Ukraine and her culture.

The UNWLA was one of the key organizations in supporting Ukrainian involvement in the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair. Working through various parishes, Soyuz Ukrainok was able to raise thousands of dollars (a sizeable sum during the Depression) to pay for the purchase and transport of embroideries, rugs, village apparel, wood carvings and paintings from the Ukrainian Peasant Art Co-op (Kooperatyua Narodne Mystetsvo) in Lviv. The artifacts were exhibited at the Ukrainian pavilion at the Chicago Fair.

When the fair ended, the artifacts were made available to UNWLA branches participating in local folk fairs and cultural exhibitions. Thanks to the UNWLA, our community finally had an authentic Ukrainian cultural collection that could be proudly exhibited anywhere in America. In 1978 the collection became part of a permanent Soyuz Ukrainok exhibit at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City.

The second UNWLA convention was held in May 1935, and a new executive board headed by Anastasia Wagner was elected. Continuing its emphasis on enlightenment, one of the first projects undertaken by the newly elected board was the standardization of branch activity. In a unique development for any Ukrainian organization even today, lesson plans were printed along with the monthly guidelines for local activities. Below is a sampling.

- January – Christmas caroling to raise funds for various causes in Ukraine; New Year’s Day supper for all members and supporters; commemoration of Ukrainian Independence Day.
- February – Birthday of Lesia Ukrainka to be commemorated in an appropriate fashion along with the death of Olha Basarab. Similar commemorative events should be held for George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.
- March – Commemoration of Taras Shevchenko.
- April – Organize classes for the teaching of Ukrainian Easter egg-making.
- May – Every branch is obligated to organize a Mother’s Day concert where the importance of raising children in the Ukrainian spirit is stressed.
- June – Children’s Month – Every Ukrainian mother should take her children to the doctor for an annual check-up.
- September – Every branch is obligated to find ways to guarantee a higher education for the most talented boys and girls in the community. Every member should become involved with the local *Ridna Shkola*.
- October – Book Month – Every branch is obligated to take stock of its own library and to enlarge it.
- November – Commemoration of Lystopadove Sviato (the November 1 Act).
- December – Devoted to reviewing

(Continued on page 12)

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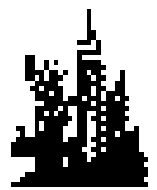
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# SPORTSLINE

## Figure skating

Ukraine's Olena Liashenko took first place in the women's event at the Cup of Russia Grand Prix in Moscow on November 20, 2003, while her teammate Halyna Maniachenko took third place. Italy's Carolina Kostner took second place.

Liashenko then took fourth place at an International Skating Union Grand Prix event in Colorado Springs, Colo., on December 14, 2003. Japan's Fumie Suguri took first place, while teammate Shizuka Arakawa took third place. Sasha Cohen of the United States took second place.

In the ice dancing competition, Ukraine's Olena Hrushyna and Ruslan Honcharov took fourth place, while Tanith Belbin and Benjamin Agosto of the United States took third place. Tatiana Navka and Roman Kostomarov of Russia won the event, while Albena Denkova and Maxim Staviski of Bulgaria took second place.

## Football

University of Oregon defensive lineman and native of Ukraine Igor Olshansky announced on January 9 that he would skip his senior season in order to enter the National Football League draft, according to a press statement posted on the school's football website.

According to the university, the 6-foot-6-inch, 305-pound Olshansky was born in Dnipropetrovsk on May 3, 1982. He ranked fifth at the University of Oregon with 58 tackles, 40 unassisted, last season. He led the Ducks with three fumble recoveries and was ranked second on the team and eighth in the Pac-10 football conference with 15 tackles for losses.

"I feel I am ready for the next challenge," the university press release quoted Olshansky as saying.

"I especially will miss my many Oregon fans, whose chants of 'Igor, Igor,' spurred me on," he said. "Hopefully with the coaching I've received at Oregon, the hard work and determination, I will hear those chants again at some distant city."

During his career at Oregon, Olshansky had 146 tackles, one interception and three blocked kicks.

## Biathlon

Ukraine's Andrii Deryzemlia took 16th place in the men's 12.5-kilometer pursuit event at a World Cup event held in Pokljuka, Slovenia, on January 7-11. Norway's Ole Einar Bjoerndalen took first place, finishing the race in 36 minutes and 18.88 seconds, while Russia's Nikolai Krouglov took second place with a time of 36:25.14. Fellow Russian Sergei Tchepikov took third place in the race with a time of 36:30.34, while Deryzemlia finished the race in 37:49.21. Ukraine's Ruslan Lysenko took 35th place in the race with a time of 40:07.45, and his teammate Viacheslav Derkach

took 36th place, finishing the race in 40:15.80.

On the women's side, Oksana Yakovleva of Ukraine took 28th place in the 10-kilometer pursuit, finishing the race in 34 minutes and 55.39 seconds. Germany's Uschi Disl won the race with a time of 30:23.44, and Sandrine Bailly of France took second place with a time of 31:14.16. Russia's Olga Pyleva took third place with a time of 31:14.19.

Ukraine's Derkach then took the 18th spot in the men's 10-kilometer sprint, finishing the race in 25:30.2, while teammate Deryzemlia took the 19th spot with a time of 25:35.6. France's Raphael Poiree took first place with a time of 24:13.6, and Norway's Bjoerndalen took second place with a time of 24:22.5. Vladimir Dratchev of Belarus took third place with a time of 24:34.3. Ukraine's Lysenko took the 32nd spot in the event with a time of 26:01.5, and teammate Alexiy Korobeinikov took 47th place with a time of 26:26.8. Roman Pryma of Ukraine finished the race in 71st place with a time of 27:22.4.

In the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint, Ukraine's Yakovleva took 18th place with a time of 24:00.2, and Lilia Efremova of Ukraine took 52nd place with a time of 25:31.1. Norway's Liv Grete Poiree took first place with a time of 22:32.6, and Germany's Disl took second place with a time of 22:38.3. Frances' Bailly took third place with a time of 22:43.9. Ukraine's Iryna Tananaiko took 65th place with a time of 26:29.5, and teammate Tatiana Lytovchenko took 72nd place with a time of 27:30.1.

## Cross country running

Ukraine's Serhii Lebid won the European Cross Country Championships in Holyrood Park, Scotland, on December 14, 2003. Lebid led the entire 10-kilometer race, finishing in 30 minutes and 47 seconds. Juan Carlos De La Ossa took second place with a time of 31:08, while Portugal's Eduardo Henriques took third place with a time of 31:15.

