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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Ukraine's top broadcasters manipulate public opinion, says news monitor

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The director of a project on mass media in Ukraine said on February 11 that Ukraine's major broadcast outlets were manipulating public opinion as the presidential election season begins with the country increasingly receiving a single perspective on political events in Ukraine — much of it by way of unnamed sources.

Natalia Kostenko, a sociologist and director of the project dubbed Political News Monitoring, told The Ukrainian Weekly that a survey completed in December 2003 revealed that the six major channels that broadcast nation-

wide were limiting the number of viewpoints they offered in their standard evening news broadcasts, many times to a single political line, which was most often reported in an authoritative, supportive manner.

Ms. Kostenko refrained from going so far as to conclude that the major channels shared a single political assignment, but she admitted that the results of the survey revealed that the channels were promoting a single, pro-government point of view.

"Journalistic norms require several points of view. What has happened here does not come close to that," explained Ms. Kostenko.

The study that Ms. Kostenko directed, organized by the Ukrainian Press Academy and funded by the Renaissance Foundation, noted that the number of political news stories that presented several points of view on the six major channels had decreased by half since October 2003, from 20 percent to 10 percent. Meanwhile, the number of stories supporting a single political line, "in an affirmative manner" had risen from 55 percent to 60 percent. It noted that 30 percent of all news packages did not name the sources of their reports.

The survey results also supported alle-

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## Patriarch of Constantinople presses pope not to recognize Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, leader of Orthodox Churches worldwide, said in a recent letter that, if the Vatican were to recognize the Patriarchate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Catholic-Orthodox relations would return to a "climate of hostility," reported the Religious Information Service of Ukraine (RISU), based in Lviv.

That comment was contained in a letter written by the patriarch of Constantinople to Pope John Paul II on November 29, 2003. The letter was written in Greek and was posted in that language on Patriarch Bartholomew's website before it was delivered to the Vatican, RISU noted.

The contents of the letter became more widely known this month after the Italian Catholic magazine 30 Giorni translated it and on February 2 distributed its story about the letter to the press in Rome.

RISU cited the Zenit.org news service as reporting that Patriarch Bartholomew warned that establishment of a Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate based in Kyiv would risk a break in ecumenical relations. The patriarch's letter discussed a document presented by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, to Aleksei II, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia.

According to Zenit.org, Patriarch Aleksei of the Russian Orthodox Church sent the document to Orthodox patriarchs. The ecumenical patriarch responded by rejecting Cardinal Kasper's document, describing it as "erroneous, confused, unacceptable, provocative" and warning of the negative consequences of recognizing a Greek-Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine.

"[It] will cause strong reactions on the part of all the Orthodox sister Churches and will put a stop to attempts to continue the theological dialogue between the Catholic Church and Orthodox Churches," the magazine 30 Giorni wrote, according to Zenit.org.

In his letter to the pope, Patriarch Bartholomew said that, because of the danger of a rift in Catholic-Orthodox relations, "it is necessary that you assure the Ukrainian people and all the Orthodox Churches with persuasive force that you have no intention of initiating the institution of the Greek-Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine as Cardinal Kasper's text alludes."

Cardinal Kasper is to meet with Patriarch Aleksei of the Russian Orthodox Church during a trip to Moscow on February 16-20. According to the Catholic News Service, he is also to hold talks with

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## Broadcaster removes RFE/RL Ukrainian service from its programming

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

WASHINGTON — President Thomas A. Dine condemned as "a political act" a decision by the management of Ukrainian radio broadcaster Dovira to remove RFE/RL Ukrainian Service programming from its FM schedule, effective February 17.

Mr. Dine said, "This is a political act against liberal democracy, against free speech and press, against RFE/RL, and shows, once again, that Ukraine's political leadership is unable to live in an open society and is compelled to 'control' the media as if it were the good old days of the Soviet Union."

In a letter from TV and Radio Company Dovira First Deputy Director V. Reznichenko to RFE/RL Ukrainian Service Director Alexander Narodetsky, the privately held Ukrainian network said its decision to end radio re-broadcasting of RFE/RL programming was motivated by a decision that the RFE/RL programs "have to be changed in terms of format." Mr. Reznichenko continued by stating that "Until such time as that takes place, we are obliged to exclude" RFE/RL programming from Dovira's schedule.

The abrupt decision to end RFE/RL Ukrainian Service broadcasts surprised Mr. Narodetsky, who noted that the Ukrainian Service had enjoyed a "very close and productive relationship with Dovira." Dovira first began re-broadcasting RFE/RL programs in 1998, and was named RFE/RL Affiliate of the Year in

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## Ukraine denies report it sold nukes to al Qaeda

by Roman Woronowycz  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine vociferously denied on February 10 a story published in a London-based pan-Arab newspaper that it had sold nuclear arms to al Qaeda.

"Information in the foreign and Ukrainian mass media attributed to the newspaper al-Hayat that in 1998 Ukrainian scientists supposedly turned over nuclear weapons to representatives of the al Qaeda group is baseless and provokes astonishment," explained Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Markian Lubkivskyi.

Mr. Lubkivskyi questioned the integrity of major foreign newspapers, which he said proceeded to publish the allegations prior to obtaining commentary from the Ukrainian government.

"The ease with which this information was disseminated by various mass media — among them even authoritative publications — shows the extent to which certain publications have ignored common sense and a serious attitude in their race to provide sensationalism," added Mr. Lubkivskyi.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson underscored that all nuclear

weapons that had been located on Ukrainian territory at the time of the demise of the Soviet Union had been accounted for and turned over to Russia during the disarmament process, as had been agreed by Kyiv, Moscow and Washington. Tactical weapons were handed over in full by May 1992 and strategic weapons by July 1996.

Mr. Lubkivskyi said he believed the disinformation published in the London-based al-Hayat newspaper was being circulated to besmirch Ukraine's image in order to weaken its position with the U.S. and within the Arab world as it bids for reconstruction jobs in Iraq.

The al-Hayat news report, which appeared on February 8 under an Islamabad dateline, stated that al Qaeda bought the weapon, which was packed in a suitcase, from a Ukrainian scientist who visited the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 1998. At the time the city was a stronghold of the Taliban, which was working in close cooperation with the al Qaeda terrorist organization run by Osama Bin Laden.

The article said that al Qaeda would use the weapon only within the United States if it faced a "crushing blow," according to the Reuters news agency.

The report cited sources close to al Qaeda. The terrorist group is blamed for the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

A day after Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry denied the report, al-Hayat reprinted its allegations, adding new information that the scientist's first name was Viktor, that he acted as a middleman in the deal and that "the Americans were aware of the deal and tracked him, but everything was kept secret," reported Interfax-Ukraine.

Rumors of the existence of suitcase nuclear weapons have circulated in Ukraine and Russia for years. Former Russian National Security Chief Oleksander Lebed stated in 2000 that 84 of 132 portable nuclear weapons, weighing from 27 kilograms to 45 kilograms (about 50 to 100 pounds) held by Russia had been discovered to be missing. While official Moscow discounted Mr. Lebed's revelation, the national security chief continued to insist he was telling the truth. Mr. Lebed died in a helicopter crash two years ago.

Volodymyr Horbulin, advisor on national security to Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and the head of the country's

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## ANALYSIS

## Our Ukraine seems to be losing sway over country's constitutional reform

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report

The Verkhovna Rada voted on February 3 to excise the clause allowing the election of an "interim" president by direct election in 2004 and the subsequent parliamentary selection of a head of state in 2006 from a contentious bill on political reform that was preliminary approved on December 24, 2003.

The amendments to the bill were passed by 304 deputies, that is, by four votes more than are necessary for the final adoption of the constitutional reform in the second reading. This became possible due to the opposition Socialist Party, whose lawmakers threw their support behind the bill, arguing that it is now generally in accord with their own intent to transform the political system in Ukraine into a more democratic one.

Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, by destroying microphones in the session hall and unleashing turmoil, unsuccessfully tried to prevent the Verkhovna Rada from voting.

The February 3 vote took place during a short, "extraordinary" parliamentary session preceding the opening of a regular session later the same day. The pro-presidential majority in the Verkhovna Rada apparently resorted to this stratagem in order to meet the constitutional requirement for passage of constitutional amendments in two regular plenary sessions, thus making it possible for them to become law before the presidential ballot that is expected in October.

If the bill is passed by the Verkhovna Rada in the second reading before May 1,

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

when the presidential election campaign is expected to begin, then a new president elected this coming fall will have significantly fewer prerogatives than Leonid Kuchma is enjoying now. The center of power in Ukraine will be shifted from the presidency to the prime minister and Parliament. Many in Ukraine as well as abroad see the constitutional reform in Ukraine as President Kuchma's and his aides' ploy to strip Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, a leading presidential candidate, of real executive power in the event he is elected president.

The recent siding of the Socialist Party with the presidential majority in pursuing the constitutional reform does not necessarily mean that now the reform bill will be cleared by the Verkhovna Rada without difficulties.

Another hurdle is the adoption of a law on fully proportional parliamentary election that is the sine qua non for support of both the Communist Party and the Socialist Party to the constitutional-reform bill in the second reading. Many lawmakers in the pro-presidential majority, who were elected under a first-past-the-post system, are reportedly not particularly happy with this idea, feeling that an all-proportional system would spell defeat for many of them in the next elections.

The carrot for them is reportedly the idea currently circulating among pro-presidential forces to lower the threshold for winning parliamentary representation by a party to 1 percent from the current 4 percent. However, such a prospect will hardly satisfy the Communists and the Socialists, who are opting for a fully proportional, party-list system to prevent political small fry from winning parliamentary mandates and thus augment their own parliamentary gains. Some large par-

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## FOR THE RECORD: European Union on Ukraine's constitutional reform

*The following Declaration by the presidency on behalf of the European Union concerning proposals for constitutional change in Ukraine was published in Brussels and Dublin on January 28.*

In the context of the run-up to presidential elections in Ukraine, the European Union expresses its deep concern about the events which took place on December 24, 2003, in the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) in relation to the first reading of a set of major constitutional amendments.

While the European Union acknowledges Ukraine's sovereign right to modify its institutional framework within the procedures laid down by its constitution, it is concerned that under present political circumstances, the proposals for constitutional change will have an adverse impact on the trust and confidence of voters in relation to representative democracy in Ukraine, particularly in this election year. The legitimacy of constitutional change should be derived from genuine public support for its aims.

The European Union, which wishes to develop its relationship with Ukraine, will follow closely developments in this matter at the upcoming (fifth) session of the Verkhovna Rada.

As the EU clearly underlined at the

EU-Ukraine Summit in Yalta on October 7, 2003, the European Union believes that it is essential that the presidential elections be conducted in a manner which is genuinely free, fair and transparent. In this context, the EU believes that any debate on constitutional changes aimed at changing the procedures to elect the President should take place separately from the elections.

The European Union encourages Ukraine to respond positively to the offer of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) for further cooperation in the field of constitutional reform.

The union will carefully observe the conditions in which the Presidential electoral campaign takes place and the manner in which the election itself is conducted.

