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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine's Mr. Baseball turns his attention to orphanages

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

ZHYTOMYR, Ukraine — Ask an American kid whom he would tag with the name "Mr. Baseball" and he could say Mark McGwire or Barry Bonds. Perhaps someone else might recall Reggie Jackson from another era, or Babe Ruth.

In Ukraine they would probably disagree. The bet here is that if you would ask that question of most any young baseball player in Ukraine, the name most likely mentioned would be Vasyl (Basil) Tarasko, a Ukrainian American born and reared in New York.

Mr. Tarasko, who works as head coach of the City College of New York (CCNY) baseball team and is a part-time scout for the San Diego Padres when he is not doing his stuff in Ukraine, has never hit 60 or 70 home runs for a major league baseball team. He has never struck out hundreds of major league batsmen in a single season. And he has not played in a single World Series.

But his statistics are equally impressive. In the course of 12 years, Mr. Tarasko has delivered to Ukraine what amounts to some 10,000 pounds of baseball equipment and uniforms. He has made 30 trips to help develop the American national pastime in the country from which his parents hailed.

During those visits he has taken part in forming at least a couple of dozen baseball squads. He is also the prime organizer and country director of Ukrainian Little League Baseball, officially recognized by the sanctioning body based in Williamsburg, Pa.

During his current visit to Ukraine, kids at an orphanage where Mr. Tarasko had just delivered \$8,000 worth of baseball equipment — yet another impressive statistic — were

asked to name their favorite baseball player. They replied, "Vasyl."

On a warm, early spring day, while most of the 382 kids at the Zhytomyr Orphanage waited in the assembly hall for the arrival of Nadezhda Herbst, spouse of U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, who would greet the children and help distribute the equipment, Mr. Tarasko exchanged high fives with some of the 50 or so kids, boys and girls age 9-11 who had volunteered to learn the American sport. Others watched with great interest as he showed them the proper way to hold a baseball. Later, in the school's gymnasium the kids received their baseball jerseys and caps and began to learn how to play the alien game.

For Mr. Tarasko, who has helped to establish leagues in several Ukrainian cities — most successfully in Kyiv and Kirovohrad — it was a new experience as well.

The longtime coach said that he had decided to change tack in the last year after noting that the organizational aspect of developing the sport had come to a halt.

"In 2003 we hit a crossroads," explained Mr. Tarasko. "For the last few years, Little League baseball was not expanding. Most cities had one team. The Little League concept is to have at least four teams in a league compete and at the end of the year have the winners play for the championship."

In Ukraine, where sports clubs are concerned with fielding teams in various age brackets rather than several teams in one age bracket, it was difficult to get sponsorship for several teams in a city. Ukraine's Mr. Baseball identified Kirovohrad as the single place where baseball has a strong

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Basil Tarasko among the children at the Zhytomyr Orphanage, where he delivered and distributed \$8,000 worth of baseball equipment.

Rada OKs new presidential election law

Campaign season is shortened, candidates' prerequisites amended

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada overwhelmingly passed a new presidential election law on March 19, changing the duration of the campaign and the manner in which candidates qualify for the vote.

The legislation, a compromise bill pieced together from three different drafts, received the approval of 400 lawmakers — an astounding feat in this deeply divided legislative body. The bill came to a vote after representatives from the various factions, led by Our Ukraine National Deputy Yuriy Kliuchkovskiy, hammered out a version acceptable to all.

"This is the most democratic law yet," explained Mykola Rudkovskiy, a member of the Socialist faction who took part in developing the compromise bill. "We developed it utilizing our experiences from previous presidential and parliamentary elections, he explained.

The new law reduces the allowable

days for campaigning prior to the October 31 vote from 180 days to 120, a two-month reduction. It also requires candidates to file fewer signature petitions, but now mandates the posting of a bond of 500,000 hrv. (\$943,000) which was implemented to ensure that individuals who register are serious-minded in their intentions. If a candidate fails to receive 7 percent of the popular vote in the general election he will forfeit the filing fee.

To have his name printed on the election ballot, it is also required that the potential candidate gather 500,000 signatures. The petition must include a minimum of 20,000 signatures from each of two-thirds (18) of Ukraine's 27 political regions (25 oblasts plus the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol).

The law foresees that basically anybody, whether on his own initiative or through the support of a political party or bloc, can register for the election if he

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UWCC reports increased contacts with Ukrainians in Eastern diaspora

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Ukrainian World Coordinating Council held its annual meeting on March 19-20 in Kyiv during which it noted that in the last year it had developed extensive new contacts with the Eastern diaspora, particularly in Russia. The organization reviewed its achievements of the past year and began preparations for the upcoming fourth World Forum of Ukrainians scheduled for August 2005 in Kyiv.

Organized after Ukraine's independence in 1991 and headquartered in Kyiv, the UWCC is one of two international coordinating bodies of the world community of Ukrainians. It has placed emphasis on organizing Ukrainian communities in the region once regarded as within the Soviet sphere of influence, from Poland to the Far East. The other Ukrainian diaspora organization, the Ukrainian World Congress, a larger and older body, is involved with the global Ukrainian diaspora. Its headquarters are found in Toronto.