Yevhen Bozhko of Ukraine took fifth place with a time of 31:19, and teammate Vitalii Shafar took 58th place with a time of 33:13.

## Weightlifting

Ukraine's Natalia Skakun won the women's combined event in the 63-kilogram weight class competition at the 2003 World Weight Lifting Championships in Vancouver held on November 14-22. China's Xia Liu took second place, while Hanna Batsiushka of Belarus took third place in the competition. The combined event is composed of clean and jerk as well as snatch weightlifting techniques. Skakun's clean and jerk lift of 138 kilograms (roughly 304 pounds) on November 18, 2003, in that competition set a new world record.

In the men's over 105-kilogram combined category, Ukraine's Artem Udachyn took second place, while Hossein Reza Zadeh of Iran took first place. Velichko Cholakov of Belarus took third place and Oleksii Kolokoltsev of Ukraine took sixth.

In the men's 62-kilogram combined category, Ukraine's Oleksander Lykhvald took eighth place, and Henadzi Aliashchuk of Belarus took third place. Turkey's Halil Mutlu won the event, while China's Zhiyong Shi took second place.

Ukrainian Oleksander Cherpak took sixth place in the men's 77-kilogram combined competition, while Iran's Falahati Mohammad Nejad took first place. Gevorg Davtyan of Armenia took second place, and Reyhan Arabacioglu of Turkey took third place.

Oleksii Petrov of Ukraine took 12th place in the men's 85-kilogram combined category, while Valeriu Calancea of Romania took first place. Aijun Yuan of China took second place, and Sergo Chakhoyan of Austria took third place.

In the men's 94-kilogram combined competition, Ukraine's Valeriy Pokrivchak took 11th place, while Milen Dobrev of Bulgaria took first place. Hakan Yilmaz of Turkey took second place, and Vadim Vakarciuc of Moldova took third place.

In the women's 58-kilogram combined competition, Ukraine's Svitlana Kokhanenko took 15th place, while China's Caiyan Sun took first place. Indonesia's Patma Wati took second place, and Turkey's Aylin Dasedelen took third place.

In the women's 69-kilogram combined category, Vanda Maslovska of Ukraine took seventh place, while Chunhong Liu of China took first place. Eszter Krutzler of Hungary took second place, and Valentina Popova of Russia took third place.

In the women's 75-kilogram combined competition, Ukraine's Nadia Shamanska took eighth place, while China's Shichun Shang took first place and set a new world record in the event with a combined total lift of roughly 601 pounds (264 pounds in the snatch and 337 pounds in the clean and jerk). Nahla Ramadan of Egypt took second place, and Slaveyka Ruzhinska of Bulgaria took third place. Kateryna Bilyk of Ukraine took 15th place.

In the women's over 75-kilogram combined category, Olha Korobka of Ukraine took third place, while China's Ding Meiyuan set a new world record and captured the gold medal in the event with her lift of 303 pounds in the clean and jerk. Russia's Albina Khomich took second place, and Ukraine's Viktoria Shaymardanova took eighth place.

## Swimming

Ukraine's Oleh Lysohor took first place in the men's 50-meter breaststroke at the European Short Course

Championships held in Dublin, Ireland, on December 11-14, 2003. Lysohor finished the race in 26.89 seconds, while Sweden's Remo Luetolf took second place with a time of 27.02. Mark Warnecke of Germany took third place with a time of 27.03.

Viacheslav Shyrsov of Ukraine took second place in the men's 50-meter backstroke on December 12, finishing the race in 24.16 seconds. Thomas Rupprath of Germany took first place with a time of 23.71, and fellow German Toni Helbig took third place with a time of 24.19.

Andrii Serdinov of Ukraine took third place in the men's 50-meter butterfly on December 14, finishing the race in 23.44 seconds. Mark Foster of Great Britain won the event with a time of 23.22, and Alexei Puninski of Croatia took second place with a time of 23.40.

In the men's 100-meter freestyle on December 13, Yuriy Yegoshin of Ukraine took fifth place with a time of 47.95, while Christian Galenda of Italy took third place with a time of 47.77. Pieter Hoogenband of the Netherlands won the event with a time of 46.81, and Filippo Magnini of Italy took second place with a time of 47.32.

Lysohor then took second place in the men's 100-meter breaststroke on December 12, finishing the race in 58.42. James Gibson of Great Britain won the event and set a new course record with a time of 58.03. His teammate Darren Mew took third place with a time of 58.78.

Ukraine's Serdinov then took a second bronze medal, this time in the 100-meter butterfly on December 12, finishing the race in 50.88 seconds. Serbia and Montenegro's Milorad Cavic took first place and set a new world record with his time of 50.02, and Germany's Rupprath took second place with a time of 50.43.

In the men's 4x50-meter freestyle relay on December 14, the Ukrainian team of Lysohor, Yegoshin, Shyrsov and Oleksander Volynets took third place with a time of 1 minute and 26.30 seconds. The Netherlands took first place and set a new world record with a time of 1:25.55, while Germany took second place with a time of 1:26.26.

Ukraine's Iryna Amshennikova took third place in the women's 200-meter backstroke on December 14, finishing the race in 2 minutes and 6.51 seconds. Antje Buschshulte of Germany took first place with a time of 2:04.23, and Stanislava Komarova of Russia took second place with a time of 2:05.42.

Amshennikova also took seventh place in the women's 100-meter backstroke on December 12, finishing in 59.28 seconds. Germany's Buschshulte took first place with a time of 58.40, and Ilona Hlavackova of the Czech Republic took second place with a time of 58.72. Laure Manaudou of France took third place with a time of 58.99.

— compiled by Andrew Nynka



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## MUSIC REVIEW: Making a joyful noise – the Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

If you're down in the dumps and need a pick-me-up, put on a Volyn Choir album, and turn it on a bit louder than usual. You'll be smiling, probably singing along and even dancing in no time. This is one amazing bunch of enthusiastic, very talented singers and musicians. Their full name is the Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, from Lutsk, Volyn Oblast, Ukraine.

So far, there have been three albums of folk and contemporary songs from this ensemble, and one album of Christmas songs, *koliady* and *schedrivky* (New Year's songs). "Volyn, Ukrainian Christmas Album" and "Volyn," which comprised folk songs, were just released by Ablaze Productions of Toronto. This company is also planning to bring Volyn to North America later in 2004.