The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the Candidate Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Chornovil withdraws from Our Ukraine

KYIV – National Deputy Taras Chornovil, son of the late nationalist leader Vyacheslav Chornovil, has suspended his membership in the Our Ukraine parliamentary caucus, citing a disagreement over the bloc's tactics, Ukrainian media reported on February 10. "We missed the opportunity for a Georgian scenario in 2001, and we missed the opportunities we had after the parliamentary election victory [in 2002]," Mr. Chornovil told Radio Kontyent the same day. "Now we are, in fact, losing the opportunity to win the presidential election [in 2004]." Mr. Chornovil told the Ukrainska Pravda website that Viktor Pynzenyk, leader of the Law and Order Party, is among those who should be blamed for Our Ukraine's failures. Last week, one lawmaker suspended his membership in Our Ukraine and another quit the bloc's parliamentary caucus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kinakh criticizes pipeline decision

KYIV – Former Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh, head of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, said on February 5 that the government's decision to use the Odesa-Brody pipeline to pump Caspian oil to Europe and reject a temporary reversal of the flow, as suggested by Russia, was not based on any feasibility study, Interfax reported. Mr. Kinakh also claimed the government made its decision on Odesa-Brody without the relevant contracts with oil providers or oil consumers. Oleksander Horodetskyi, the president of the TNK-Ukraine oil company, meanwhile called Russian-British joint venture TNK-BP's proposal to ship 9 million tons of crude annually in the pipeline's "reverse mode" – from Brody to Odesa – the only realistic offer on the immediate use of the pipeline, which has been idle since 2002. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kuchma outlines foreign policy priorities

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said at a meeting with foreign diplomats in Kyiv on February 6 that Ukraine's priority foreign-policy tasks in 2004 are seeking to enter the World Trade Organization (WTO), proceeding toward integration with the European Union, and developing cooperation with Russia and the United States, Interfax reported. Mr. Kuchma said Kyiv wants to conclude its negotiations on WTO membership this year. He also pledged that Ukraine will make efforts to bring "all spheres of social life and primarily domestic legisla-

tion" into line with European standards. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### New ministry for family, children, youth

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree ordering the transformation of the State Committee for Family and Youth Affairs into the Ministry for Family, Children and Youth Affairs, Interfax reported on February 6, quoting the presidential press service. The decree appointed Valentyna Dovzhenko to head the new ministry. The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is to prepare draft regulations regarding the activities and personnel of the new ministry within two months. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Court shuts paper, citing anti-Semitism

KYIV – A district court in Kyiv on January 28 ordered the closure of the newspaper Silski Visti after finding it guilty of fomenting inter-ethnic antagonisms in Ukraine, Interfax and UNIAN reported, quoting the Socialist Party press service. The decision reportedly followed a lawsuit by an organization called the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, which charged that Silski Visti reprinted two anti-Semitic articles written by Prof. Vasyl Yaremenko of the International Academy of Personnel Management. Socialist Party member Mykola Rudkovskyi told UNIAN that the court order was the result of a "political instruction by the presidential administration" aimed at "do[ing] away with the largest Ukrainian opposition newspaper." Mr. Rudkovskyi said a group of lawyers is now preparing an appeal against the closure. Silski Visti, which targets primarily rural readers, is widely believed to be linked to the Ukrainian Socialist Party and its leader, Oleksander Moroz. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yushchenko: Silski Visti should apologize

KYIV – Our Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushchenko said last week that the Silski Visti newspaper needs "to find courage to apologize to those people whose ethnic sentiments were offended by its publications," the Our Ukraine website reported on February 5. Mr. Yushchenko was presumably referring to an article on Jews in Ukraine that was published by Silski Visti in November 2003 and prompted the recent court closure of the newspaper amid charges of anti-Semitism. "There should be no discussion about this [apology]," Mr. Yushchenko said, noting that his father was a prisoner at Auschwitz in 1944

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## Ukraine's top broadcasters...

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gations leveled by the political opposition that television news broadcasters had failed to adequately cover issues that involved them. It noted that in December 2003 three of the four opposition parties were presented in only 21 percent of stories on political developments in Ukraine, while the majority's voice was heard 79 percent of the time.

### The most covered parties

Most often covered were the Social Democratic Party-United of Viktor Medvedchuk, who is President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff, along with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Regions of Ukraine Party. The nominally oppositionist Communist Party also received substantial coverage.

The news stories most often cited majority leaders, Prime Minister Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn in their pieces. President Kuchma was mentioned in every fourth story on political matters in Ukraine. On the other hand, opposition force leaders Viktor Yushchenko of Our Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous political bloc and Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party were not named in a single report broadcast by the major stations in December.

The survey also perceived an increase in positive stories on Ukrainian state political institutions, from 66 percent to 75 percent of all stories, and a corresponding decrease in coverage of political parties.

Ms. Kostenko said that more than one reason exists for the development of a single political line in Ukraine's allegedly free press. However, most overriding is the relationship of the six major channels to state authorities.

### Close relationships cited as factor

"There is a close relationship between the owners of the television channels and their news department, and between the owners and state authorities," explained Ms. Kostenko. She also noted that a lack of professionalism among some journalists and producers, and the meager salaries they receive only compounded the problem.

The six major channels – UT-1, Studio 1+1, Inter, Novyi Kanal, ICTV and STB – are all owned or controlled by politicians close to the presidential administration. UT-1 is the official government broadcast arm; Studio 1+1 is controlled by Mr. Medvedchuk; Inter is controlled by his business partner, Kyiv Dynamo Soccer Club owner and National Deputy Hryhorii Surkis; Novyi Kanal, ICTV and STB are owned or controlled by National Deputy Viktor Pinchuk, President Kuchma's son-in-law.

### Only one fair and balanced channel

During an earlier press conference, Ms. Kostenko identified only one channel from among those that have the ability to broadcast to all parts of Ukraine as presenting political events in a fair and balanced manner. She said that only Channel Five, owned by National Deputy Petro Poroshenko, a leading member of the Our Ukraine political bloc, met the most basic of journalistic standards.

Ms. Kostenko said she did not believe that the reporting by the six leading channels would improve any time soon.

"We now have the political reform effort taking place, then we have the presidential elections," explained Ms. Kostenko. "It is an extraordinary time, so it is difficult to foresee that changes will take place soon."

## Kyiv court closes down newspaper for fomenting inter-ethnic strife

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report

Judge Iryna Saprykina of the Shevchenkivskyi District Court in Kyiv on January 28 ordered the closure of the opposition newspaper Silski Visti after finding it guilty of fomenting inter-ethnic strife in last year's article on Jews in Ukraine. The article, titled "Jews in Ukraine Today: Reality Without Myths," was penned by Vasyl Yaremenko, whom Ukrainian media identify as a professor of the Interregional Academy for Personnel Management.

The court's ruling has caused an outcry of indignation on the part of the opposition – Our Ukraine, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc – which see the presidential administration as an agent behind the closure of the largest anti-government newspaper, which has a circulation of some 520,000, in the presidential-election year. While not denying that the closure may play into the hands of the government, many Ukrainian observers agree, however, that the court's decision is fully supportable. Mr. Yaremenko's article, which was published by Silski Visti on November 30, 2003, can doubtless be categorized even by non-jurists as rabidly anti-Semitic.

Mr. Yaremenko's lengthy piece of writing is in fact a follow-up to one he published in Silski Visti on November 15, 2002 – "The Myth of Ukrainian Anti-Semitism." Mr. Yaremenko copiously quotes from letters of those readers of his first article who supported his point of view. His main thesis is that Jews in Ukraine are a privileged national minority and actually run the country by controlling its mass media, finances and basic economic sectors.

Any attempts to oppose this situation or even to point out that such a state of affairs exists, Mr. Yaremenko argues, are without delay presented in the media controlled and/or owned by Jewish oligarchs as manifestations of Ukrainian anti-Semitism and Judophobia. All television channels in Ukraine, Mr. Yaremenko says, are in the hands of "Zionists," and Ukrainians are forced to feed on "informational and spiritual products of the Jewish ideological kitchen."

He includes oligarchs Viktor Medvedchuk, Hryhorii Surkis, Viktor Pinchuk, Vadym Rabynovych and Yuhym Zvahilskyi in a much longer list of "Zionists" in Ukraine. According to

### Statement by Society of Ukrainian-Jewish Relations

Last week a court in Ukraine closed the newspaper Silski Visti for fomenting inter-ethnic strife. This decision elicited various critical comments, including protests against censorship. Having read the article titled "Jews in Ukraine Today: Reality Without Myths" that was printed in Silski Visti on September 23, 2003, I believe that this is not only anti-Semitism but xenophobia and exacerbation of inter-ethnic tensions. Patriotic Ukrainian society should condemn the writings of Vasyl Yaremenko, the author of the aforementioned article in Silski Visti, and distance itself from this harmful attack, reminiscent of Hitlerite journalism, against one of Ukraine's ethnic minorities.

Eugene Stakhiv, president  
Society of Ukrainian-Jewish Relations  
New York

Mr. Yaremenko, "nearly one-third" of the Verkhovna Rada deputies are Jews. He satirizes the Ukrainian Parliament by saying that it is now in the process of transforming itself into an "Israeli Knesset" or Ukraine's "central synagogue."

Much more aggressive are Mr. Yaremenko's "historical" excursions. He claims that Jews "organized" the tragic 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine to take "revenge" on millions of Ukrainians. Moreover, Mr. Yaremenko asserts that in 1937-1938 millions of Ukrainians were killed by the NKVD, which was run by "leaders of Zionism" and consisted of 99 percent Jews. He also says that during World War II Ukraine was invaded by German fascists along with a 400,000-strong "horde of Jewish SS men."

A lawsuit against Silski Visti was brought to court by an organization called the International Anti-fascist Committee. The newspaper argued in court that Mr. Yaremenko's article – which was a portion of his previously published book – was printed as a separate leaflet in addition to the main issue to advertise the book.

Under the press law, the editors claimed, newspapers are not responsible for the content of advertisements they print. But Judge Saprykina told the January 31-February 6 issue of Zerkalo Nedeli that there was no mention whatsoever in the November 30, 2003, issue of Silski Visti that Mr. Yaremenko's text is an advertisement. Judge Saprykina added that Ukraine's press law unambiguously stipulates the closure of publications that stir up racial, ethnic or religious antagonisms.

Judge Saprykina also said her ruling does not mean that Silski Visti will cease to appear immediately – appeals against her verdict may prolong the life of the newspaper for at least a year, if not overturn it altogether.

Apart from the problem of anti-Semitism and that of restrictions on the freedom of expression in Ukraine's public life, the Silski Visti case has also brought to the fore the issue of the democratic credentials of the Ukrainian opposition. It has not passed unnoticed by Ukrainian observers that the opposition, while protesting the closure of "Silski visti," did not touch upon the content of

Mr. Yaremenko's outpourings.

A statement signed by Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko says the closure is a "manifestation of totalitarian policy" of the government vis-à-vis undesirable media and accuses the court of following instructions of the authorities to eliminate the opposition media outlet. "We condemn the cynical reprisal against the opposition newspaper and express our support for the 'Silski visti' editors," reads the last phrase of Our Ukraine's statement. And the statement did not include a single word of reference to, let alone condemnation of, Mr. Yaremenko's shameful article.

It is not difficult to guess that if Mr. Yushchenko remains silent on Mr. Yaremenko's anti-Semitic escapade in Silski Visti, he will risk, at best, losing sympathy and support of many circles in the West that see him as a Ukrainian exponent of Western democratic values and principles. At worst, he may be accused of harboring anti-Semitism himself and trying to exploit it for his political purposes. In a situation where the overwhelming majority of Ukrainians live in glaring poverty and some of the country's most notable and fabulously rich oligarchs are of Jewish origin, it cannot be ruled out that anti-Semitism may become for some parties in the Our Ukraine bloc a political tool for mobilizing support in the presidential election. Then, the image of Mr. Yushchenko as a rabid nationalist – which is being laboriously presented to the electorate by the Communists and pro-government forces alike – may also be supplemented with some anti-Semitic features.

[Editor's note: RFE/RL Newline reported that Mr. Yushchenko later released a second statement in which he said that Silski Visti needs "to find courage to apologize to those people whose ethnic sentiments were offended by its publications." He added, "There should be no discussion about this apology." At the same time he repeated his assertion that the court, by ignoring other legal possibilities for dealing with the newspaper, was following an order from higher up whose intent was to destroy the largest opposition paper in the country.]

## Quotable notes

"Certain aspects of internal Russian policy in Chechnya, and toward neighbors that emerged from the former Soviet Union, have concerned us."