Mykhailo Horyn, chairman of the UWCC, noted in his report to the organization's leaders that in the past year tighter relations were established with Ukrainian communities in the Russian Federation, including remote Karelia, as well as in the region that abuts Ukraine's Kharkiv Oblast and the autonomous republic of Tatarstan.

Mr. Horyn was quick to point out that these communities remain poorly organized and financed. Nonetheless, as he explained, a desire to retain their ethnic heritage is very evident.

"I want you to know that compared to how our Ukrainian communities [in the North American diaspora] developed after World War II, these communities are merely in the early first stage of development," explained Mr. Horyn.

The UWCC leader noted that in Russia the community focus remained predominantly on folk song and dance ensembles. He said that those a little better organized had proceeded to begin forming education programs as well.

The UWCC leadership traveled extensively in 2003 to become better acquainted with Ukrainian communities in farther outlying and more exotic locales of the eastern regions of Russia and Central Asia. They met with local Ukrainian community leaders to offer advice and material support in the form of books, videos and audiocassettes. They also met with local political leaders to lobby for financial support for the Ukrainian communities.

Mr. Horyn said he was particularly impressed with the situation in Tatarstan, where Ukrainians have a government-sponsored Sunday school program in addition to an artistic group and a choral ensemble. He explained that the Tatarstan

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ANALYSIS

Court ruling paves way for constitutional reform

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report

The Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled on March 18 that the constitutional reform bill that was preliminarily adopted on December 24, 2003, and amended on February 3 in the country's legislature does not contradict the Constitution of Ukraine, that is, specific articles that provide for a number of general restrictions on making constitutional amendments. The ruling paves the way for the final passage of the constitutional reform by the Verkhovna Rada, which would require at least 300 votes. If approved, the bill will shift the balance of power from the presidency to the prime minister and the Parliament, and prescribe a proportional, party-list system for parliamentary elections.

The Constitutional Court noted that the bill includes some inconsistencies in its text and does not fit well with the text of the current Constitution. However, the court added, these deficiencies do not restrict human rights or freedoms or mean that Ukraine's independence or territorial integrity will be violated. Therefore, the verdict concluded, ruling on the removal of these inconsistencies would exceed the court's competency.

Constitutional Court Judge Oleksander Myronenko, who communicated the verdict to the public, did not list all the inconsistencies included in the bill, but gave some examples. In particular, he said the bill stipulates that the legislature is elected for a five-year term under a fully proportional, party-list system in 2006. "But what will happen in 2011?" Judge Myronenko asked rhetorically. He said he expects that he and his colleagues will have to return to the bill

after its possible final passage by the Verkhovna Rada, since any additional amendment introduced should be obligatorily examined by the Constitutional Court.

The Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko blocs filed a complaint against the bill with the Constitutional Court, arguing that it was illegally approved in a very controversial show-of-hands vote on December 24, 2003, and illegally amended during an emergency session on February 3. However, the court refused to heed the opposition's arguments.

"What happened in the Verkhovna Rada on December 24 and February 3, was an internal problem of the Verkhovna Rada," Judge Myronenko said. "The Constitutional Court will not interfere – either now or in the future – in the political battles that have taken place and will take place in the Verkhovna Rada." Judge Myronenko advised lawmakers to follow the parliamentary statutes in their activities.

Judge Myronenko said the court's verdict on the constitutional-reform bill was adopted by a vote of 13 to four.

Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko told journalists in Kyiv on March 18 that his bloc will resort to "all available means" – including "staging appropriate protests, taking people to the street, and blocking the parliamentary rostrum" – in order to prevent the final adoption of the constitutional-reform bill.

Lawmaker Oleksander Turchynov from the Tymoshenko Bloc announced the same day that his bloc will cooperate with Our Ukraine in staging "mass protest actions" during the upcoming parliamentary debate on the bill.

FOR THE RECORD: Letter to Kuchma from Committee to Protect Journalists

Below is the text of a letter sent on March 11 by the Committee to Protect Journalists to President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine.

Your Excellency:

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is deeply concerned about recent closures of independent media outlets in Ukraine. We believe that these closures are part of a sweeping campaign to eliminate voices that are critical of the government and to block public access to independent sources of information in the run-up to presidential elections scheduled for October.

The campaign started in January when the Shevchenkivskiy District Court ordered the closure of the opposition daily Silski Visti, which is based in the capital, Kyiv, allegedly for publishing two advertisements in September 2003 for a book that was widely considered anti-Semitic. Local and international reports, however, suggest that the issue of anti-Semitism was used as a pretext to close Silski Visti, which was widely read, critical of the government, and supportive of the opposition Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU), in an election year.

While some Ukrainians found the advertisements offensive, they said that closing the paper was unjust. Yevhen Chervonenko, vice-president of the Eurasian Jewish Congress – which represents Jewish communities in Kazakstan, Russia and Ukraine – and a member of

Ukraine's Parliament, called the closure a "calculated provocation by the presidential administration against the media." Chervonenko said that while Silski Visti should apologize for the advertisements, the ads themselves were not sufficient reasons for closing the publication. He cited other instances of publishing ethnically sensitive materials in Ukraine media that went unnoticed by authorities, and called Silski Visti "a victim of double standards," the Kyiv-based Ukrainian news agency UNIAN reported.