Thankfully, there are many, very many choir recordings from Ukraine now – most of them very good. And the subject matter is extensive – from the authentic and stylized ritual and folk to the most contemporary. The choices are out there, and the buyer must choose wisely, because not all ensembles are worth listening to.

With its very first recording, the Volyn Choir was a burst of joy and fun. The singers approach their songs with enthusiasm and let-'er-rip delight. The very fine orchestra, with folk instruments and great horns, adds much to the joy of song shared with the audience.

The repertoire of the choir is also something new. Along with well-known folk and ritual songs, there are many new ones (new to North America, old in Ukraine), and some standards. Artistic Director Oleksander Stadnyk has arranged very old Ukrainian folk music in a fresh, new, delightful way. The happy songs are so good that many have been used by North American dance ensembles as their accompaniment. While this ensemble, formed in 1978, is well-rehearsed, the effect is one of spontaneity.

The Volyn Choir's new volume of folk songs includes a few from the previous albums, in new renditions, and songs newly arranged and performed. There are also compositions by Mr. Stadnyk to lyrics of various poets. One haunting composition about the *Kozaks*, "Oy u luzi," has lyrics by Vasyl Symonenko to the music of O. Petrov. The selection is varied, from the rip-roaring *Kozak* battle songs and humorous ones, to gentle, sometimes heartbreaking love songs.

The voices, the harmonies and the soloists are wonderful. Some compositions, while interesting, still remind me of the Soviet-style epic melodies ("Harnyi, Kozak, Harnyi").

It would be very difficult to pick a favorite song from this album, because each is so special and so well done in its own way. But I am partial to "Hai, Hai, Zelenkyi / A Divchyna Horlytsia" (No.18). I can just see a dance choreographed to this delightful blend of two upbeat tunes. And their version of "Rozprahaite, Khloptsi Koni – Marusia Harna" is one the younger generations will enjoy.

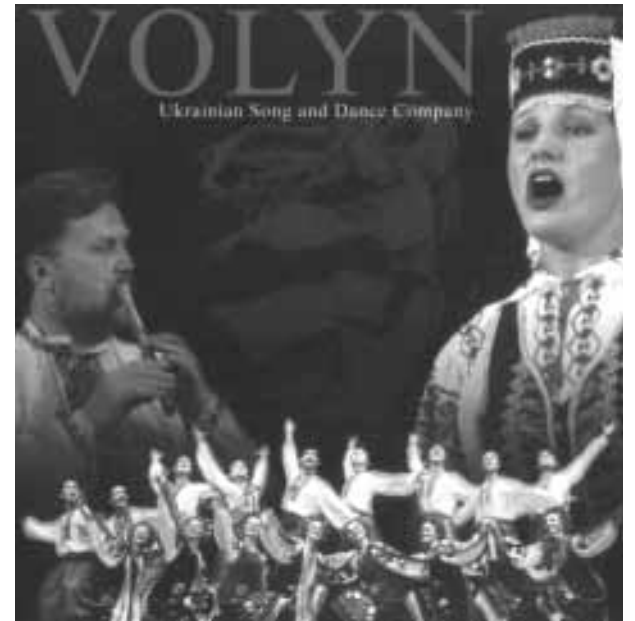
One final note: There is a problem with the labeling of tracks for a series of songs on this album, with tracks 16 to 23 not cued up properly.

The "Volyn Ukrainian Christmas Album" also is very fine. Along with a few standards that have been recorded and performed before, the majority of the numbers comprise *koliadky* and *schedrivky* originating in pre-Christian times, with the Christian layer sometimes added later, in the refrain. There are medieval songs that we do not hear as often. It is a pleasure to hear the actual ancient songs as opposed to just reading the lyrics in old books.

The second song, "Skhovalos Sontse za Horoyu" (The Sun Has Set Behind The Mountain) is neither a carol nor a *schedrivka*, but a long-lost song from the turn of the last century set to a folk melody. Leopold Yashchenko, the director of the Homin Choir of Kyiv, explained to me that for a long time people thought this was a folk song. During Soviet times this gentle, lovely song was frowned upon, because it spoke of the beauty of Ukraine and people's love and devotion to it. Only recently did it come to light that the lyrics were by the poet M. Kononenko. This song, along with a few others on this album, have been in the repertoire of the Homin Choir for years. It deserves to be heard and sung, but not as a Christmas song.

The open, "bilyi" (white) style of singing is in vogue as the accepted folk way of singing, but after a while a whole album of these blasting voices gets to be a bit much. In this Christmas album, it is a pleasure to hear the choir also sing in the regular fashion – the gentility of presentation is a welcome change. And here's a question for ethnomusicologists: Is this "bilyi holos" really traditional?

The penultimate cut, "Staryi Rik Mynaye" (The Old Year Passes), is a great way to bid farewell. The last track is "Schedryk" (one of many), but it is not, as



labeled, the "Carol of the Bells" at all.

Both new albums would benefit from having the song titles listed also in Ukrainian because the English translations are not easily associated with a particular Ukrainian song. In gearing the albums to an English-speaking audience, perhaps the producer did not want Cyrillic writing confusing the reader. An insert in Ukrainian might help. Also, indicating which is a *koliadka* and which a *schedrivka* would help.

And now to the one thing that drove me up the wall. In both albums, there is this shrieking woman at the beginning and throughout the cheerful fast-paced songs. High-pitched yelps, shouts, screeches, howls – "skavulinna," as my Mama would say. And how in the world could the director permit or initiate this shrieking in *schedrivky*? Even the fun ones are still to be done reverently – after all, these are ritual songs, representing something ancient and very spiritual. Dare we hope that subsequent recordings will eliminate most of the yelping, and all of it in the Christmas album?

The Volyn Choir's CDs are available at most Ukrainian music outlets and on Ukrainian catalogue webpages.

## Oliynyk's Third Concerto for Bandura and Orchestra has world premiere

by Adriana Shmahalo

SACRAMENTO – Oksana Herasymenko introduced Yuriy Oliynyk's Third Concerto for Bandura and Orchestra in a world premiere here in the capital of California on November 15, 2003.

This was the opening of the 41st season for the Camellia Symphony Orchestra. The auditorium was filled to overflowing, and the press reviews for the Bandura Concerto were sensational.

A few days before the concert, Patricia Beach Smith, the main music critic for the Sacramento Bee, had placed an article with a full-page color photograph of the soloist, bandura virtuoso Ms. Herasymenko, with an interview and her impressions from a demonstration concert at American River College.