"We recognize Russia's territorial integrity and its natural interest in lands that abut it. But we recognize no less the sovereign integrity of Russia's neighbors and their rights to peaceful and respectful relations across their borders, as well."

– U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, writing in the Russian daily newspaper *Izvestia* on January 26, as reported by Reuters news service.

"We are not building a power system according to a principle of succession, as happened with our neighbors. We are not building a power system by way of street demonstrations or a revolution. We are building a power system by way of political reform. By way of a political reform that will make it possible to project Ukraine's development for many years to come. At the same time, we are building a new type of democracy – a consensual democracy, which is based on a consensus of the elites."

– Stepan Havrysh, leader of the pro-presidential majority in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, as quoted by the *Biznes* newspaper on January 26 and cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.

"The Communists of Ukraine are firmly convinced that if [Viktor] Yushchenko comes to power, the right-wing nationalistic forces will bring NATO troops in here, break all ties with Russia, launch a new grandiose redistribution of property, [and] destroy the last remaining sprouts of democracy in Ukraine."

– From a statement by Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko on January 27, as quoted by the *Ukrainska Pravda* website and cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.

## Ambassador Reznik visits with Ukrainians of Philadelphia

by Andrij Bilyk

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – “Although there’s much we must still do in the social sphere, day-by-day Ukraine is growing economically stronger ... in 2003 we had the fastest growth of our economy, not just in Kyiv, but throughout the country ... Ukraine is on the path to democracy ... we will not make the mistakes of the past ... Ukraine will become a strong European country.” These were the words of Mykhailo B. Reznik, Ukraine’s new ambassador to the United States, on Sunday, January 18, when he met with the leadership of Philadelphia’s Ukrainian American community.

“I will work day and night to improve relations between Ukraine and the United States of America. Ukraine needs the United States (as a partner) and the United States needs Ukraine,” he said, adding, “provide me with your contacts, support me, pray for me, and I will work with you to help ensure that Ukraine will never again be on her knees.”

The ambassador headed a large delegation of Ukrainian diplomats from Washington and New York City, who braved adverse weather (snow, sleet and icy conditions) to meet Philadelphia Ukrainians.

By the time Ambassador Reznik walked to the podium at the Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery, housed in the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, Pa., the room was already filled to capacity. More than 100 leaders of Philadelphia’s Ukrainian American community greeted the ambassador with a standing ovation. (It is generally acknowledged that the existence of Philadelphia’s Cultural Center is due to the inspiration and dedicated work of the late Dr. Alexander Chernyk, after whom the center’s gallery is named.)

A little later, several hundred Philadelphians welcomed the ambassador in the Cultural Center’s downstairs auditorium at the presentation of Ukrainian “vertep” and Christmas performance.

The meeting with Ambassador Reznik was co-sponsored by the Philadelphia-based Ukrainian Federation of America, (Dr. Zenia Chernyk, chairperson, and Vera M. Andryczuk, president); and by Meest Media Corp. (Roman Loun, president), with financial support from the Ukrainian Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union, Philadelphia Branch, and 1st Security Federal Savings Bank.

Prior to Ms. Andryczuk’s introduction of the ambassador, the Philadelphia community’s leaders heard words of welcome addressed to the ambassador from Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, and the Rev. Protopresbyter Frank Estocin, secretary of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., who spoke on behalf of Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop Antony.

Ambassador Reznik said that 2003 was the fifth consecutive year that Ukraine’s economy grew. He said that since Ukraine’s independence in 1991, he has been away on diplomatic missions (including most recently as Ukraine’s ambassador to China), but that during his periodic visits there he saw first hand Ukraine’s growth, particularly in the past few years.

Noting that he is a realist, he acknowledged “that much work lies ahead ... particularly (what we need to do) for Ukraine’s children ... [and] for the pensioners ... and to fix the tax system.” He said that while the average monthly salary in Ukraine is low by Western standards – only about 500 hrv a month (which is about \$95) – you have to measure it by Ukraine’s standards.

## UCCLA commends film-maker Mel Gibson for championing truth

TORONTO – Responding to actor/film-maker Mel Gibson’s comments about the Holocaust and the Holodomor, as the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine is known, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Canadian community, said: “Mel Gibson seems to have been publicly attacked because he insisted on recalling all of the victims of the Holocaust, Jews and non-Jews alike.”

“He has also been condemned for recalling the many millions of Ukrainians starved to death during the Holodomor,” Dr. Luciuk continued. “This Famine was not the result of natural causes. It was man-made. For anyone to suggest that recalling those murdered during this Soviet crime against humanity somehow detracts from the Holocaust is preposterous. And to belittle the many millions so victimized, as was done by Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, smacks of genocide-denial, or worse.”

“It is, of course, anyone’s right to focus grief on their own community’s woes. But to make false comparisons and suggest that somehow those who died from hunger suffered less than those who died from gas is odious. We hallow the memory of all the murdered millions and we thank Mr. Gibson, a good Catholic, for having the courage of his convictions and for championing historical truth,” said Dr. Luciuk, who is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

During an interview with Peggy Noonan, published in the March issue of Reader’s Digest, Mr. Gibson not only spoke of having personal acquaintances who bear the infamous tattoo of Auschwitz concentration camp inmates, but also of the need to remember all of the Holocaust’s victims, while not forgetting the victims of Communism.

“In the [sic] Ukraine several million starved to death between 1932 and 1933.

(Continued on page 13)

# MANOR

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## Philadelphia credit union supports Copies for Congress

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, which is based in Philadelphia, has made a donation of \$1,000 toward The Ukrainian Weekly’s Copies for Congress program.

The donation arrived in mid-January along with a letter signed by the credit union’s chief executive officer, Bohdan Mizak. The board of directors of Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union had approved the \$1,000 donation, he noted, adding that “This program is of vital importance and we are very pleased to be able to provide financial support for this endeavor.”

Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union has branches in Huntington Valley and Scranton, Pa., and Trenton, N.J. It has two offices in Philadelphia; its main office is located on Cottman Avenue, and a branch is located on Brown Street.

The Philadelphia credit union’s contribution is the first of the new year toward the Copies for Congress program, which was initiated in 2000 in an effort to raise funds to support free subscriptions to The Ukrainian Weekly

for all members of the U.S. Congress and thus keep them and their staff informed about developments concerning Ukraine and the Ukrainian community in the United States.

Distribution of The Ukrainian Weekly to members of Congress serves the entire Ukrainian American community, but the cost of the free subscriptions – some \$30,000 per year – is borne by The Ukrainian Weekly. Editors at The Weekly feel very strongly that these copies should continue to reach U.S. senators and representatives, since The Weekly is the only newspaper that provides such information consistently, coherently and accurately.

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

Contributions to the Copies for Congress project may be sent to The Ukrainian Weekly with the notation “Copies for Congress.”

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## UNA Branch 13 in Watervliet holds annual elections meeting



Participants of the UNA Branch 13 annual meeting in Watervliet, N.Y.

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – The yearly meeting of St. Nicholas Brotherhood Society, Branch 13 of the Ukrainian National Association in Watervliet, N.Y., was held on Sunday, January 18, in the Ukrainian American Citizens' Club.

Despite cold weather, 30 members came to listen to the reports and elect a new executive committee for the year 2004. President Nicholas Fil opened the meeting with a prayer (a brotherhood tradition during the 108 years of its existence), followed by "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "O, Khto, Khto Mykolaya Liubyt (which is dedicated to St. Nicholas).

The long-time secretary of the brotherhood, John Zendran, read the names of over 140 deceased members, and UNA Branch Secretary Paul Shewchuk read the names of the deceased members of the UNA. A moment of silence followed to honor past members. The secretary then read the minutes of the last monthly meeting, and one new member, Stefan Yedynak, was accepted as a member of the St. Nicholas Brotherhood.

The meeting participants proceeded to elect Slavko Tysiak as chairman and Jacob Spiak as a secretary to conduct the yearly election process. First Mr. Tysiak asked the outgoing executive committee to give its report for the year 2003.

Mr. Fil outlined the entire year's activities, noting that there were seven monthly meetings.

During the pre-Easter Bazaar held by the local chapter of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, UNA Branch 13 had a table with information about the UNA. On Good Friday and Holy Saturday brotherhood members formed an honor guard at the Watervliet church.

In June 2003, Branch 13 and the Albany District Committee of the UNA organized a trip of about 100 people to the UNA's resort, Soyuzivka, for the traditional Father's Day dinner. Mr. Fil noted that members said the 2003 dinner was the best so far.

In December, in keeping with branch

tradition, members attended liturgy at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervliet, where Father Michael Myshchuk read the names of all members who had passed away since the branch's founding 108 years ago. After the divine liturgy members went to the Ukrainian Club for a breakfast prepared by Theodosia Shewchuk and Mariyka Fil.

During the year Semen Ksenych, Stefan Gebuza, Mr. Shewchuk, Andrij Demczar, Mr. Zendran, Mr. Fil and others visited sick and old members in hospitals and their homes.

Treasurer John Suchowacki reported that 2003 was very challenging for the branch because it donated \$500 for Soyuzivka's renaissance and another \$500 for the new patriarchal cathedral in Kyiv during the visit of Cardinal Lubomyr Husar on December 11, 2003, to the Watervliet parish. In addition, the branch donated \$30 to the UCCA National Fund, \$30 for candy during the annual St. Nicholas Play and paid the Ukrainian Club for use of its hall.

UNA Secretary Mr. Shewchuk reported that Branch 13 had signed up 11 new members (Mr. Shewchuk – 7, Mr. Fil – 4), which exceeded the quota of six new members. Last year eight college students from the Watervliet branch received UNA scholarships.

After the reports and a short discussion, the election committee proceeded with the election of new officers. The entire executive was re-elected: president – Mr. Fil, vice-president – Wolodymyr Litynsky, secretary – Mr. Zendran, alternate secretary – Taras Myshchuk, treasurer – Mr. Suchowacki, alternate treasurer – Andrij Wasienko, UNA secretary – Mr. Shewchuk, alternate – Mr. Fil, committee to visit the sick – Messrs. Ksenych and Gebuza, auditors – Mr. Tysiak, Mr. Spiak and Mr. Demczar.

After the elections Mr. Fil thanked the members for cooperation during the past year and outlined the activities for 2004. In order to rebuild the branch treasury a dance is planned in February or April (after Easter) at the Ukrainian Club. In addition, he noted that the branch's agenda for the year includes bread-baking as well as the making and selling of varenyky.

After the meeting, members enjoyed delicious canapes prepared by Ms. Shewchuk, Melanie Suchowacki, Olga Zendran and Ms. Fil.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Alexander Skibickyj

March 10, 1923 – February 5, 2004

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to the members of the General Assembly, members of Branch 285 and to the UNA membership at large that Alexander Skibickyj, secretary of Branch 285, for over 20 years, Vice-Chairman and later Chairman of the UNA Rochester district, died on Thursday, February 5, 2004.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their sincerest sympathy to his wife, Leokadia, sons, Alexander and Leonid, and their families. Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Rochester, N.Y. Mr. Skibickyj, will be remembered for his long years of service, dedication and loyalty to the UNA.

*Vichna Yomu Pamiat!*

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES OF CHICAGO, IL

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

Saturday, February 28, 2004, at 11:00 a.m.  
at the Ukrainian Cultural Center  
2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates each from the following Branches:

**17, 22, 114, 125, 131, 139, 176, 220, 221, 259, 379, 399, 423, 452, 472**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Michael Kuropas – UNA Advisor  
Andrij Skyba – UNA Advisor  
Dr. Myron Kuropas and Helen Olek-Scott –  
Honorary Members of the UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Stefko Kuropas, District Chairman  
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## Correction

The last name of Ulana Stelmach Steck was incorrectly listed as Stec in the Young UNA'ers column on February 1. Her last name was also incorrectly listed in an earlier story about donations to Soyuzivka.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Gibson gets it

It should be no revelation to readers of this newspaper that actor/film-maker Mel Gibson has been in the news worldwide because of his forthcoming movie "The Passion of the Christ." Many of the headlines are due to the fact that certain major Jewish organizations have expressed their concern over how Jews are, or more precisely may be, portrayed in the film. In fact, many Jewish leaders and others have commented on the film without having seen it, based on hearsay, or after having seen not-yet-final versions of the movie. But that is not the issue that concerns us here today.