Soon after Silski Visti's closure, the private Kyiv radio station Dovira decided to discontinue its rebroadcasts of the Ukraine Service news bulletins of the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) as of February 17. The decision came one month after the appointment of presidential ally Serhii Kychyhyn as Dovira's general producer. Dovira had carried RFE/RL rebroadcasts on its FM frequencies for five years prior to February 2004.

On February 27 the independent Kyiv radio station Kontyent added a daily two-hour rebroadcast of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service programming on its 100.9 FM frequency. But five days later Kontyent was raided by police and taken off the air. The police confiscated the station's radio transmitter and broadcasting equipment, and sealed its offices. According to local and international reports, the raid was ordered by the Ukrainian State Center of Radio

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NEWSBRIEFS**Presidential election bill passed**

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 400-3 on March 18 to adopt a bill that makes procedural changes in Ukraine's presidential election process, Interfax reported. The bill differs from the current law on presidential elections in several major respects. It reduces the presidential campaign period from 180 to 120 days and lowers the signature threshold for registering a candidate from 1 million to 500,000. The bill also sets election day for the last Sunday in October; in the event that none of the candidates wins a majority in the first round, a runoff between the two top candidates is held two weeks later. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Code of Civil Procedures OKd

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada passed a Code of Civil Procedures on March 18 that regulates the consideration of civil cases in Ukrainian courts and provides for the observance of rights and freedoms of citizens and legal entities participating in civil legal proceedings, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lytvyn predicts reform bill's approval

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn told journalists on March 22 that the constitutional-reform bill that was preliminarily approved on December 24, 2003, and amended on February 3 will be passed in its final reading in early April if "Parliament follows step-by-step the decisions stipulated by the political agreement [of February 18]," Interfax reported. Mr. Lytvyn was referring to an accord signed last month by 10 pro-presidential caucuses in which they pledge to pool efforts aimed at finalizing constitutional reforms. Meanwhile, National Deputy Oleksander Volkov predicted on March 23 that the constitutional-reform bill will be adopted no earlier than in mid-May. Mr. Volkov added that promoters of the reform are facing "a lot of work" to persuade deputies elected under a first-past-the-post system to adopt a fully proportional election law, which is key to Communist Party and Socialist Party support for the reforms. A bill mandating proportional elections passed in its first reading on March 5. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Opposition to protest constitutional reform

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko told journalists in Kyiv on March 18 that his bloc will resort to "all available means" – including "staging appropriate protests, taking people to the street, and blocking the parliamentary rostrum" – in order to prevent final adoption of the constitutional reform bill that was

preliminarily approved in December and amended in February, Interfax reported. Mr. Yushchenko was commenting on a verdict by the Constitutional Court earlier the same day concluding that the bill does not contradict the Constitution of Ukraine. Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc believe the bill was approved in an illegal procedure. National Deputy Oleksander Turchynov of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc announced the same day that his bloc will cooperate with Our Ukraine in staging "mass protest actions" during the upcoming parliamentary debate on the bill. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada allows NATO quick access

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 17 voted 237-61 to endorse a memorandum of understanding between the Ukrainian government and NATO regarding Ukraine's support for NATO operations. The Communist Party caucus and some Socialist Party lawmakers voted against the memorandum, while the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and some deputies from Our Ukraine did not take part in the vote. The memorandum, according to Interfax, sets a legal framework for Ukraine's support for NATO operations conducted under the Partnership for Peace program. The document obliges Ukraine to provide technical, medical and informational support for NATO units during military operations and exercises – the types of such support are to be defined in separate accords. NATO is to pay for such assistance. The document also grants NATO troops the right of quick access to Ukrainian territory if this is needed for the implementation of the alliance's general policies. NATO's military hardware may travel through Ukrainian territory if the alliance obtains "general permission." The bill needs to be signed by President Leonid Kuchma to take effect. (RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report)

Ukraine-NATO ties worry Moscow ...

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry on March 20 issued a statement of concern following a decision by Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada to allow rapid access by NATO military units to Ukrainian territory in the event of an emergency, Interfax reported. An unidentified ministry source told Interfax that Moscow is worried "by Ukraine's readiness to [allow] the use of its territory for NATO operations without consulting with Russia." (RFE/RL Newsline)

... as do NATO patrols over Baltic states

MOSCOW – Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Yakovenko said on

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Above, one of the children at the Zhytomyr Orphanage learns how to properly hold the ball. Below, other children eagerly await the distribution of baseball equipment.



Ukraine's Mr. Baseball...

(Continued from page 1)

toehold, with hundreds of kids competing in several age brackets in various leagues.

What bothered him as well was that single teams in some cities that were not part of a league would receive new equipment each year, but presumably the need for it was limited to practices and the few times they participated in intra-city tournaments. He began to wonder what was happening with the stuff not being used. At first Mr. Tarasko was concerned that baseball had reached an insurmountable obstacle in its organizational development in Ukraine, but then he hit upon an idea.

"I asked myself, where are kids who might want to play baseball? It dawned on me that the orphanages were it," he explained.