Ms. Smith was impressed by the beauty of the music and the exquisite workmanship of the instrument itself, which was custom-made by Ms. Herasymenko's father, Vasyl Herasymenko. Ms. Smith noted that Ms. Herasymenko is a bandura virtuoso, composer and singer whose voice resembles that of Edith Piaf. She wrote that the singer-bandurist has a master's degree and was taught by her father, Mr. Herasymenko, professor of bandura at the Lviv State Music Academy, which recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. She also pointed out that Lviv was founded in 1256.

Eugene Castillo, the conductor of the Camellia Symphony, said that the music of Mr. Oliynyk is loved by the public and that Ms. Herasymenko's playing "is

a visual feast," which includes the smooth changing of tonalities with the hand-operated switches and the artistry of negotiating all 65 strings on the instrument.

Indeed, the virtuosic concerto No. 3, "Exotic," by Mr. Oliynyk was dedicated to Ms. Herasymenko. It features a tam-tam in the percussion section, which gives it a certain exotic character. The treatment of phrases, which merge one into another, makes this concerto markedly different from its predecessors. The introduction begins with a chant in parallel fifths resembling ancient choral music with periodic strokes of the tam-tam. A brisk bandura passage leads to the first march-like theme played by a combination of strings and woodwinds. A tense succession of key changes, so characteristic for this composer, lasts almost through the entire concerto.

The three-movement structure of the concerto follows a traditional sonata allegro form with clearly defined contrasts between the individual movements. The thematic arrangement presents colorful musical images with changing moods and suggestive twists. The second slow movement resembles Ukrainian folk motifs with an impressionistic accompaniment and a somewhat accelerated middle section.

The last movement is a toccata in fast tempo, which requires virtuoso technique on the bandura. The xylophone, which is absent in the other concertos, is used extensively. The sounds of the bandura and the xylophone create an exotic juxtaposition, which reinforces the exotic character of this concerto. A brief restatement of the theme from the first movement provides a link between the

beginning and the end of the composition. There is an interesting brief quotation of a motive from Ms. Herasymenko's *Elegy* in the extensive bandura cadenza in the first movement. This reminds us to whom the concerto is dedicated.

Mr. Oliynyk is already known as the composer of three other concertos for bandura and orchestra, which were performed both in the United States and Ukraine, and were recorded on a CD by his wife, Ola Herasymenko, as a soloist with the Lviv Virtuosos Symphony Orchestra and Ukraine's Shevchenko State Award-Winning conductor Yuriy Lutsiv.

Ms. Herasymenko's brief stay in California came to an end, but before she

returned to Lviv, where she is professor of bandura at the Lviv State Music Academy, she gave concerts at the Ukrainian Saturday School with 350 children in attendance, Ukrainian Catholic churches in Sacramento and in San Francisco, as well as at Stanford University in Palo Alto as part of the commemoration of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933. She met the well-known author of "The Harvest of Sorrow," Dr. Robert Conquest.

She returned to Lviv hastily in order to continue her work in order to raise a new generation of students of Ukrainian musical culture and to further the bandura's full potential, which should be developed by contemporary Ukrainian composers and performers alike.



Bandura soloist Oksana Herasymenko and composer Yuriy Oliynyk receive standing ovation, November 15, 2003.

# Soyuzivka photo album: New Year's Eve festivities

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Association estate, Soyuzivka, rang in the New Year with special festivities and celebrations that ran from New Year's Eve, December 31, 2003, through January 4, 2004, as many took advantage of an extended holiday weekend. The resort offered a "New Year's Eve Extravaganza" that included a formal banquet with an open cocktail hour, a dance to the music of Temp and, of course, champagne served all night. There were fun activities for Soyuzivka guests on other days as well, including dancing and a cabaret. Seen on these pages (clockwise, beginning with top right) are: Soyuzivka's snow-covered gazebo; a view of informal dancing in the Main House lobby; the Soyuzivka wait staff ready to serve guests; the New Year's Eve cocktail hour in the Main House; entertainment and games during cabaret night with Ron Cahute of the Burya orchestra; and New Year's Eve guests Ksenia Rakowsky (left) and Ivanka Olesnycky during the festive dinner in the Veselka hall.

*Photos on this page courtesy of Olesia Guran, Sonia Semanyshyn, Victor Cymbal and Oksana Trytjak.*



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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

ble of decisive action, Mr. Burlatskii wrote. They are both religious, devout patriots, and inclined to view the world in ideological terms. Mr. Burlatskii continued. Both are facing the challenge of an election year, although this challenge is much greater for President Bush. The first terms of both presidents have been marked by war – Chechnya for Mr. Putin, and Afghanistan and Iraq for Mr. Bush. Both presidents have faced economic difficulties at home. Despite modest economic progress in Russia, average standards of living have not improved, while Mr. Bush has wrestled with mounting budget deficits. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... predicts continued good relations

MOSCOW – In the same Izvestia article, Fedor Burlatskii wrote that President George W. Bush's Democratic opponent will likely try “to play the Russia card” during the U.S. campaign, emphasizing “growing authoritarianism” under President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Burlatskii wrote that such charges are unfair to President Putin, especially since many in the West continue to consider former President Boris Yeltsin a “true democrat.” However, Mr. Yeltsin was known in Russia as “Tsar Boris” and he presided over “the most barbaric plunder of Russia's national wealth in history and the vast expansion of crime,” Mr. Burlatskii noted. He wrote that the tendency toward authoritarianism exists in Russia, but adds that it will take decades for the country to rid itself of this historic mentality. Mr. Burlatskii concluded that Presidents Bush and Putin will continue to pursue vigorous bilateral cooperation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Internet journalist shot with rubber bullets

KYIV – Oleh Yeltsov, editor of the Ukraina Kriminalnaya website (<http://www.cripo.com.ua>), which reports on crime and corruption in government and the private sector in Ukraine, was attacked in Kyiv on January 12 by an unknown assailant who fired rubber bullets at him, Interfax reported. Mr. Yeltsov was slightly injured in the attack, but his injuries did not require hospitalization. Mr. Yeltsov was attacked in July by two unidentified men who ambushed him with a stun gun and a metal pipe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

## A unified community...

(Continued from page 7)

branch activities and discussing ways to improve.

In addition to suggesting the above activities, the UNWLA national executive provided lesson plans to branches devoted to such topics as infant care, female hygiene, the feminist movement, famous Ukrainian women and Ukrainian history.