Certainly, Jewish leaders have the right to speak out forcefully on behalf of their people. But do they have the right, in the same breath, to denigrate the sufferings of others?

The latest controversy related to Mr. Gibson and his "Passion" stems from an interview in the March issue of Reader's Digest, parts of which were widely quoted in the news media. He was asked by his interviewer, Peggy Noonan: "You're going to have to go on record. The Holocaust happened, right?" (The question was posed in reference to his father who was quoted in a New York Times Magazine article denying that the Holocaust took place). Mr. Gibson's response: "I have friends and parents of friends who have numbers on their arms. The guy who taught me Spanish was a Holocaust survivor. He worked in a concentration camp in France. Yes of course. Atrocities happened. War is horrible. The second world war killed tens of millions of people. Some of them were Jews in concentration camps. Many people lost their lives. In the [sic] Ukraine several million starved to death between 1932 and 1933. During the last century 20 million people died in the Soviet Union."

That response elicited immediate condemnation from leaders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles and the Anti-Defamation League. The reason: Mr. Gibson was allegedly "marginalizing" the Holocaust.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said: "... he marginalized the Holocaust, he diluted its significance, and it's a lie," adding, "either he is very ignorant of sensitivities in Jewish communities of riling survivors, those who have lost loved ones, or he is doing it deliberately."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said: "At the very least it was ignorant, at the very most it's insensitive. And you know what? He doesn't get that either. He doesn't begin to understand the difference between dying in a famine and people being cremated solely for what they are."

Thus, Mr. Gibson was accused of being somewhere between ignorant and insensitive for daring to note that millions of other people also were brutally killed during the 20th century – millions of them in a genocide in Soviet-occupied Ukraine.

His disingenuous comment aside – "We are not engaging in competitive martyrdom, but in historical truth," – Rabbi Hier is doing exactly that. He is saying that one people's genocide is worse than all others. In a February 2 letter to Mr. Gibson he noted: "you diminish the uniqueness of the Holocaust by marginalizing it and placing it alongside the horrors and suffering of people caught up in conflict and famine." And this comes from a prominent leader who wrote to Mr. Gibson: "I have spent my adult life building an institution that promotes tolerance and commemorates the Holocaust." Does Rabbi Hier mean to say that others do not deserve to be remembered?

As for Mr. Foxman, there are no words strong enough to condemn his utter disregard for the sufferings of between 7 million and 10 million people systematically murdered via forced starvation. Is he perhaps a genocide denier, one of those who still today, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, say the Famine-Genocide was just a simple famine, a stroke of bad luck that befell Ukraine?

Having reviewed Mr. Gibson's comments, and the reactions of Rabbi Hier and Mr. Foxman, we believe the real question is: Who doesn't get it?

Feb.  
20  
1994

### Turning the pages back...

What a difference a decade makes. Ten years ago we reported that President Bill Clinton had met with leaders of the Ukrainian American community on February 10, 1994, to discuss U.S.-Ukrainian relations. Also at the White House meeting with the Ukrainian community delegation of 20 or so leaders were Vice-President Al Gore, National Security Advisor Anthony Lake and Ambassador Strobe Talbott, whose nomination for deputy secretary of state was then pending in the Senate.

Stating that "the relationships between the United States and Ukraine are at their strongest point since 1991," the president outlined the progress in economic, political and military relations between the two nations. He also mentioned that he had a "very good meeting" with President Leonid Kravchuk and is "looking forward to President Kravchuk's trip" to Washington on March 4. He also announced that "we had decided to double our bilateral economic assistance to Ukraine this year to more than \$300 million."

Julian Kulas, chairman of Ukrainian Americans for Clinton/Gore in 1992, pointed out that the Ukrainian American community can be a bridge to Ukraine. He stressed the community's great concern for the security of Ukraine and presented the president and other administration officials with a position paper drafted by the community leadership.

The president stated that "the fate of Ukraine is pivotal to any hopes of having a unified Europe" and that "all of Europe is very sensitive to the long-term security of Ukraine." Vice-President Gore stated that the community has been "extremely effective in getting the administration to focus on Ukraine." Ambassador Talbott noted that it is "important for the Russian Federation to accept unconditionally that borders are inviolable."

In commenting on the meeting, Ulana Diachuk, president of both the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, stated: "The meeting was a positive first step in the development of working relations between the Clinton administration and our community."

Source: "Ukrainian Americans meet with Clinton; discuss United States-Ukraine relations," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, February 20, 1994, Vol. LXII, No. 8.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### UMANA membership at all-time high as society is modernized, revitalized

by George Hrycelak, M.D.

Fiscal transparency

CHICAGO – Active membership in the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) hit an all-time high in 2003, fueled by a growing body of health care professionals in the United States and Canada.

In 1996, UMANA began restructuring the association's approach to member recruitment and retention. UMANA presidents Tymish Trusewych, D.O., (1996-7), Maria Hrycelak, M.D. (1998-1999), Roman Goy, M.D. (2000-2001), and Ihor Voyevodka, M.D. (2002-2003), worked diligently to modernize and streamline the activity of the 54-year-old association, bringing it in line with peer organizations on the national level of both the U.S. and Canada.

"Obviously, we are pleased with the membership growth," commented current president, Bohdan Iwanetz, M.D. "We encourage other Ukrainian American organizations with symptoms of 'membership malaise' to consider our experience."

As of December 31, 2003, UMANA active membership in all categories stands at 451 individuals, eclipsing the previous total of 440 set nearly a decade ago, and reversing a recent four-year downward trend. New member applications have averaged 25 to 30 per year for the last several years. This trend replaces losses due to natural attrition, and presents a firm foundation for future growth and development. The majority of new applicants are in the younger age group (25-40).

#### Modernization revitalizes UMANA

Many Ukrainian American professional organizations that trace their origins to the middle of the 20th century find themselves mired in a comfortable but stagnant complacency. Five decades bring tremendous changes in social outlook and technology. Generations of leaders change far less often, sometimes leading to listlessness and an inertia of organizational ideas. New recruits find it difficult to evolve in this milieu, leading to a drop-off in new members and eventual ossification.

UMANA leaders, in a bid to forestall organizational decline, proactively instituted resuscitative measures that, so far, seem to have prevented the onset of "membership malaise."

Contrary to popular belief, membership malaise need not be an inevitable condition. Successful therapy depends on identifying the condition, and applying accepted and proven treatments to the organization in question. A modest but firm application of sound business practices can suffice to reverse the weakness and return the group to robust operation. Implementation of a professional attitude toward operations does wonders in improving members' self-image, adding a needed veneer of respectability in public relations.

UMANA leaders adopted five basic measures to increase active member interest and participation on the local as well as national levels. Fiscal transparency, inclusivity, communication, technology, and dedicated management appear to be the methods providing personal fulfillment to UMANA members.

George Hrycelak, M.D., is executive director of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

Professional groups suffer greatly in the absence of open and clear accounting in all financial dealings. Rumors arise spontaneously, and ill will begins to permeate deliberations. Members feel disenfranchised, stifling innovation and leading to gridlock.

To counter these influences, an association shows respect toward its members and empowers them by sharing information on all financial dealings, and clearly accounting for the management of funds collected from their dues or donations. This includes the sometimes painful process of forming an annual budget, which serves as a reasoned, guiding template for use of organizational funds. The process of constituting a budget every year forces an often reluctant public review and projection of past and future fiscal activity, resulting in an ordered strategic plan of action. For the last eight years, UMANA has implemented this approach.

#### Inclusivity

A professional association grows by expanding its member base. UMANA originally included only licensed physicians and dentists. This policy overlooked a growing pool of talented affiliated health care professionals completing training in the United States and Canada. In addition, newly arrived medical professionals from Ukraine presented a wealth of experienced individuals, awkwardly excluded while undergoing the certification process.

UMANA amended its by-laws to welcome practitioners in associated health care fields such as Ph.D.'s, pharmacists, medical administrators, trained but not certifying physicians and registered nurses. Dues levels in some membership categories were lowered or eliminated to maintain fairness while addressing the reality of disparate incomes. The result has been a surge of new applicants, as well as reanimation of previously dormant members. Surprisingly, cases of "degree envy" have not materialized.

#### Communication

Frequent and useful communication between elected officers and constituents not only informs, but also conveys a sense of "ownership" on behalf of the members. It also serves as a stimulus encouraging creativity and cohesiveness within the UMANA team.

Recognizing this need, in 1996 UMANA recruited Dr. Adrian Baranetsky, then publisher of the local New York Metro newsletter, to enhance and expand that product. The resulting UMANA News newsletter is radical for two reasons: it is published in English, and is mailed to nearly 1,000 names in the UMANA database, regardless of payment status. Today, this newsletter is perhaps the most eagerly awaited UMANA publication, serving as a source of news and publicity for the entire gamut of UMANA activity in North America.

Concurrently, the Ukrainian-language medical journal published since 1954, *Likarskyj Viskynk*, or *Journal of the UMANA (JUMANA)*, underwent subtle streamlining under the capable leadership of Dr. Paul Dzul. Printing and publication were transferred to Ukraine, while editorial control remained in the U.S. The edi-

(Continued on page 16)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Golden faucets and Ukraine's elite

Dear Editor:

I have this ridiculously compelling habit of stashing seemingly pertinent stories/articles/essays inside some "really good" books that I've read. It's a "durna pryvychka," as my mom would say given that as these fattened-up books would be pulled off my library shelf inevitably a catastrophic paper volcano would erupt with papers flying all over the place. And so my bad habit hit me as I read a letter to the editor in *The Ukrainian Weekly* (January 4) re: Yulia Tymoshenko's golden faucets.

I tore the letter out and smacked it into the middle of a book chapter titled "Billion Dollar Woman" (a reference to Yulia Tymoshenko) in Matthew Brzezinski's wonderfully insightful real-life adventure book "Casino Moscow."

I highly recommend that the letter writer and your readers read this book. Although the book presents an unflattering view of Ukraine and Ukrainians, it reveals a first-hand account of a post-Soviet value system.

For Ukraine's elite class to have or not have gold faucets either by architect persuasion (as implied by the letter writer) or even if by intentional mail-order design, which is probably the case, is an irrelevant point.

The real issue is that Ukraine's present-day, robber baron, elite strata continues to thrive, as I've personally witnessed, in an insanely faulty and weird political/social/economic system that provides the "plumbing" that exists behind the "golden faucet mentality." Gold faucets are just the symptom.

Besides, the water available in Ukraine is so bad, who cares if it runs through gold faucets or not. That is, if you can even get water to run through your faucets.

**Nancy Melnyk**  
Rochester, N.Y.

### "Beheaded" is well-documented

Dear Editor:

Recently I had an opportunity to read the book titled: "Beheaded: The Killing of a Journalist," authored by J.V. Koshiw and published in 2003 by Artemis Press Ltd. of London.

Something awful did happen in Ukraine in 2000 to a bright, young, energetic and relatively prominent journalist. Heorhii Gongadze disappeared on September 16, and was found beheaded on November 2, 2000. The book analyzes the abduction and killing of the Ukrainian journalist as part of a pattern of criminal acts by the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kuchma, and his comrades Volkov, Azarov, Medvedchuk, Lytvyn, Derkach, Kravchenko, et al.