In 2002 Mr. Tarasko had become acquainted with the work of the Help Us Help the Children Foundation of Toronto, a Canadian charitable organization that helps Ukrainian orphans, after he had asked them to add some baseball equipment to a humanitarian aid shipment they were undertaking.

After obtaining a list of Ukraine's largest orphanages from the group's Kyiv director, Marysa Krysa, he had his assistant, Vitalii Lyzohubenko, who is a senior trainer in Ukraine's State Committee of Sport and assistant country director of Ukrainian Little League Baseball, investigate to determine how much desire existed among the orphans and within the administrations of several of the largest orphanages. The threesome settled on two orphanages, the one in Zhytomyr and another one in Radomyshl, also located in Zhytomyr Oblast. Two other orphanages were picked as well, but they later declined to participate in the project.

Mr. Tarasko had forayed into a new aspect of organized baseball. He and Mr.

Lyzohubenko, along with Harold Weissman, another New Yorker and avid Little League organizer who had been with Mr. Tarasko since the early 1990s – and has traveled to Ukraine eight times – chose several coaches from the teaching staffs of the two orphanages and took them to Kirovohrad for several days of intensive training.

Mr. Tarasko now expects that each orphanage will develop four teams apiece, thus creating two new little leagues. While their intra-league play will be limited for a year to a tournament between the two orphanages, next year they are expected to become full members of the nationwide Ukrainian Little League Baseball structure. Today that structure consists of leagues in Rivne and Donetsk, as well as in Kyiv and Kirovohrad. Mr. Lyzohubenko estimated that some 2,500 children and teenagers play organized baseball in Ukraine today.

Mr. Tarasko became Ukraine's Mr. Baseball in an unlikely manner. He first came to the country to teach the sport after replying to an ad in CCNY's college newspaper in 1991. The ad called for volunteers to coach baseball in the USSR. The Soviet Union had begun to develop baseball in the country after it became a demonstration sport at the 1986 Olympics. Mr. Tarasko won a single coaching position from among 60 other applicants and was assigned to the Moscow Red Devils. While meeting with Soviet officials at the Embassy in New York before his departure, he casually asked whether there were any teams in Ukraine.

"They said, of course, and so I ended up in Kyiv coaching the adult team, Pobutovyk," explained Mr. Tarasko.

He spent six weeks coaching in Kyiv in June and July 1991, as well as some time in Lviv. A month after his departure, Ukraine declared independence. The next year he decided to return with equipment for kids. The legend of Ukraine's Mr. Baseball had begun.

Schaffer to run for Senate

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Former Congressman Bob Schaffer of Colorado, a one-time co-chairman of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, on March 12 announced his intention to run for a seat in the U.S. Senate, according to several media reports.

The former three-term Republican congressional representative, who is looking to fill the spot being vacated by GOP Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, has yet to gain his party's nomination for an election that could decide control of the senate.

"I think Colorado is going to be ground zero in the senatorial political races around the country," Mr. Schaffer, a Ukrainian American, told the Associated Press. "The balance of the Senate is at stake."

The Republicans currently hold a 51-48 majority in the Senate, with the lone independent a former Republican who now tends to favor the Democrats.

Mr. Schaffer, 43, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1996 and won re-election in 1998 and 2000. However, the Colorado congressman stuck to a self-imposed term limit pledge to retire after he completed his third term in 2002. He later told the AP that his pledge cost him House leadership positions and coveted committee assignments and said he would not make a similar pledge if elected to the Senate.

Mr. Schaffer is the first Republican to announce his candidacy for Colorado's Senate seat. "I've filed and I have an organization that I've put together, an exploratory team and a team that is getting larger," Mr. Schaffer told the AP. "I see nothing that discourages me."

Mr. Schaffer, who has a congressional voting record as a strong conservative, previously described himself as "the strongest advocate for improved U.S.-Ukraine relations in the Congress." In 2002 he also suggested that the U.S. government should end all foreign assistance funding to the central government of Ukraine, and redirect it instead toward grass-roots democracy programs, small and medium enterprise development and health initiatives in that country.

In a letter written to The Ukrainian Weekly and published on November 25, 2001, Mr. Schaffer called the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 "a naked act of genocide against Ukraine and its people."

Mr. Schaffer has also been an advocate for permanently lifting U.S. government trade restrictions against Ukraine. The 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment sought to prohibit the extension of U.S. government credits and most-favored-nation trade status to

any country without a market economy that didn't allow its citizens to emigrate freely.

On March 13, 2002, Mr. Schaffer introduced legislation in the House of Representatives aimed at graduating Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik restrictions in recognition of the country's "substantial progress" in the area of human rights, as well as its cooperation in the "global struggle against international terrorism."

As a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Schaffer made frequent trips to Ukraine, including as a member of the U.S. delegation that monitored the March 31, 2002, parliamentary and local elections there.

There has been speculation that Mr. Schaffer will face Democratic Attorney General Ken Salazar in the general election in November, a race that is seen as a toss-up despite Colorado's GOP-leaning electorate.