Like most national organizations in the Ukrainian American community, the UNWLA experienced certain tensions associated with the split between Banderite and Melnykite factions of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) after the second world war. These tensions culminated in the UNWLA exiting the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) in 1980.

Think about it. The founders of the UNWLA did everything they could to unify Ukrainian women in the United States. Is it time for the UNWLA to restore its membership in the UCCA and help restore unity among all of us? The UNWLA is too important an organization to be left out of our community-wide decision-making process.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is:  
[mbkuropas@compuserve.com](mailto:mbkuropas@compuserve.com).

## Chicago-based...

(Continued from page 1)

area and that, in the past nine months have "surrounded our offices." Mr. Kulas called it a "virtual invasion" by companies such as Washington Mutual and Bank One. The latter, Mr. Kulas explained, has some 200 branches in Chicago alone.

MB Financial, which prior to the transaction had 36 locations, will gain two branches in Chicago's Ukrainian Village, as well as offices in Norwood Park and Palatine, Ill. According to Mr. Kulas, all of First Security's branches will continue running just as they had prior to the transaction while the Chicago branch locations could see a name change to Ukrainian Bank, a division of MB Financial.

Mr. Feiger told the Chicago Tribune that a First Security branch office in Philadelphia also was part of the deal and that it is "large enough to make money on its own" and would run for at least a year under the First Security name.

MB Financial also announced that, in order to "emphasize its commitment to First Security's customers and communities," it would donate \$1 million to the Heritage Foundation, a private grant-making organization created by an initial infusion of \$5 million worth of First Security cash and stock. The MB Financial donation will be made after the transaction between MB Financial and First Security is completed.

Since its creation in 1997 the Heritage Foundation has supported Ukrainian schools, universities and educational institutions, as well as churches, seminaries, museums, and cultural and youth organizations.

The Heritage Foundation, however, was not part of the deal with MB Financial, Mr. Kulas said, and there are no plans for it to fall under the aegis of the newly merged organization. Following MB Financial's future contribution, the Heritage Foundation will have a base of \$12 million and, as a

reflection of its financial growth, the foundation is looking to expand the number of members on its board of directors, Mr. Kulas said.

"The First Security board of directors views this transaction as an evolutionary step in our long-term effort to serve our customers and maximize shareholder value," Mr. Kulas said.

Following news of the transaction, the Chicago Sun Times reported on January 13 that First Security's stock shot up \$3.01 to \$34.91, its highest close since it became a publicly held company in 1997.

The First Security customer base, which currently comprises various ethnic backgrounds, including the Polish and Hispanic communities, originated in 1928 as a bank predominantly used by Ukrainians. According to Mr. Kulas, the bank's Ukrainian customer base is currently 35 percent, while only 5 percent of its lending goes to Ukrainian customers.

The statement also announced that Mr. Kulas will become a member of the MB Financial Bank board of directors, remain a director of the Heritage Foundation and retain his office in Chicago. Paul Nadzikewycz, chairman of First SecurityFed Financial, will also become an MB Financial Bank Board member and remain on the Heritage Foundation board.

First Security reported assets of \$495 million on September 30, 2003. The addition of First Security is expected to increase MB Financial's total assets to more than \$4.8 billion, while giving the Illinois-based banking and financial organization - MB Financial Bank - 40 locations in the Chicago area.

"We believe there will be outstanding benefits to our customers," Mr. Kulas said. MB Financial will provide a "comprehensive array of services through multiple channels. This will include the addition of Ukrainian telephone banking to the current English, Polish, Hispanic and Korean system currently offered."

## BOOK NOTES

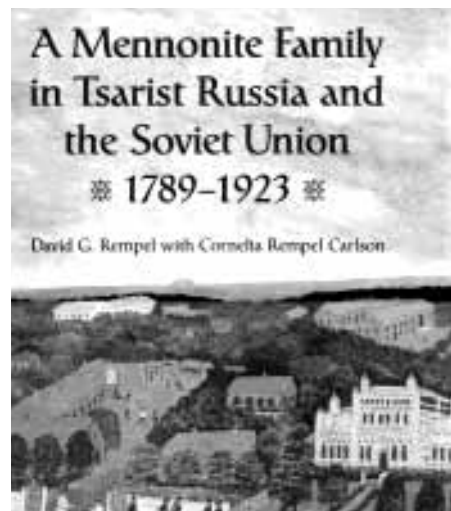
### New book tells about experiences of Mennonites in Tsarist Russia, USSR

"A Mennonite Family in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union, 1789-1923," by David G. Rempel with Cornelia Rempel Carlson. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003, 356 pp, \$70 (hardcover).

History comes alive in David G. Rempel's "A Mennonite Family in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union, 1789-1923." The author presents history through his own experience living in Russian Mennonite settlements during 1900-1920 and through drawing upon the history of his ancestors. Throughout the book Dr. Rempel weaves the reader through the 1905 revolution, the repercussions of the Stolypin reforms, World War I and the people's fear concerning property expropriation and exile, the 1917 revolution and Makhnovschyna.

Dr. Rempel includes photographs of himself and his family in this book, which draws the reader even more into the history of the time from 1789 to 1923 and where the author's family fits into that history. The genealogy of Dr. Rempel's family, which makes up one of the appendices, aids in the reading of the history as well.

This history describes "one of tsarist and early Soviet Russia's smallest, yet



most dynamic, ethno-religious minorities." "A Mennonite Family in Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union, 1789-1923" was published posthumously and edited by Dr. Rempel's daughter, Cornelia Rempel Carlson.

Dr. Rempel received his Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. For three years during World War II the author was Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's military historian. Dr. Rempel taught history at the College of San Mateo in California from 1934 until he retired in 1964.

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## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Syracuse attorney appears before top courts

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Attorney John I. Hvozda, son of Dr. John and Valentyna Hvozda from Syracuse, N.Y., is practicing before the highest courts of the New York State – the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court Appellate Division.

Mr. Hvozda for some years has been a member of the Wood and Richmond L.L.P. law firm of North Syracuse, which specializes in representing employers and their insurance carriers throughout Northern and Central New York State in the area of workers' compensation. Recently, he had represented a client corporation before the highest court of New York State, the Court of Appeals, and won this important precedent-setting case.

Mr. Hvozda was admitted to practice law before the courts of the State of New York and the U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York in 1989, worked in several law firms, as well as successfully practiced law from his own law firm in Syracuse.