The author presents a vast bibliography, documenting various actions of President Kuchma issuing orders to punish his critics – journalists, politicians and businessmen – with imprisonment, beatings and kidnappings. They reveal spying by his Security Service on everyone of interest to him – from political allies to opponents.

Gongadze's was not the first politically motivated disappearance. On many trips to Ukraine, the book's author met two people who also disappeared for

similar reasons: Mykhailo Boichyshyn, a prominent Rukh leader, manager of Vyacheslav Chornovil's presidential campaign in 1991, and Ihor Svoboda, assistant to Odesa Mayor Edward Hurvits, whom Mr. Kuchma ousted from office in 1999.

Despite the mountain of evidence, no legal measures have been taken against President Kuchma and his associates. The purpose of this book is to present the evidence in the disappearance and murder of Gongadze in order that justice may be served.

Mr. Koshiw published more than 70 articles on current affairs in Ukraine during 1998-1999 while deputy editor of the *Kyiv Post*. Under the pseudonym of Viktor Haynes, jointly with Olga Semyonova he authored "Workers against the Gulag," published in 1979 in the United Kingdom, France and Sweden. With Marko Bojunc, he co-authored "The Chernobyl Disaster" (London: 1988). During 1990-1995, he worked as a TV journalist in England.

"Beheaded" is available in English and soon is to be published also in Ukrainian.

**Bohdan J. Bodnaruk, D. Sc.**  
Clarendon Hills, Ill.

*Editor's note: "Beheaded" was the subject of a book note that appeared in The Weekly on February 9, 2003. A story about the author's presentation in Detroit appeared on April 20, 2003. The book also was the subject of an interview with Myroslava Gongadze on May 11, 2003.*

### A new strategy against The Times

Dear Editor:

I think that we, the Ukrainian community have overlooked one very important a venue in our attempt to have the Pulitzer taken back from Walter Duranty. We need to humble the "gray old lady."

How do we accomplish this? We need to become part owners in the New York Times. The stock is traded on the New York stock exchange, the price is approximately \$46 per share. This is affordable, and it's not a bad investment. Once we own stock in our name we have all the privileges of a shareholder – this includes attending the annual shareholders meeting and confronting the "brass."

We then can organize a few dozen Ukrainian stockowners and attend a meeting where we can question or request that The New York Times correct a sorry chapter in its tarnished history. At the same time, when we write to The Times to voice our concern that our company harbors unethical awards for its employees, we emphasize that we are shareowners in the corporation.

I look at the recent event with the Pulitzer Committee as not losing the war, but only a skirmish. Now we must regroup, and use a new strategy. So my fellow Ukrainians, let's go out and buy a few shares, as little as one share makes you an owner of The Times.

**Zenko Halkowycz**  
Teaneck, N.J.

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

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

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### It had to happen sooner or later

Sooner or later Jewish leaders who have devoted most of their professional lives to combating "intolerance," and Holocaust deniers, would themselves prove to be intolerant deniers of other genocides.

That's what happens when everything that occurs in the world is viewed through a Judeocentric prism. That's what happens when you come to believe that the Holocaust is the greatest crime against humanity, ever. That's what happens when you labor under the delusion that only Jews were singled out for annihilation during the 1930s.

Abraham Foxman, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Rabbi Marvin Hier, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, are self-anointed Nazi hunters. Both have accused Mel Gibson of harboring anti-Semitic thoughts and tendencies. Both are now in high dudgeon because Mel Gibson dared compare the Holocaust to the Holodomor.

It began when Peggy Noonan, former speech writer for Ronald Reagan, interviewed Mel Gibson for an article that appeared in the March issue of the *Reader's Digest*. Aware that Mr. Gibson had been accused of being a Holocaust denier, Ms. Noonan asked: "The Holocaust happened, right?"

"I have friends and parents of friends who have numbers on their arms," Mr. Gibson responded. "The guy who taught me Spanish was a Holocaust survivor. He worked in a concentration camp in France. Yes, of course. The second world war killed tens of millions of people. Some of them were Jews in concentration camps. Many people lost their lives. In the [sic] Ukraine, several million starved to death between 1932 and 1933. During the last century, 20 million died in the Soviet Union."

Wrong answer, Mr. Gibson. You mentioned other people suffering, especially Ukrainians. Ukrainians! Good grief, Mel, don't you know that for Mr. Foxman and Rabbi Hier tolerance and sensitivity stops at the borders of Ukraine?

Mr. Foxman was outraged. Protesting Mr. Gibson's statement, he complained: "At the very least it was ignorant, at the very most it was insensitive. And you know what? He doesn't get that either. He doesn't begin to understand the difference between dying in a famine and people being cremated solely for what they are."

It's Mr. Foxman who doesn't get it. Ukrainians died because of what they were. They did not die quickly. They were not shot, hanged or gassed as were Jews. No, their deaths were savage, sadistic. They died slow, agonizingly painful deaths by deliberate starvation. The food they produced was taken away, literally snatched out of their mouths by order of Stalin. Ukrainians died because they were a problem. No Ukrainians, no problem.

Rabbi Hier sent a letter to Mr. Gibson complaining that the comparison with the Holodomor was insensitive. "Rather than showing understanding for what historians regard as the most telling example of man's inhumanity to man in the history of civilization, you diminish the uniqueness of the Holocaust by marginalizing it and placing it alongside people caught up in conflict and famine."

Right. Ukrainians, it seems, were

merely "caught up" in the Holodomor. Like they were minding their own business and suddenly, out of nowhere, there's no food. No one planned it. It just kind of happened. Interesting concept from a man who began his letter to Mel Gibson by stating that he had spent his entire "adult life building an institution that promoted tolerance ..."

Was the Holodomor really a genocide? The United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide of December 9, 1948, had this to say: "Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, an ethnical racial or religious group such as: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

The French Criminal Code defines genocide as: "The deed of executing a concerted effort that strives to destroy, totally or partially, a national, ethnic, racial group or a group that has been determined on the basis of any other arbitrary criterion."

Historian Martin Malia wrote that "the genocide of a 'class' may well be tantamount to the genocide of a 'race'... the deliberate starvation of a child of a Ukrainian kulak as a result of the famine caused by Stalin's regime 'is equal to' the starvation of a Jewish child in the Warsaw ghetto as a result of a famine caused by the Nazi regime."

There you have it. As people the world over commemorate the 70th anniversary of the genocidal destruction of some 7 million Ukrainians in a forced famine, two of the most visible individuals in the Jewish community dismiss it as unworthy of comparison to the Holocaust.

There are two reasons why Mr. Foxman and Rabbi Hier will never admit that the Holodomor was a genocide: it involved Ukrainians, a group that many Jews believe are born anti-Semites; admission would in some bizarre way diminish the Holocaust.

Fortunately, not all Jewish leaders are as arrogant, outrageously callous, and self-serving as Mr. Foxman and Rabbi Hier. Some years ago, the late David Roth of the American Jewish Committee testified before the U.S. Congress on behalf of the Ukraine Famine Bill. His testimony followed comments offered by a White House statement which, while admitting that millions of taxpayer dollars were being spent on the Holocaust Museum, opposed passage of the Ukraine bill because other groups would begin lining up for federal recognition of their genocides. Mr. Roth commented on that statement during his testimony, declaring: "It is outrageous to think that the death of 7 million Ukrainians is somehow less important than the death of 6 million Jews."

Back to Mr. Gibson. He needs our support. Ukrainians can thank him for remembering the Holodomor via e-mail: [inquiries@rogersandcowan.com](mailto:inquiries@rogersandcowan.com).

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

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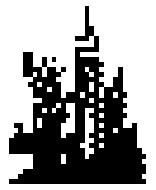
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## NEWS AND VIEWS: UNWLA Social Welfare Committee grateful for support of donors

by Barbara Bachynsky

Many people of good will for many years have supported the charitable programs of the Social Welfare Committee of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. They deserve our commendations and gratitude.

It is not an easy life for the handicapped children in orphanages, for elderly grandmothers, for families with many children, for veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and for former political prisoners. There also are many ill people who cannot afford medical care.

Who else but we in the diaspora can embrace them all with the warmth of our love and give them hope, remind them that there are people who are aware of their plight and care. Individually and collectively, many in our community have supported the charities of the UNWLA with great generosity.

A total of 2,665 of the youngest school children in Ukraine express their thanks to donors for the nutritious milk and rolls that they receive in school. People of good will have contributed \$97,468 to this program.

Grandmothers and orphans offer thanks for remembering them on the feast of St. Nicholas and at Christmas. Through the oblast branches of Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine, donors contributed \$46,000 to this program.

From all regions of Ukraine, 182 children of various ages give thanks for the gift of three weeks of clean Carpathian

air and many fond memories of a wonderful camp vacation. The contribution to this program was \$30,600.

With words of deep gratitude 98 children – victims of the airplane accident near Lviv and those orphaned due to the accidents in the mines of the Donbas – thank donors for opening their hearts to them at the moment of a great tragedy in their young lives. Each child received a \$250 gift.

Funds to cover the cost of various medical treatments and surgeries for children in Ukraine were provided as well. Aid was supplied to crippled children in medical institutions, with only Sister Maria Bernarda to visit them on a regular basis. Donors' contribution paid for new parts for existing equipment and new instruments for the Lviv specialized children's hospital.

There are women who distinguished themselves as Ukrainian patriots during the Soviet regime – they spent years in the camps of the Gulag. There are grandmothers who are raising little children forsaken by their parents. These and others too numerous to mention, received assistance for a total of approximately \$48,000.

We encourage readers to continue to support these efforts spear-headed by the UNWLA. Our general fund accepts donations for grandmothers, orphans, the Chernobyl Fund for medical assistance and the "Milk and Roll" breakfast program for the youngest schoolchildren of Ukraine – a program that takes care of 11 schools located in Luhansk, Kharkiv, Yalta, Zhytomyr, Lviv and Zakarpattia oblast.

With the new year, we express thanks to all our supporters and hope for a better future for our homeland – Ukraine.

Barbara Bachynsky chairs the UNWLA Social Welfare Committee.



Children at Zhytomyr School No. 7 with their new toys.



Children from Zaporizhia visit the Maniavskiy Skyt Monastery in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast.

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## Lviv-based Ukrainian Summer School to expand program in 2004

by Roman Ivashkiv  
and Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – The second Ukrainian Summer School at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv will be held from June 17 to August 3, this year with an expanded program. Within the language program, more emphasis will be placed on immersion in the language. Culture courses are represented by the two political science courses.

The program is jointly offered by UCU and St. Thomas More College of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

“Our focus is Ukrainian-language immersion, our courses cost less, and we’re in Lviv, the largest Ukrainian-

speaking city in the world. This distinguishes UCU’s Ukrainian Summer School from comparable programs,” said Prof. Jeffrey Wills, vice-rector of UCU and Lviv coordinator of the program.

“In addition to being the most progressive private university in Ukraine, UCU has already established a good tradition of holding English and German summer schools,” said Dr. Natalia Shostak, assistant professor in the department of religious studies and anthropology at St. Thomas More College and director of the Lviv Ukrainian Summer School.

“Therefore, when a couple of years ago we at the University of Saskatchewan began to think of a prospective partner to establish our own summer session in Ukraine, we turned to

UCU. Both universities welcomed the idea of organizing a Ukrainian summer school in order to attract the attention of foreign students to Ukraine and have them come over to study the language and culture. So this is how it all started in Ukraine,” she explained.

Dr. Shostak said that negotiations between St. Thomas More College, the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), and UCU led to a five-year agreement that was signed in October 2002 by the U of S and UCU regarding academic collaboration on the summer session in Lviv. The following summer, the first Lviv Ukrainian Summer School was officially launched. Eighteen students attended five courses in Eastern Christianity, Ukrainian language, culture and history.