Prior to a November election for the vacant Colorado Senate seat, Mr. Schaffer looks likely to face an August 10 primary, unless no Republican rises to challenge him. Various media reports have speculated that a GOP primary would include retired Air Force Academy law professor Dan O'Bryant, while several frontrunners – Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, Rep. Bob Beauprez and state Treasurer Mike Coffman – have told the AP they are not candidates.

Other potential Republican nominees include Lt. Gov. Jane Norton and Jim Nicholson, the chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1997 to 2001.

As a member of Congress, Mr. Schaffer opposed abortion and gun control, and was known as a politician who often rejected conventional political wisdom. In 1998 the National Taxpayers Union recognized Mr. Schaffer as the most frugal member of Congress after he returned more than \$360,000 of his allotted office budget.

The retiring senior senator from Colorado, Mr. Campbell, 70, announced recently that he was leaving the Senate for health reasons, having received treatment last year for prostate cancer. The AP also reported that his Washington office faces allegations that a longtime aide had taken bribes.

As a member of the Senate, Sen. Campbell was an advocate of various Ukrainian issues and co-chaired the Helsinki Commission, an independent agency of the U.S. government. Additionally, Mr. Campbell is the sponsor of Senate Resolution 202, the resolution on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine that unequivocally calls the Famine a genocide.

Dmytro Z. is remembered



Frank Speziale

NORWICH, N.Y. – Flowers adorn the grave of Dmytro Zacharuk in Norwich, N.Y., on Monday, March 15, the fourth anniversary of his death. Mr. Zacharuk, of Syracuse, was one of 12 former patients of the Willard Psychiatric Center featured in the New York State Museum's exhibit "Lost Cases, Recovered Lives: Suitcases From a State Hospital Attic" and in a story in The Ukrainian Weekly on March 14.

– Yaro Bihun

Detroit activist's \$600,000 gift supports better medical care in Ukraine's villages

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – While Ukraine is considered a part of Central Europe, social conditions in some areas of the country would make it seem closer to South America – especially when it comes to access to modern medicine.

There are small, remote rural communities in Ukraine where a bus stops only once a week. Sometimes it brings a doctor from a town located up to 100 kilometers away, where a hospital responsible for a region encompassing some 25 villages may be located.

The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, a Philadelphia-based humanitarian aid organization, decided that these parts of Ukraine needed to become the focus of their charitable efforts after it received a \$600,000 award from the estate of an elderly Detroit-area woman.

"We wanted to go to the villages in the backwoods to get them basic medical supplies. In some villages you cannot find a blood pressure gauge in the entire village and even aspirin is not available," explained Vira Prynko, the director of the Kyiv office of the UUARC.

The UUARC, which was founded as a war relief organization in 1944, has provided humanitarian aid to political prisoners in the Soviet Union and disaster relief to émigré Ukrainians throughout the world. Since 1991, when Ukraine declared independence, it has shifted its focus to aiding children in this economically still underdeveloped country. It has also provided flood relief for victims in the Transcarpathian region. Recently the

UUARC turned its attention to obtaining medical aid for the country's most needy with the accent on children.

The effort was spurred by a \$600,000 donation bequeathed to the UUARC by Sylvia Blake, a retired Detroit public school teacher of Ukrainian origin. Ms. Blake, a native Detroiter who died in 2000 at the age of 83, stipulated in her will that the money should be spent to provide medical aid to children in Ukraine.

The UUARC invested the first \$100,000 of Ms. Blake's gift in ambulances for 14 county hospitals located across Ukraine – from Kharkiv to Ivano-Frankivsk – five of which specialize in the care of children and newborns. All of them have extensive children's care facilities. Most importantly, the hospitals are located in out-of-the-way areas and have given the medical centers access to people in villages that previously had no hope of emergency medical services.

"You can't imagine how much simply one vehicle helps in these regions," explained Ms. Prynko. The UUARC Kyiv director underscored that she has carefully monitored what types of vehicles were purchased by the hospitals and how they have been used.

In the next stage of the project supported by the money provided by the late Ms. Blake, the UUARC will purchase basic emergency medical equipment for the vehicles and the hospitals. Eventually the UUARC hopes to go directly to the local village medical workers, generally nurse practitioners, to get them the basic medical supplies many still lack.

Before that, however, the UUARC wants to complete its funding of the county hospitals. Each hospital has developed a wish list of what it needs most and wants, including cardio resuscitators and artificial respirators for children. One hospital in Mykolaiv simply wants to replace a nearly century-old anesthesia-dispensing apparatus.

An expert from Ukraine's Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the UUARC, will now review the items to determine what is within reason, what is legitimate and, perhaps most importantly, what is affordable.

"We could spend the whole \$600,000 right away, but we have decided to take our time," explained Ms. Prynko. "We want to understand the hospitals, the equipment and the market."

Markets – now that is a word that Ms. Blake would have understood, as it turned out, she knew how to play them. After spending nearly 35 years in teaching, she retired in 1977, but remained extremely active in her retirement. After obtaining an associate degree in medical record technology, Ms. Blake, whose parents were Andrew Blashchuk and Mary Korolishin Blashchuk, became engrossed by finances. Soon she was taking courses in investments, attending seminars and subscribing to financial publications. Before long she had made a small fortune in a hot stock market, which, ironically cooled off at about the time of her passing.