Dr. Hvozda had graduated with honors from the State University of New York at Buffalo with a B.A. in political science, and received a Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law, with an International Legal Studies



**John I. Hvozda**

Program Certificate.

He is a member of several Ukrainian community organizations, including Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, and belongs to Ukrainian National Association Branch 39. He resides in Syracuse with his wife, Sofia.

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

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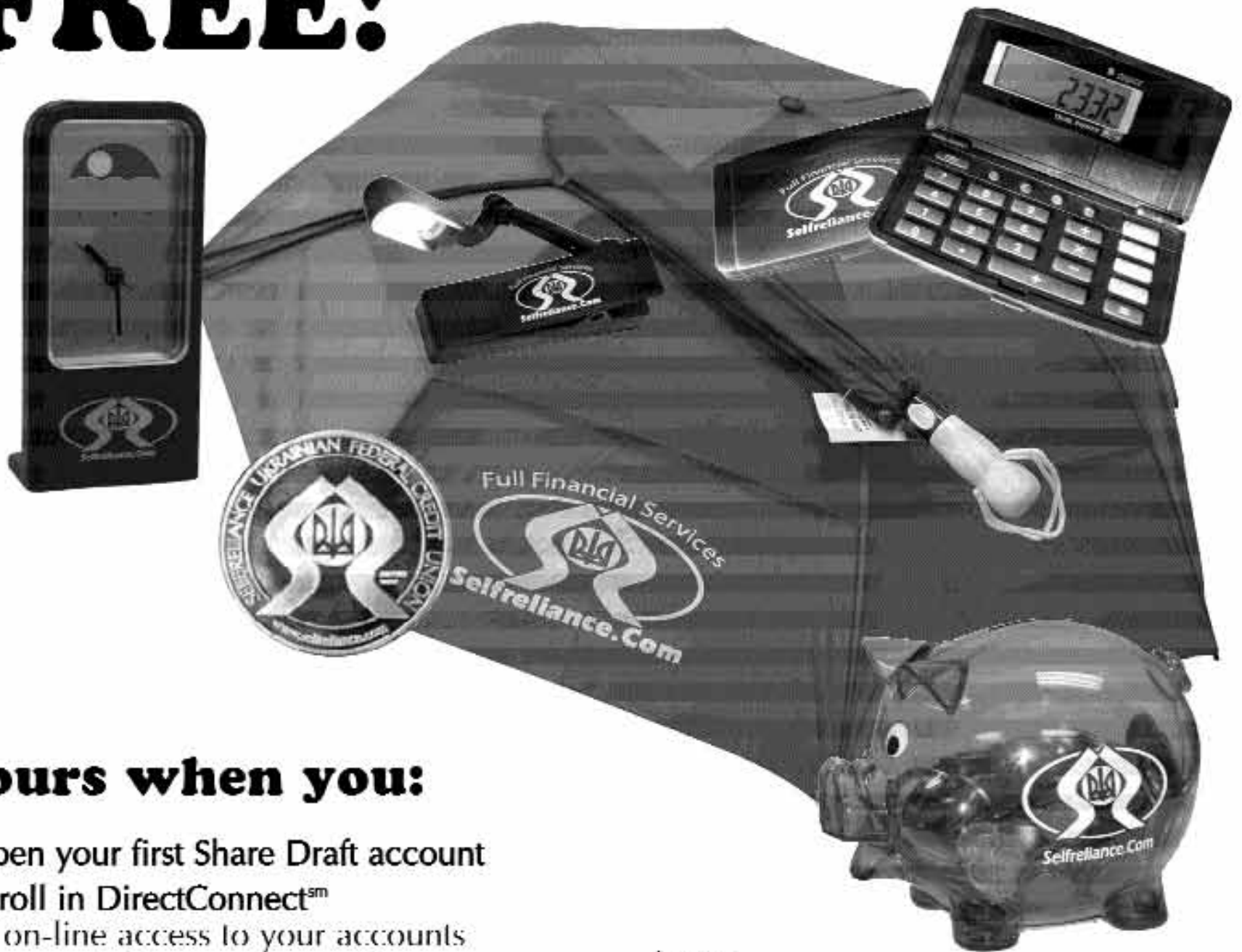
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# Rule of law...

(Continued from page 6)

to two terms. This would have been the inescapable conclusion if the court had engaged in a straightforward application of its prior rulings. For one reason or another, such an exercise did not take place. At this point any attempt to reconcile the two decisions would be an exercise in futility. The constitutional norm was not uniformly applied. The court applied a different standard to national deputies in 1997 than it is now applying to President Kuchma.

The aim of any judicial system, either Continental (Civil Law) or Anglo-Saxon (Common Law), is to provide stability through the consistent application of the law and adherence to the Constitution. The court in its most recent decision failed to achieve this goal.

The whimsical and contradictory application of judicial rulings has far-reaching negative affects. It instills uncertainty and confusion not only in legal circles, but in the people of Ukraine as well as in the international community. It removes the cloak of respect which veils an independent judiciary and ensures that skepticism accompanies each judicial decision. All involved, or contemplating involvement, with Ukraine are deprived of the confidence attendant with even-handed application of justice in accordance with constitutional safeguards.

Under the theory of separation of powers (Article 6), any default on the part of the judiciary would ideally be counterbalanced by an effective Legislative branch. Recent events cast doubt on whether Parliament is capable of fulfilling that role. It appears that rushed political reforms have distracted Parliament from completing its long-outstanding

legal reform. The Parliament must keep in mind its commitment to enact the Civil Procedural Code, the Criminal Procedural Code, as well as other procedural codes, and eliminate the contradictions between the Commercial and Civil codes which became effective as of January 1, 2004. Trial by jury guaranteed by the Constitution and the Law on the Judiciary must also finally be implemented. Further, the lack of enforcement of judicial decisions by the executive must be addressed. This reform must begin with the Parliament itself, where several deputies to this day disregard the court's 1997 decision and maintain dual mandates.

The upcoming year will determine if Ukraine will move forward as a democratic nation supporting a civil society that protects individual rights under the rule of law, or will take a "step backwards" as the Venice Commission recently noted. To avoid the latter, the judiciary must maintain its independence and dedicate its efforts toward the former. Put simply, judges will not be respected until they respect themselves.

Another issue, however, looms large on the horizon. The courts of general jurisdiction which adjudicate election disputes are plagued with confusion involving jurisdiction and venue. If these crucial legal issues are not resolved prior to the October 2004 presidential election, they may produce obstacles to the peaceful and constitutional transition of presidential power.