As in the previous year, the 2004 classes of the intensive Ukrainian-language program, will be offered on the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and meet for four to five hours per day. This year’s addition will be Ukrainian-language activities in the evening, featuring guest speakers. Language instructorship at the Ukrainian Summer School will include various interactive styles of learning, field trips, conversations with Ukrainian people, and participation in real-life situations.

To ensure further development of the language program, UCU and St. Thomas More College sent Dr. Olena Huzar, Ukrainian Language Program coordinator for UCU, to visit the University of Saskatchewan to become better acquainted with North American standards and methodologies of second language education.

Partnership between the two universities means that all the classes, either in Ukrainian language or political science, are available to the students for credit,

since all classes are part of the University of Saskatchewan academic calendar.

The U of S/UCU summer school is not only about studying in the classroom. “Last summer, in my course ‘20th Century Ukraine,’” noted Dr. Shostak, “I did not want the students to learn about Ukraine only from books. They can do that at home. I wanted them to experience what Ukraine means in reality, and what Ukrainian people have to say. While studying the Soviet collective farms system, for example, my students actually went to the village of Nebyliv and interviewed peasants who were the former collective farmers. Only then did I realize that there could be no better way for these kids to learn what the Soviet regime was all about.”

Dr. Shostak said she believes that the program was particularly successful in 2003 because the organizers managed to attract students who are not necessarily of Ukrainian origin. “We’ve been advertising the Ukrainian Summer School not only as a Ukrainian studies program, but in a broader context, as a program that opens access to the whole of Eastern Europe,” emphasized Dr. Shostak. She said she realizes that ethnic Ukrainians who live in Canada or the United States can travel to Ukraine on their own, since many of them have relatives or connections there. “Our goal, however, was to cover a wider audience and I have to give due credit to UCU for the great promotion of our program internationally,” she said.

Thus, last summer, 18 students from various countries of the world, including Canada, Germany, Latvia, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom and the United States, came to Lviv for the summer school.

“I thought the best way to learn about

(Continued on page 15)



Maria Melnyk, a student at Lviv’s 2003 Ukrainian Summer School from the University of North British Columbia, in Canada admires the embroidery work of a Ukrainian village woman during a field trip.

## Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies marks Zenon Kohut’s 60th birthday

by Dr. Frank E. Sysyn  
and Dr. Serhii Plokhii

EDMONTON – Over 100 professors, scholars, university administrators, friends and colleagues, and Ukrainian community members on January 23 attended a reception hosted by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) to mark the 60th birthday of its director, Zenon E. Kohut.

Dr. Kohut has been serving as the institute’s director since 1994 and was recently re-appointed for another five-year term starting in July 2004. Before coming to the University of Alberta in 1992, he served as a senior research ana-

lyst at the Library of Congress and as Soviet political affairs analyst in the U.S. Department of Defense in Washington.

Dr. Kohut holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania and has taught there, as well as at Yale University, the University of Alberta, Michigan State University and the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute.

Dr. Kohut is a renowned specialist in Ukrainian early modern history and the history of Ukrainian-Russian relations. His book, “Russian Centralism and Ukrainian Autonomy: Imperial Absorption of the Hetmanate” (1989; Ukrainian translation, 1996), and his sub-

sequent work on Russian and Ukrainian political culture, and Ukrainian historiography have received international recognition and acclaim.

As the director of CIUS, Dr. Kohut oversaw a dramatic expansion of the institute and its activities in the 1990s and first years of the new century.

During that period, the publication of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine was successfully completed when in 2001 a volume containing a name index and list of errata was issued. That same year, the encyclopedia staff began developing the website of the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine. The Peter Jacyk Center has published three volumes of Mykhailo Hrushevsky’s classic 10-volume “History of Ukraine-Rus,” while the Ukrainian Language Education Center (ULEC) has been successfully working on its major publication project, the NOVA Ukrainian-Language Development Series (Grades 1 through 6) for the Ukrainian-English bilingual school program. It was a founder of the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal Project (UKIP), which aims to create digital resources and interactive modules for Ukrainian language and culture learning.

During Dr. Kohut’s tenure, CIUS has been exceptionally successful in securing funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for policy and legislative assistance work in Ukraine. In 2003 the Canada Ukraine Legislative and Intergovernmental Project (CULIP), which is the second phase of a CIUS-managed, CIDA-funded project, completed the third year of its program, during which it organized working visits, seminars, roundtables and

meetings between Ukrainian legislators and government officials with their Canadian counterparts on six topics, including land privatization and title registries, culture and the role of the state, and public participation in policymaking. Dr. Kohut has served on the project’s steering committee, which acts as an oversight body.

While director, Dr. Kohut also took part in organizing a series of symposia on Ukrainian-Russian relations at Columbia University and the University of Cologne, financed by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Humboldt Foundation. He is the co-editor of selected presentations from these symposia, recently issued by CIUS Press as “Culture, Nation and Identity: The Ukrainian-Russian Encounter.”

Dr. Kohut also serves as the director of the Kowalsky Program for Study of Eastern Ukraine, which supports scholarly and publication projects on eastern and southern Ukraine. Most of these projects are centered at Kharkiv National University’s Kowalsky Institute, but recently the program has expanded to include collaborators at Zaporizhia and Chernihiv.

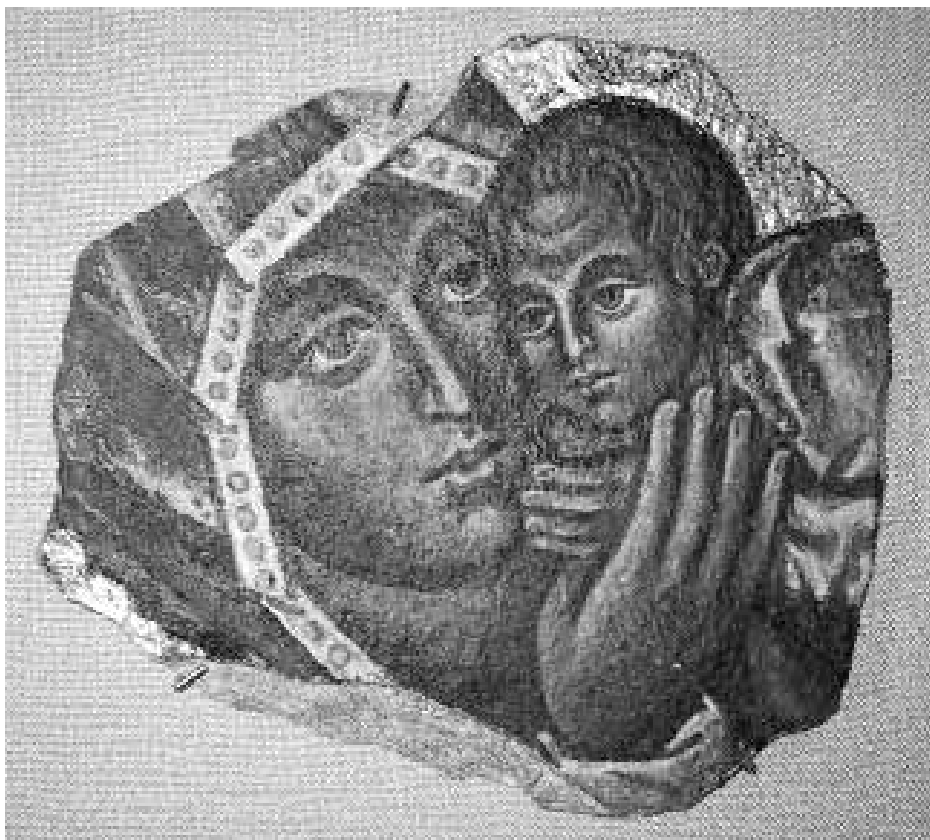
At the celebration of his birthday, Dr. Kohut was greeted by Member of Parliament David Kilgour (Edmonton, Southeast), who had collaborated with Dr. Kohut on the CULIP project. Dr. Bill McBlain, associate vice-president (Research), delivered greetings from the University of Alberta administration in which he stressed the institute’s accomplishments and the importance of the

(Continued on page 12)



Dr. Zenon Kohut and his wife, Zorianna.

## Zoya Lisowska's icons on stone exhibited at show in Switzerland



Zoya Lisowska's icon on stone: Madonna and Child.

by Maria Lukianowicz

CRANS-Près-CÉLIGNY, Switzerland – An exhibition of icons by the Ukrainian painter Zoya Lisowska was held January 17 in Crans-Pres-Céligny, near Geneva, in Switzerland. This was a large show, consisting of twenty nine works, painted on a particular type of slate called Ardoise du Valais. The stones were gathered by the artist in the Alps, and their shapes determined the forms of the icons themselves.

The works were inspired by traditional Ukrainian icons, spanning a long history from the 12th century to the present day. The style also ranged from works influenced by the Kyiv school iconography of the 15th and 17th centuries, the popular

folk style of the 19th century, and contemporary works.

The themes, although various, concentrate mainly on the subject of the "Madonna and Child." Among the treatment of traditional motifs were those of eleusa, hodigitria and oranta. Other themes, more in the popular folk style, included archangels and saints, together with their particular attributes, (e.g., St. George killing the dragon, St. Elijah on a fiery chariot). Also comprising the exhibit were several non-conventional icons by the artist constituting a more free and personal interpretation of sacred religious images.

The colors used in the icons range



Madonna.

from cool and subtle to vibrant and rich tones. Some of the works are also gilded, producing a concentration of power, but at the same time a delicacy and tenderness of feeling. Overall, the impression created by the works is one of intensity and great spirituality. Also evident is a deep understanding and reverence both to the subject matter itself, and to the artistic Ukrainian tradition which inspired it.

The exhibition opening was well attended, and many of the icons were immediately sold.

Ms. Lisowska, who has previously exhibited in Europe, the United States, Canada, and Brazil, has been invited to present further exhibits of her icons in Switzerland. She also has plans to exhibit her paintings both in Switzerland and in the United States.

## Virginia Historical Society to present landscapes by Andrei Kushnir

RICHMOND, Va. – An exhibit of plein air oil paintings by Andrei Kushnir titled "Painted History: The Landscapes of Valley View Farm" opens on February 21 at the Virginia Historical Society. The exhibit will be on view through August 15. An artist gallery talk and reception will be held Saturday, February 21, at 3-5 p.m.

Last summer, 46 plein air paintings by the artist were presented at the Rehoboth Art League's Homestead Mansion in Rehoboth Beach, Del. The Rehoboth Art

League, which was established in 1938, is one of the premier arts organizations in the United States.

The exhibit, which was on view July 18-September 7, 2003, was reviewed in the art scene section of the local newspaper, the Delaware Beachcomber. The review noted that Mr. Kushnir, who has spent "25 years painting along the shores of rivers, on beaches, mountains and in the forests of the United States," is an artist who "combines his love of the natural

world with this skills as a painter to create his unique and sensitive landscapes."

In June of last year two of Mr. Kushnir's paintings were selected by a panel of judges for inclusion in the U.S. Coast Guard Art Collection. An acceptance ceremony hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard and The Salmagundi Art Club was held at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House in New York City on June 25.

Also, Mr. Kushnir's painting "Looking

East – Pennyfield Lock" was selected for the national Arts for the Parks Mini 50 for the year 2003. This annual competition, held by the National Park Academy of the Arts in cooperation with the National Parks Foundation, receives thousands of entries to its annual Top 100 and Mini 50 contests.

The Virginia Historical Society, the

(Continued on page 15)



Andrei Kushnir refers to his landscape oil paintings as "new naturalism." Pictured is "December on the Rehoboth-Lewes Canal," 2002, oil/panel, 8 x 10 inches.



"Valley View Farm Landscape," 24 x 38 inches oil in linen, 2004.

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## Canadian Institute...

(Continued from page 10)

new digital initiatives launched under Dr. Kohut's directorship.