In a will written in the 1980s Ms. Blake, who had developed a special fondness for Ukraine after visiting the country in 1971, while it was still under Soviet



Sylvia Blake

rule, stipulated that all but \$50,000 of her estate should be divided between the UUARC and St. Mary's Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Southfield, Mich. At the time of her death that amount was well over \$1 million.

Ms. Blake's desire to help others, exemplified by her years in the teaching profession, her huge gift to the village children of Ukraine and the Orthodox church she attended in Detroit, went still further. She also had arranged with the University of Michigan, where she had done graduate work before World War II, to have her body accepted by its medical school for research after her death.

Ternopil-Portland couple helps cerebral palsy center in Lviv

by Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – Paul and Tatiana Terdal spent the last six months in Lviv, using their management consulting skills to help some local non-governmental organizations, including the Dzherelo Center for children with cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders.

In June 2003, Mr. Terdal, originally from Portland, Ore., and Ms. Terdal, originally from Ternopil, decided they "really wanted to do something in Ukraine." By September they were in Lviv.

The Terdals first met in 1998 while they were graduate students at Yale. They married in August 1999 and moved to San Francisco to work at PRTN, a company that provides management consulting for high tech, for-profit companies.

With no specific plans, in June 2003 they decided to go to Ms. Terdal's native Ukraine. (She first came to the United States in 1991 as a foreign student.) Mr. Terdal quit his job first, so he could start learning Ukrainian at Harvard's Ukrainian Summer School.

At the summer school, Mr. Terdal met some students from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). He told them he was looking for something interesting to do in Ukraine." The students put him in touch with UCU Vice-Rector Jeffrey Wills, who at the time was helping to organize the university's new Institute of Non-Profit Management. The couple wanted to teach part-time and to consult part-time.

Prof. Wills suggested the couple could teach and help develop curriculum at the institute and consult for local NGOs. Prof. Wills also directed them to the Dzherelo Center for children with cerebral palsy.

"Dzherelo has very good leaders," Mr. Terdal said, "but they have no business training, no management skills." ("Dzherelo" is a Ukrainian word that means source: or spring.)

The Dzherelo Center started in 1993,

when the Lviv city government gave a former kindergarten building to a group of parents whose children had cerebral palsy. At that time, there were two pre-school groups helping 20 children. Now Dzherelo has 90 employees who help over 200 children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities.

The Terdals spent their first few weeks at Dzherelo talking to the people there in order to understand the issues that they needed to address. Then they came back with recommendations.

The first recommendation was to set up a development office for fund-raising. "Dzherelo has been very successful with fund-raising," said Ms. Terdal, "because they have good individuals, trustworthy people with high integrity." Because of personal contacts, Dzherelo has good relations with Canada and Holland, but, to date, almost no donations from the United States. "A common problem that NGOs face," added Ms. Terdal, "is that it's easier to get money for construction, to buy equipment, and so on. But it's difficult to get money for operating expenses."

The Terdals also brought up the idea of charging the parents some fee for Dzherelo's service. "Up to now," explained Mr. Terdal, "everything has been free. Rival services charge a lot of money, but aren't as good. They just have good marketing. People in Ukraine are attracted by the high fees. Some people were not interested in Dzherelo because it was free," and so they didn't believe it could be a quality organization.

The Terdals also had recommendations for Dzherelo's organizational structure. They spent time with the director, Myroslav Nykolaiev, and tried to teach him how to get his time freed up. He was often involved in small details, like problems with the drivers of the vans that bring the children to the center. Because

of the time spent "fire-fighting," bigger issues were lost, explained the Terdals.

"The Terdals' participation was a significant event," said Mr. Nykolaiev. "It opened my eyes to certain questions. They looked at our work from the outside, and gave their expert analysis. They looked at the workers, the parents. They gave the parents a questionnaire to fill out: Are they satisfied with Dzherelo's services? Would they recommend Dzherelo to someone else? What are their priority concerns? Would they be prepared to pay something for Dzherelo's service? And other financing issues arose. Our organization is growing, and we have to think about necessary

programs that we should open."

"I now think of time in terms of 'Before Terdals' and 'After Terdals.'" Dzherelo's director observed.

The Terdals have since returned to Mr. Terdal's hometown of Portland, where they are rejoining the job market.

Donations to the Dzherelo Center (with the notation "For Dzherelo") or requests for further information may be sent to: Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL. 60622; or to Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund, 2218-A Bloor St. W., Second Floor, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, M6S 1M8.



For the last six months, Tatiana (left) and Paul (second from right) Terdal helped a Lviv cerebral palsy center improve its organization.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

“Ukrainian-American Citadel”: from the pages of UNA history

Following is part of a series of excerpts from “Ukrainian-American Citadel: The First 100 Years of the Ukrainian National Association” by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, published in 1996 by East European Monographs of Boulder, Colo. The excerpts are reprinted with the permission of the author. (The book is available from the author for \$25, plus \$2.50 shipping, by writing to: Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, 107 Ithamwood Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115.)