It is not too late for judges to fulfill their constitutional mandate. Rather than speculate about a possible unfortunate sequence of events, there is a general hope that the clouds over Ukraine's political sphere will clear, and 2004 will be remembered for Ukraine's "step forward."

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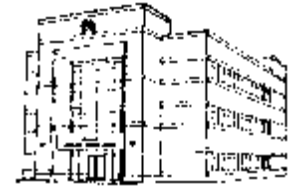


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41 Collins Ave., Spring Valley, NY 10977  
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# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## St. Nicholas hosted by children (and adults) in Hillside, N.J.

HILLSIDE, N.J. – On Sunday, December 7, 2003, St. Nicholas made a special visit to the children and adults here at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Parish. He was especially pleased to have the children visit with him despite the significant amount of snow that fell only hours earlier.

As an expression of their love for St. Nicholas, several children and adults presented a bilingual holiday entertainment program. Children's performances included the following: sopilka (Danylo and Nadia Szpyhulsky); poems (Krista Erakovic, Thomas Feld and Nadia Szpyhulsky); and the famous Ukrainian schedrivka "Carol of the Bells" on the flute (Rebecca Shatynski).

Several children (Rebecca, Sarah, Lisa and Gregory Shatynski) creatively brought the song "The 12 Days of Christmas" to life. The children researched the religious symbolism of each of the items mentioned in the song. The "12 days of Christmas" refers to the period from December 26 to January 6.

The song begins "On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me..." The "true love" represents God and His love for us. The "partridge in a pear tree" symbolizes Jesus Christ, who died on a cross for us; "two turtle doves" symbolizes the Old and New Testaments; the "three French hens" symbolizes faith, hope and



*St. Nicholas visits children at Immaculate Conception.*

love, which are referred to as gifts from God in 1 Corinthians 13. The children then used audio-visual tools to encourage the audience to sing and reflect on the religious aspects of this song.

The children asked the audience to reflect on the following thought, "The world celebrates Christmas for 12 hours, but the Church celebrates it for 12 days because the

gift of Christ is with us for 12 months of the year!"

Odarka Polanskyj Stockert further nurtured the Christmas spirit by playing several international Christmas carols on the harp. She also led the audience in singing several koliady.

Mike Szpyhulsky served as emcee. Russ Pencak served as liaison to St. Nicholas. Julianna

Shatynski, and Sophika and Ariadna Stockert served as helpers to St. Nicholas.

Hillside's energetic new pastor, Father Andriy Rabi, was present to lead the group in prayer and song. Father Andriy asked everyone to welcome Christ into their hearts during this blessed Christmas season and throughout the upcoming New Year.

## Hartford's SUM members honor youth organization's patron

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) branch held a commemorative program on December 2, 2003, to honor SUM's patron saint, St. Michael the Archangel, and to mark the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. The gathering also provided an opportunity for the branch's SUM youths to be recognized for their accomplishments and achievements during the educational year. Seen on the right are members of the SUM branch in Hartford.



# UKELODEON marks its fifth anniversary next month

Dear Readers of UKELODEON:

Next month marks the fifth anniversary of UKELODEON, a special section of The Ukrainian Weekly that was created in February 1999 to serve as a forum for young readers, by young readers and about young readers. UKELODEON was envisioned as a space where our youth, from kindergartners to high schoolers, could come to learn, to exchange information, to relate their experiences, and to keep in touch with each other. Its contents were to be shaped by the young readers of what we call the “next generation” of our community.

The name UKELODEON rhymes with nickelodeon. Yes, you probably know that as a kids’ network (spelled with a capital “N”), but the original word referred to an early movie theater that charged a nickel

for admission. According to The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, the root of the word, “odeon,” is from the Greek “oideion,” a small building used for public performances of music and poetry. Thus, our UKELODEON is public space for the youth of the Ukrainian community.

Though UKELODEON is prepared by the editorial staff of The Ukrainian Weekly, its main contributors are you, its readers. That is why we are thrilled when we get stories written by kids and teens – whether they live here in the United States, or Canada, or Australia, or ... anywhere around the world.

Consider UKELODEON your space – your space to fill with your contributions, whether they be articles, or poems, or photos, or drawings – anything you’d like to share with your peers. Surely you enjoy

reading and seeing what other kids and teens send in. So, why not let everyone else enjoy your submission?

Thus, we repeat our invitation to all you members of the “next generation”: Don’t be bashful! Send in your stories and your observations. Share your experiences with fellow readers. And if you have any questions about sending materials, call us at The Weekly, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3049, or send a message via e-mail to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). (You may send in your materials to the

postal address or e-mail address given on this page.)

We hope to hear from you in 2004!

**CHECK IT OUT:** On page 2 of this issue read about the Ukrainian translation of the latest book (No. 5) in the Harry Potter series, which was released in Ukraine in November. The Ukrainian version of “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” was the first translation to be issued in Europe.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE:** UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month (there are exceptions, such as this month’s UKELODEON, which was published a week later due to The Ukrainian Weekly’s regularly scheduled “Year in Review” issue, which appeared last week). To make it into our next issue, dated February 8, please send in your materials by January 30.

We especially encourage kids and teens to submit articles and see their names in print. And don’t forget to send a photo or two. Plus, photos of UKELODEON reporters – that means any of you young readers who submit a story – are welcome.

Please drop us a line:  
 UKELODEON, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Call us at (973) 292-9800; or send e-mail to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). (We ask all contributors to please include a daytime phone number.)

## Petro Pytaye: 2004 and you

In an attempt to get more UKELODEON readers involved and onto the pages of this special section for “the next generation,” our reporter, Petro Pytaye, is asking you to reply to the following questions in time for our next issue.

What New Year’s resolution did you make for 2004?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you most looking forward to in 2004?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out:  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip out and send to: The Ukrainian Weekly, UKELODEON, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ, 07054. Deadline: January 30. If possible, please include a photo of yourself that we can publish along with your response. PS: You may also e-mail your response to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com).

## Mishanyna

The theme for this month’s Mishanyna is the rulers of early Ukrainian states – its “kniazi,” or princes, its grand princes, and its “koroli,” or kings.

Below is a list, in chronological order, of the most prominent rulers of the principalities of Kyivan Rus’, Halych and Halych-Volyn (Galicia-Volhynia). The reigns of these rulers span the period between 862 and 1308. To solve Mishanyna, look for the capitalized names you see below in the puzzle grid.