Dr. Frank E. Sysyn, director of the Peter Jacyk Center (CIUS), recounted Dr. Kohut's life and career before he assumed his post at CIUS. He placed special emphasis on Dr. Kohut's intellectual formation and his role in establishing Ukrainian studies at Harvard. Dr. Serhii Plokhii, director of the Church Studies Program (CIUS), concentrated on the impact of Dr. Kohut's scholarly work in the West and in Ukraine.

Dr. Plokhii also read excerpts from greetings sent from various academic circles and institutions on the occasion of Dr. Kohut's birthday. These included letters from the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies, the Ukrainian Studies Fund (U.S.A.), Shevchenko Scientific Society (U.S.A.), the Archival Administration of Ukraine, and individual scholars from Canada, Ukraine, the United States, Great Britain, Poland and Hungary.

Drs. Sysyn and Plokhii presented Dr. Kohut with the manuscript of a Festschrift, titled "Synopsis. A Collection of Essays in Honor of Zenon E. Kohut." The volume, which takes its name from a 17th century historical work, contains 23 articles from historians in Canada, Ukraine, the United States, Great Britain, Austria and Poland. Those present at the event could pre-order the book at a special pre-publication price. The volume will appear at the end of 2004 as a special issue of the Journal of Ukrainian Studies and as a separate publication.

In his remarks, Dr. Kohut thanked the speakers and colleagues who organized the event. He was particularly touched by the Festschrift presented to him, noting that by its very title the work referred both to his research interests and to a tradition of 17th century Kyivan learning that included the presentation of Festschriften.

He mused on how a 17th century monk at the Kyivan Academy would react to such a presentation. Undoubtedly, such a monk would deny any accomplishments of his own and attribute all achievements to God's grace. While not claiming that kind of providential thinking, Dr. Kohut, nevertheless, believed that he did share with the 17th century monk the feeling of being blessed. In enumerating these blessings, Dr. Kohut included a caring family, enthusiastic and wonderful academic colleagues, a dedicated staff at CIUS, and a supportive Ukrainian community that considered his work important. In concluding, Dr. Kohut expressed his gratitude for such an abundance of blessings.

The last speaker was Dr. Kohut's wife, Zorianna Kohut, who thanked the Ukrainian community of Edmonton for providing the family such a hospitable and warm environment during the two terms of her husband's directorship of CIUS.

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## Our Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

ties in the pro-Kuchma majority may also be opposed to the lower-threshold idea.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko filed a complaint against Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn with a Kyiv district court on February 5, charging that Mr. Lytvyn approved an illegitimate vote on a constitutional-reform bill in the Verkhovna Rada on December 24, 2003. The two argue that videotape of the December 24, 2003, session shows that the bill was supported by just 154 deputies, not the 276 deputies written in the official records. Surprisingly enough, the complaint was also signed by Oleksander Moroz, whose Socialist Party supported the amendments to this very bill on February 3.

Moreover, Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko filed another court complaint, charging that Mr. Lytvyn called an illegal extraordinary session on February 3 to vote on amendments to the constitutional-reform bill. Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko appear to be seeking to gain time in the constitutional-reform game – as long as the complaints are considered in court, they argue, the introduction of any constitutional amendments should be halted, according to the Civil Procedure Code.

Related petitions regarding the December 24 and February 3 votes have also been filed by Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yushchenko with the Ukrainian Constitutional Court.

As matters now stand, the court litigation by Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko and the potential discord over the parliamentary-election system may now be the only impediments to the adoption of a constitutional reform that evidently does not suit Mr. Yushchenko's presidential ambi-

tions. Critics of Mr. Yushchenko point out that he has already lost the opportunity when he could side with Mr. Moroz – a staunch supporter of the shift to a parliamentary-presidential republic in Ukraine – and take the initiative in shaping a constitutional reform with his own hands. Those critics argue that presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk, whom many see as the main author of the reform, outwitted Mr. Yushchenko by striking a political deal with Mr. Moroz.

Even if it is not clear what immediate gains are expected by Mr. Moroz from his situational alliance with the pro-Kuchma camp, it is not difficult to predict that the current lack of political harmony between Messrs. Yushchenko and Moroz bodes ill for their potential cooperation in the upcoming presidential election campaign.

## UCCLA commends...

(Continued from page 4)

During the last century 20 million people died in the Soviet Union," he said.

For expressing such sentiments he was pilloried by Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center and by Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League. (See "Quotable notes," The Ukrainian Weekly, February 8.)

"The Passion of the Christ," which will be released on Ash Wednesday, February 25, will be in theaters across North America.

\* \* \*

For more information on the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, readers may log on to [www.uccla.ca](http://www.uccla.ca).

## Broadcaster removes...

(Continued from page 1)

2001.

The Ukrainian Service worked closely with Dovira radio management to adapt its programs to Dovira requests for a more FM-friendly format. In fact, Mr. Narodetsky said, "active and constructive discussions" were, until receipt of today's letter, under way with Dovira on further program changes to bring the Ukrainian Service's programs "even closer to audience expectations and needs."

Dovira has been the focus of official Ukrainian pressure to drop RFE/RL Ukrainian Service broadcasting since 2001, soon after the decapitated body of Ukrainian journalist Heorhii Gongadze was found in a forest near Kyiv and after secretly recorded conversations allegedly involving President Leonid Kuchma and his senior advisors became public knowledge – both stories extensively covered by the Ukrainian Service in programs re-broadcast by Dovira.

Dovira has stood firmly against the use by Ukrainian authorities of a variety of administrative levers, including allegations that it had breached licensing regulations by re-broadcasting RFE/RL Ukrainian Service programs. Until the receipt of today's letter, RFE/RL Ukrainian Service and Dovira management had been working together to resolve the dispute with the government and legislature.

TV and Radio Company Dovira was sold in late January to Ukrainian Media Holding, a newspaper and radio holding company owned by Boris Lozhkin. The new owners installed a new management team at Dovira, led by the Editor-in-Chief of the Kyiv-based Russian-lan-

guage newspaper 2000, Sergei Kychygin. It is this new team, according to Mr. Reznichenko's letter, that decided to pull RFE/RL programming off of Dovira.

The agreement under which RFE/RL Ukrainian Service programs are re-broadcast by Dovira states that notice to end re-broadcasting must be given at least 30 days before the proposed date of cessation.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty is a private, international communications service to Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central and Southwestern Asia funded by the U.S. Congress through the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

## Ukraine denies...

(Continued from page 1)

National Security and Defense Council at the time of the alleged sale, said there was no possibility that a Ukrainian scientist could have sold a nuclear weapon.

"Over the years of independence, Ukrainian scientists had no direct relation to nuclear stockpiles and nuclear weapons," explained Mr. Horbulin.

He emphasized that, in the denuclearization process, which Ukraine took upon itself willingly, Russia's Defense Ministry assumed control and responsibility for the removal of all the nuclear weapons on Ukrainian soil.

Mr. Horbulin said that in disseminating false information harmful to Ukraine's image at this time, someone perhaps hoped to gain an advantage in the highly competitive arms market or was attempting to influence public opinion in the run-up to the October presidential elections.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it had not ruled out initiating legal action in response to the reports.

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ПАНАХИДА відбулася в четвер, 22 січня 2004 р. о год. 7:30 веч. в похоронному заведенні Петра Яреми в Нью-Йорку.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися в п'ятницю, 23 січня о год. 9:30 ранку в україньській католицькій церкві св. Юра в Нью-Йорку, а опісля на цвинтарі св. Духа в Гемптонбургу, Н.Й.

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**UMANA membership...**

(Continued from page 6)

torial board began a series of translations of seminal articles from prestigious English-language medical journals into Ukrainian. All paid members of UMANA receive the journal, which is also distributed widely among medical universities and colleagues in Ukraine. Strengthening its commitment to communication, UMANA named Roman Worobec, Ph.D., as the new dynamic editor-in-chief of JUMANA in 2003.

To communicate beyond the written word, UMANA maintains a policy of holding quarterly board of directors meetings in various cities where it has chapters. All local chapter officers and members are welcome. Participation is exemplary, with chapter members able to interact with the board members on a personal level, and see firsthand the operations of the national office.

Meetings have been held in Philadelphia, Detroit, New York, Toronto, San Francisco, Sarasota and Baltimore. It is important to note that all travel costs are borne by the board members personally, and no UMANA funds are used to pay for these trips.

Local chapter activity naturally grows and evolves in such an environment. The New York Metro Chapter, for example, under the leadership of President Alexandra Kushnir, M.D., and Special Events Chairman Ihor Magun, M.D., has embarked on an active local public medical lecture series incorporating a rapidly enlarging membership base.

**Technology**

An organization may conceivably function today using methods appropriate to a prior century, but at some point the weight of information will overwhelm even the most well-intentioned volunteers. Today e-mail allows for instant communication across borders as well as continents. The UMANA Internet site, [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org), lets interested parties obtain needed information instantly. Copies of UMANA News and JUMANA are available online anytime for any interested reader.

Computerized databases support easy management of member demographics. An added benefit is easy generation of statistics and mass mailings. Voice mail and facsimile machines are so commonplace as to barely merit mention. Everyday use of these technological marvels allows a tight and rapid connection among far-flung members, with meaningful access being the desired result.

**Dedicated management**

The measures described above appear obvious in theory. The rub comes in the implementation. Who will answer daily telephone inquiries, return recorded messages, respond to an avalanche of mail (local and international), reach out to lapsed members, look at incoming faxes and e-mails (spam, too), send receipts for donations, collect the organization's documents and keep daily books? UMANA leaders responded to this challenge in early 2001 by creating a paid executive director position at the national office headquarters in Chicago. The last two administrations feel that the added staff expense is more than offset by the professional approach evident in the organization. Members have commented, "someone is there, somebody cares."

**The trend continues**

It is tempting to conclude that the recent turnaround in membership to record levels has been the result of the measures described above. UMANA feels this trend is not an aberration. A system appears in place that is tenable and reproducible. At the end of January 2004, the number of active members is well on the way to breaking the 2003 record, maintaining or exceeding the momentum of the last four years.

UMANA offers its members relevance and an opportunity to transform society. A dedicated group of elected volunteer officers, at the national and chapter levels, donate enormously both time and money to support UMANA. With the assistance of a focused executive director and associated board appointees, UMANA projects vigorous growth with opportunities for meaningful expansion far into the future.

For further information readers may call UMANA at 773-278-6262.

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## UNWLA Branch 4 holds wedding fashion show as fund-raiser

by Tyrsa Pavlak

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – If you've ever been involved in the planning of a wedding for a family member or friend, you understand the enormity of the task. There seem to be a million details that have to be taken into consideration and you dare not omit even one.

Well, can you imagine planning a wedding for 17 brides? That was a task that the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) Branch 4 faced and executed with great success.

On Sunday, November 2, 2003, UNWLA Branch 4 held its annual fund-raiser. This year the theme was a showing of bridal gowns from the past to the present, in a presentation aptly titled, "Vesillia." The event was held at the small reception hall of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, N.J.

The hall was decorated by the branch's talented members with creamy-colored sheer draperies, artfully hung along the walls and finished with sprays of graceful English ivy vines. The round tables were covered with white linen-like tablecloths and at each one there were small silver candelabra centerpieces decorated with roses. These centerpieces were later won by seated guests that had a birthday closest to the date of this event.

Before any wedding feast there is of course the "cocktail hour," which started promptly at 1 p.m. Guests were treated to champagne and hors d'oeuvres served upon entry into the hall by Charles Taraskewicz, the husband of UNWLA Branch 4 President Luba Siryj.

While sipping and munching, the guests were encouraged to tour the displays of choice prizes that were being offered for the price of a few raffle tickets. This time, besides the door prize that all were qualified to win with the raffle ticket stapled to the program book, an additional grand prize was offered with purchase of special tickets. The lucky winner of that grand basket of assorted cheer had to ask for a gentleman's help to get her prize to her car. UNWLAer Oksana Bokalo gathered all the donations for the prizes and presented them in a tasteful and artistic manner.