Chapter 3 The American Circle

The circle was initiated by seven Lviv seminarians, all close personal friends, who vowed to take up their pastoral duties in the United States and to organize the Rusyn community along Ukrainian ethno-national lines. To avoid friction with the Latin-rite hierarchy, they also vowed celibacy. Politically active in Galicia, circle members were part of a new generation of Rusyn priests who were sympathetic to the ideals of the Radical party, a socialist group that included, among others, the poet Ivan Franko.

The first member of the circle to immigrate was Father Nestor Dmytriw who arrived in 1895. He was followed that same year by Father Mykola Stefanovych. Father Ivan Ardan arrived in 1896 and eventually settled in Jersey City, N.J. A year later, three more members of the circle made their appearance: Father Antin Bonczewsky, who took up his duties at Ss. Peter and Paul parish in Ansonia, Conn.; Father Stefan Makar, who took Father Dmytriw's place in Mount Carmel, Pa., while the later visited Rusyn communities in Canada; and Father Mykola Pidhoretsky, who took Father Ardan's place in Jersey City when the latter went to Olyphant, Pa. The last member of circle to come to America was Father Pavlo Tymkevych, who arrived in 1898 and settled, after a time, in Yonkers, N.Y., where he became pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church. Father Konstankevych joined the circle in the United States as its eighth member.

The work of the American Circle in the United States cannot be exaggerated. Composed of unusually competent, highly motivated, and militant individuals, the circle led the Rusyn-Ukrainian fight against Latinization, Russification and Magyarization. Circle members were in the forefront of the struggle to establish an autonomous Ukrainian exarchy in the United States. The American Circle eventually took control of the RNS [Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz, as the Ukrainian National Association was then known], and used it to establish reading rooms, enlightenment societies, cultural enterprises, youth organizations and ethnic heritage schools. Significantly, members of the American Circle edited Svoboda between 1895 and 1907, a period of 12 years, establishing the RNS gazette as the primary vehicle of Americanization, Ukrainianization, and political action in the Rusyn-Ukrainian camp.

The Mount Carmel Convention, 1896

By the 1896 convention in Mount Carmel, the RNS had 13 brotherhoods within its organizational structure, including the following new ones: St. Volodymyr, founded in 1887 in McAdoo, Pa.; St. John the Baptist, founded in 1888 in Mayfield, Pa.; Ss. Peter and Paul, founded in 1889 in Jersey City; Ss. Peter and Paul, founded in 1894 in Mount Carmel; St. Nicholas, founded in 1894 in Centralia, Pa.; St. Nicholas, founded in 1895 in St. Clair, Pa.; St. Demetrius, founded in 1895 in Mount Carmel; St. Michael the Archangel (no founding date available) in Elmira, N.Y.; and Ss. Cyril and Methodius founded in 1894 in Mayfield.

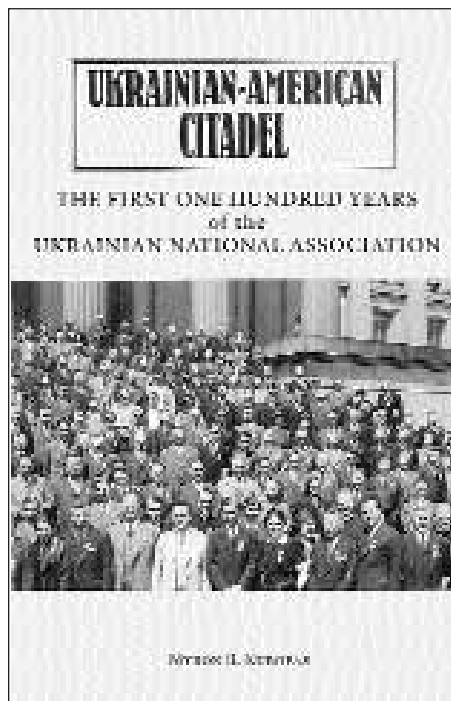
In his outline history of the UNA, Anthony Dragan called the founding four plus nine brotherhoods, the original 13, “not unlike the original 13 states” that comprised the United States.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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



On our 110th anniversary

Spotlight on UNA branches

BRANCH 7, MCADOO, PA. SOSHESTVIA SVIATOHO DUKHA

Branch 7, located in McAdoo, Pa., was organized as a result of the merger of three smaller branches. Its roots can be traced to a branch of the First Catholic Slovak Jednota that joined the UNA in June 1895.

In 1896, the third convention of the UNA was held in Mount Carmel, Pa. The branch's delegate, Dmytro Kapitula, was nominated to serve as convention secretary, and was elected a supreme advisor. He was also a delegate to the fourth convention held in Mayfield, Pa., on June 8, 1897. In June 1898, at the fifth convention, Mr. Kapitula served in the capacity of convention secretary.

At the 10th convention, held in Philadelphia on July 7-10, 1908, Mr. Kapitula was elected supreme president of the UNA. With his re-election in 1910, Mr. Kapitula would continue a long tradition of service as supreme president and supreme auditor.

The 12th convention was held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Delegate Anthony

Krill of McAdoo was elected to serve as convention secretary, and Mr. Kapitula was elected to yet another term as supreme president. The 13th convention, held in Buffalo, N.Y., in September 1914, re-elected Mr. Kapitula as supreme president.