- ASKOLD
- DYR
- OLEH
- IHOR
- OLHA
- SVIATOSLAV Zavoyovnyk (the Conqueror)
- VOLODYMYR Velykyi (the Great)
- YAROSLAV Mudryi (the Wise)
- Volodymyr MONOMAKH
- YAROPOLK
- VOLODYMYRKO
- ROSTYSLAV
- ROMAN
- DANYLO
- LEV
- YURII

S	Y	D	N	Y	E	T	A	S	K	O	L	D	Y	R
D	U	R	O	T	I	I	R	U	Y	D	Y	M	E	V
I	I	O	M	E	L	K	O	L	R	U	Y	O	R	I
S	A	S	I	D	I	S	A	Y	U	M	R	L	K	N
L	L	M	I	M	O	O	D	R	I	S	A	D	O	N
A	V	O	R	K	L	O	P	O	R	A	Y	O	U	Y
V	A	M	O	R	Y	A	P	Y	O	R	O	V	Y	T
O	L	Y	S	U	N	I	M	O	M	A	N	A	R	S
M	S	S	T	R	A	Y	O	T	A	B	R	A	T	I
Y	O	L	Y	E	D	A	N	O	N	O	L	E	H	A
R	T	E	S	O	O	N	O	R	S	L	A	V	O	R
D	A	D	L	N	R	O	M	L	I	H	E	A	R	A
I	I	O	A	E	W	R	A	T	H	A	R	M	A	T
S	V	S	V	E	V	V	K	E	L	E	V	A	T	E
O	S	M	O	T	R	O	H	A	L	O	U	V	R	E

## Soyuzivka's Datebook

**January 30 - February 1, 2004**  
Church of Annunciation Weekend,  
Flushing, NY

**February 14, 2004**  
Valentine's Day Weekend, Dinner  
and Show

**February 21, 2004**  
Napanoch Fire Department Banquet

**February 28, 2004**  
SUNY New Paltz Sorority  
Semi-Formal Banquet

**March 6-7, 2004**  
Plast Kurin "Khmelnychenky"  
Annual Winter Rada

**March 13, 2004**  
UACC Rada

**March 20, 2004**  
Grace Church Men's Retreat

**April 10, 2004**  
Easter Celebration and Easter Brunch

**April 24, 2004**  
Zynych and Dziubina Family Reunion



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Editorial – 3049, 3063, 3069; Administration – 3041;

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## New Britain Malanka

Largest Malanka  
on the East Coast  
of the U.S.A.



Saturday, February 7, 2004

9pm

St. George Hall  
301 West Main Street  
New Britain, Connecticut

Entertainment provided by:  
Zakaria Balava of Montreal, Quebec, CANADA  
& Voromy of Syracuse, New York

Tickets: \$25

\* Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance

\* Table reservations are mandatory

\* Alcohol will not be sold – B.Y.O.B.

(What is, is, & everything will be with!)

For more information & table reservations, contact Chris Ivanik  
at 860-716-0332 or ivanik@comcast.net

\* Nearby Hotel Ramada Inn in Plainville, CT – www.ramada.com

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 22

**EDMONTON:** The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies presents, as part of its spring lecture series, Dr. David Marples, professor in the department of history and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at CIUS, who will give a lecture on "Stalin's Emergent Crime: Popular and Academic Debates on the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933." The lecture will be held in Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta at 3:30 p.m. For more information contact CIUS, (780) 492-2972; fax, (780) 492-4967; e-mail, cius@ualberta.ca.

Friday, January 23

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and the New York Bandura Ensemble present the first concert in the 2004 season of the Bandura Downtown series, "Kubasonica," featuring Ukrainian sounds from the Canadian prairies with tsymbaly wiz Brian Cherwick, the man responsible for Edmonton's legendary "Kubasonics." The program will include the songs "Baba Rolls Her Own" and "The Devil Went Down to Vegreville," as well as mystery guests, and much, much more. Donation: \$10; reception with the artists to follow. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. In the gallery, the Christmas exhibit will be on view through January 25. Gallery hours: Saturday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For more information call (212) 995-2640; log on to <http://www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/>; or e-mail nybandura@aol.com.

Saturday, January 24

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a talk and video presentation delivered by Prof. Taras Hunczak, Rutgers University, on the recently held conference on the 350th anniversary of the notorious Pereiaslav Articles and Council of 1654 that was held in Kyiv on January 12-14. The program will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For addi-

tional information call (212) 254-5130.

**CARTERET, N.J.:** The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka or, New Year's Eve dance, to be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Tickets, at \$40, include admission, hot buffet, beer, wine, soda, a midnight buffet and champagne toast; there will also be a cash bar. The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn off the exit with free shuttle service. Doors will open at 6 p.m.; buffet will be served at 7 p.m.; and the music starts at 8 p.m. For table and ticket reservations, call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Sunday, February 1

**SOMERSET, N.J.:** The Committee for Aid to Ukraine presents the Ukrainski Barvy vocal and instrumental ensemble from Kyiv in a concert to be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Ave., at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$15. Part of the proceeds from the concert will benefit students in Ukraine. For additional information call Michael Shulha, (908) 534-6683.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, February 14

**SOMERSET, N.J.:** The Central New Jersey Branch of the Committee for Aid to Ukraine invites the public to a "Carnival Ball" dinner/dance to be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Ave., starting at 6:30 p.m., and featuring music by the famed Tempo orchestra. There will be cocktails (cash bar); dinner (Ukrainian kitchen)-buffet; and a raffle. Tickets in advance: \$40 per person; \$25, students. Tickets at the door: \$45 per person; \$25, students. Proceeds to benefit students in Ukraine. For reservations call Damian Gecha, (908) 755-8156; the Rev. Ivan Lyszyk, (212) 873-8550 or (908) 253-0401; Michael Shulha, (908) 534-6683; or the Ukrainian National Credit Union, (732) 469-9085.

### PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Items may be e-mailed to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com).

### To The Weekly Contributors:

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

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

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PLEASE NOTE: Materials may be sent to The Weekly also via e-mail to the address [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). Please do include your mailing address and phone number so that we may contact you if needed to clarify any information. Please call or send query via e-mail before electronically sending anything other than Word documents. This applies especially to photos, as they must be scanned according to our specifications in order to be properly reproduced in our newspaper.

Any questions? Call 973-292-9800.





