After the "wedding feast" prepared by the Sisterhood of St. Andrew's Church, the guests were treated to a musical

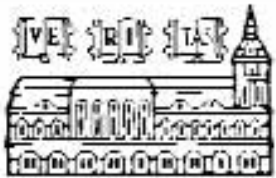


Marina Shapovalenko in a wedding gown worn in 2001 by Kaya Nynka.



Anna Lisitsnia in a vintage gown from the 1930s.

(Continued on page 19)



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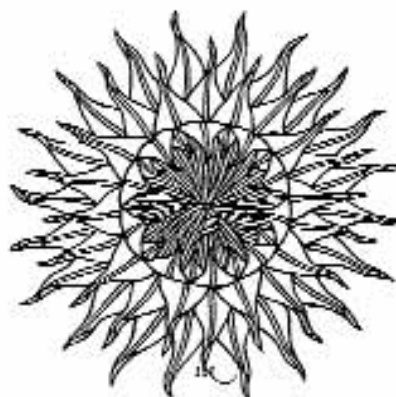
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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

“jointly with Jews at a time when 25,000 people were [being] liquidated every day.” Mr. Yushchenko claimed that, at the same time, his grandmother and mother were keeping three Jewish girls in hiding in his home in Ukraine’s Sumy Oblast. Mr. Yushchenko repeated his assertion that the court, by ignoring other legal possibilities for dealing with Silski Visti and ruling to close the newspaper, was following orders from the authorities to destroy the largest opposition publication in the country. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Courthouse blast hurts 10

KYIV – At least 10 people were injured in an explosion that ripped through a courthouse here on February 9, officials said. The blast occurred in the basement of the Darnytsia district court building at about 11:45 a.m., according to police. The court building’s facade was partially destroyed, and windows in nearby buildings were smashed by the shock waves. A police officer on duty in the court reportedly said there was a smell of carbide prior to the explosion. Police are investigating the cause of the blast. According to preliminary information, the explosion was caused by repair work, but investigations were under way to determine the cause of the blast, according to Oleh Venzhyk of Ukraine’s Emergency Situations Ministry. (RFE/RL Newline, Associated Press)

### “Missing” candidate surfaces in Kyiv

MOSCOW – Former Duma Chairman and Russian presidential candidate Ivan Rybkin, who was reported missing on February 5, phoned home on February 10 to say that he had spent the last four days in Kyiv with friends, unaware of the current “hysteria” in Moscow about his whereabouts, Interfax reported. “I have the right to two or three days of a private life,” Mr. Rybkin said. “I came to Kyiv with my friends, had fun, turned off my mobile phones and did not watch television.” Albina Rybkina, Mr. Rybkin’s wife, told the agency that she “pities poor Russia that such people want to lead it,” and confirmed that she was speaking of her husband. Ksenia Ponomareva, the head of Mr. Rybkin’s election headquarters, said that she is likely to resign, but that she first wanted to hear Mr. Rybkin’s explanation. When greeted by reporters upon his arrival back in Moscow, Mr. Rybkin did not deny

that he might withdraw his candidacy, Kommersant-Daily reported on February 11. Mr. Rybkin said he returned from a difficult round of talks on Chechnya, but that he was not detained against his will. No other media mentioned any talks on Chechnya. Asked what happened, Mr. Rybkin said “no comment,” but admitted that he was very upset to hear his daughter crying over the phone. He then said he was glad to be back in his native land and that he had nothing more to say on the matter. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Eurasian oil group meets in DC

WASHINGTON – On January 29 the first session of U.S.-Ukraine working group on Eurasian oil transportation corridor issues was held in Washington. The session was co-chaired by Andriy Kluiev, vice prime minister of Ukraine, and Vicky Bailey, U.S. assistant secretary of energy for policy and international affairs. The Ukrainian delegation also met with Alan Larson, U.S. under-secretary of state. The parties discussed the present state of the project on transporting Caspian oil to Europe via the Odesa-Brody pipeline. Mr. Kluiev spoke about the status of the project’s realization, in particular the agreements achieved with Polish partners regarding the pipeline’s extension to the Polish town of Plock, Ukraine’s intentions to use the pipeline to transport Caspian oil to Europe and to adopt relevant legislation, namely the law on concession, which would facilitate commercialization of the project. The Ukrainian side underlined the necessity to take real steps to ensure the practical exploitation of the Odesa-Brody pipeline as soon as possible. The American side emphasized that the U.S. supports the European direction of the Odesa-Brody pipeline. During the consultations the Ukrainian delegation met also with Kyle McSarrow, U.S. deputy secretary of energy. Experts of the U.S. Department of Energy gave a presentation on the current state of affairs of projects on oil transportation in the Black Sea region. The parties discussed in detail the prospects for the realization of these projects with involvement of U.S. companies. The American side conveyed a letter from the ChevronTexaco Co. addressed to Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. National Deputy Serhii Osyka and Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Serhii Pyrozhkov also participated in the consultations. (Embassy of Ukraine)

## UNWLA Branch...

(Continued from page 17)

interlude by Bohdanna Hnatyck and Vera Melnyck, members of the church choir of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Brunswick, both recent immigrants from Ukraine.

At last, it was time for the brides to come out, greet their guests and show off their wedding finery. One by one, the young ladies were escorted off the stage by Mr. Taraskewicz, in the role of “starosta” and announced by Ms. Siryj.

The show began with a dress from the 1930s, on loan from “Gifts by Tina” of Ocean Grove, N.J. The gown, made of silk satin with beaded shoulder accents, was referred to as the “Joan Crawford Dress.” What amazed everyone was the tiny size of the gown. Luckily there was a suitable model, the lovely Anna Lisitsnia.

Subsequently, a gown worn in Brooklyn, N.Y., was shown. Made for the bride by a local dressmaker, the dress was quite simple in design, as the wartime rationing was still in force.

The show reflected the changes in women’s fashions through the decades,

including a contemporary gown from 2001 originally worn by Kaya Nynka.

The event culminated with the showing of a gown designed in 2002 by Rena Koh that was worn by the daughter of branch member Christina D’Agostino. Guests were also able to see the beautiful red satin gowns of the bridesmaids as they carried the traditional “korovai” baked by Halia Ratycz, member of Branch 65, in the grand finale.

Two ethnic gowns were also shown: a Ukrainian Bukovyna embroidery style dress, on loan from its creator and designer, Vera Staruch of Kerhonkson, N.Y.; and a Romanian peasant costume which was displayed in the exhibition area, along with many pieces of vintage bridal attire and photographs of the original brides.

The gowns and various bridal accessories were collected and refurbished for the show by Oksana Bokalo and Tyrsa Pavlak with help from Mary Gerus.

Bridal models were Olga Bogutsky, Solomia Fedyna, Samantha Gentile, Nadia Koltsun, Brigitte La Ganga, Ms. Lisitsnia, Natalie Lyszyck, Oksana Mulyk, Jan Randall, Christina Ratycz and Marina Shapovalenko.

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## Soyuzivka's Datebook

### February 14, 2004

Valentine's Day Weekend,  
5-Course Dinner and Dance  
featuring Askold Buk Trio,  
6 p.m., \$19.95++

### February 21, 2004

Napanoch Fire Department Banquet

### February 28, 2004

SUNY New Paltz Sorority  
Semi-Formal Banquet

### March 6-7, 2004

Plast Kurin "Khmelnynchenky"  
Annual Winter Rada

### March 20, 2004

Grace Church Men's Retreat

### March 27-28, 2004

"Cooking in the Ukrainian Tradition"  
- sponsored by Kurin Spartanky.  
Open to parents and children  
15 and older.

### April 10, 2004

Easter Celebration and Easter Brunch

### April 17, 2004

Wedding - Nancy Medwid  
and Jonathan McFall

### May 7-9, 2004

Cinco De Mayo Weekend Celebration

### May 14, 2004

Ellenville Junior Prom

### May 15, 2004

Wedding - Stephan Kowalczyk  
and Alex Raut

### May 28-31, 2004

Memorial Day Weekend  
BBQ & Dance



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, February 21

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a presentation of publications by members of its history/philosophy, and social sciences sections as well as of those publications that have been sponsored by the society. Participating will be: Dr. Taras Hunczak, Dr. Jaroslaw Pelenski, Dr. Volodymyr Trembicky, Dr. Vsevolod Isajiw, Prof. Martha Trofimenko, Dr. Ivan Holowinsky, Marta Tarnawsky and Prof. Andrij Danylenko. The presentation will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

**EAST HANOVER, N.J.:** St. John the Baptist School Board formally invites alumni, donors and the public to a pre-Lenten dance to be held at the Ramada Inn, Route 10. The dance begins at 9 p.m., with music by Na Zdorovlia. Tickets, at \$20 per person, may be purchased at the school by calling (973) 373-9359 or by contacting Steven Woch, (973) 887-1588, or Andy Podberezniak, (973) 376-5287, after 6 p.m. Tickets may be also purchased at the door.

### Monday, February 23

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) will host a lecture by Olena Rusina, senior research associate, Institute of Ukrainian History, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine, and HURI research fellow, titled "Throwing Light on Kyiv's 'Dark Age': The Kyivan Principality under the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, 14th-16th Century." The lecture will be held in the institute's Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m.

For more information contact HURI, (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

### Saturday, February 28

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club, the New York Bandura Ensemble and Yara Arts Group present the third concert in the 2004 season of Bandura Downtown: "Epic Songs From Two Ends of the Steppe," featuring performances of Ukrainian kobzar dumsy by Julian Kytasty and Buryat epic uligers by Sayan Zhambalov and actors from the Buryat National Theater in Ulan Ude, Viktor Zhaltanov and Bayarto Endonov. Donation: \$10; includes reception with the artists. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. The gallery presents the "Migrations" exhibit. For more information, call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 995-2640, log on to <http://www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/> or <http://www.brama.com/yara/buryat04.html>, or e-mail [nybandura@aol.com](mailto:nybandura@aol.com).

### Sunday, February 29

**NEWARK, N.J.:** The Mothers' Club of St. John the Baptist School invites the public to a Tricky Tray/Gift Auction (aka Chinese Auction) to be held in the school gym, 746 Sanford Ave. Doors open at noon, a chicken dinner will be served at 1 p.m., and the auction begins around 2:15 p.m. Tickets, at \$15 per person, may be purchased in advance by calling the school, (973) 373-9359, or the following mothers after 7 p.m.: Halya Podberezniak, (973) 376-5287, Teresa Szyphulsky, (908) 289-0127, or Chrystya Woch, (973) 887-1588. Come and enjoy the dinner and great prizes. (Snow date: Sunday, March 7).

### SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY.

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### TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 222

Please be advised that Branch 222 has merged with Branch 112 as of February 1, 2004. All inquiries and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Alice Olenchuk.

Mrs. Alice Olenchuk  
2625 Bonny Blvd.  
Parma, OH 44134  
(440) 884-5125

## Self Reliance (NJ) Federal Credit Union Clifton-Passaic-Whippany

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on Sunday, February 29, 2004,  
at 1:00 p.m.

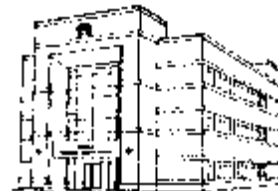
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#### Stamford Branch:

Ukrainian Research Center  
39 Clovelly Road, Stamford, CT 06902  
Phone/Fax: (203) 969-0498  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday:  
4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

#### Spring Valley Branch:

SS Peter & Paul Ukr. Catholic Church  
41 Collins Ave., Spring Valley, NY 10977  
Phone/Fax: (845) 425-2749  
Tuesday, Friday:  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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