Following the 1914 convention in Buffalo, several members left the organization. The remaining members re-organized and formed what is now Branch 7 (Soshestvia Sviatoho Dukha). This branch was chartered on April 15, 1915; its charter was signed by Supreme President Nicholas Muraszko and Supreme Secretary Dmytro Halychyn.

Officers of the branch were Mr. Kapitula, Ivan Kohut, S. Makitra and A. Pastuch.

At the 14th convention held in Harrisburg, Pa., Mr. Kapitula was elected to the office of supreme auditor.

Jule Bavalack of McAdoo, secretary of women's Branch 186, the St. Olha Society, was elected as vice-presidentess at the 17th convention held in Newark, N.J., in 1929. This branch

(Continued on page 19)

RECORDING DEPARTMENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – DECEMBER 2003

Christine E. Kozak, National Secretary

	Juvenile	Adult	ADD	Total
Total Active Members – 11/2003 R	5,899	12,218	2,645	20,762
Total Inactive Members – 11/2003 R	7,657	15,974	0	23,631
Total Members – 11/2003 R	13,556	28,192	2,645	44,393

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 12/2003				
New members	16	24	0	40
New members UL	1	0	0	1
Reinstated	6	8	2	16
Total Gains:	23	32	2	57

Losses in 12/2003				
Died	0	30	0	30
Cash surrender	7	17	0	24
Endowment matured	25	29	0	54
Fully paid-up	13	20	0	33
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	10	40	0	50
Certificates lapsed (active)	13	6	19	38
Certificate terminated	1	4	14	19
Total Losses	69	146	33	248
Total Active Members – 12/2003	5,853	12,104	2,614	20,571

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in 12/2003				
Paid-up	13	20	0	33
Reduced paid up	0	0	0	0
Extended insurance	10	40	0	50
Total Gains	23	60	0	83

Losses in 12/2003				
* Died	0	40	0	40
* Cash surrender	6	14	0	20
Pure endowment matured	4	5	0	9
Reinstated to active	6	8	0	14
Certificates lapsed (inactive)	1	9	0	10
Total Losses	17	76	0	93
Total Inactive Members – 12/2003	7,663	15,958	0	23,621
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 12/2003	13,516	28,062	2,614	44,192

(* Paid up and reduced paid up policies)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Celebrating our debutantes

2004 marks the fourth year we are publishing a special annual section devoted to Ukrainian debutante balls – but this is our first editorial on the topic. Our tradition of highlighting these special community events dates back to 2001, when we first advised our readers that we would institute this feature and gave a deadline for submission of articles and photos. We received timely responses from four groups. In 2002 and again in 2003, six debutante balls were featured in that special section. This year, we are happy to note, the number is up to eight. Obviously, our debutante balls – a rite of passage that celebrates the achievements and aspirations of girls generally between the ages of 16 and 18 – are going strong.

Debutante is from the French word *débutante*, which comes from “*débuter*” (to begin). The tradition of such balls began in Austria. Originally, debutante balls were meant as a way to present marriageable young ladies to proper society. One source we found says the custom, at least as it’s practiced in the United States, traces its origins to England and that the first American presentation of debutantes to society began during colonial times, in 1748 in Philadelphia.

For Ukrainians Americans, of course, the custom is much newer. For example, Philadelphia’s Ukrainian Engineers’ Society ball of 2004 was its 50th, while the debutante ball of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) this year marked its 40th year.

The Chervona Kalyna ball, on the other hand, traces its tradition back to 1930 when the first Plast Ball was held in Stryi, Ukraine. That ball was organized by members of the Chervona Kalyna Plast Fraternity who today continue to organize the popular Chervona Kalyna event, now a debutante ball, in the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area.

Much newer is the debutante ball in California, which is also a charity ball that supports the valuable work of the California Association to Aid Ukraine. This year’s ball was notable in that it included debutantes from Canada, where, apparently, debutante balls are not part of the community’s custom.

The purpose of these debutante balls is to introduce the young ladies active in our community to members of that community. To be sure, different balls have different rules as to who qualifies to debut at a given event (for example, some require an organizational affiliation), but the intent is one and the same: to present the young lady to the community milieu in which she is and, hopefully, will remain active, whether that is, say, the Newark Plast group, or the medical circles of Chicago.

The debutante balls are a wonderful and moving experience for parents – as is evident to anyone who has ever attended one of these affairs. They are also a tangible way to show that our community shares in the joy of these young ladies’ accomplishments, their approaching adulthood and their dreams, and that we are conscious of the significant roles they can play in our community as socially aware and responsible members.

So, by celebrating our Ukrainian debutantes we not only spotlight these young people, we celebrate the future of our community as they step into the roles of their predecessors. As such, our Ukrainian debutante balls are indeed a celebration of the continuity of our Ukrainian community.

April
1
1984

Turning the pages back...

Twenty years ago, our editorial was on the topic of a measure that had just been introduced in the U.S. Senate. S 2456, officially labeled a bill “To establish a commission to study the 1932-1933 famine caused by the Soviet Government in

Ukraine,” had been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.). Three weeks prior to that, we had focused on Rep. James Florio’s identical bill, HR 4459. Both measures were aimed at establishing a government-funded congressional commission to investigate the causes and implications of the Great Famine in Ukraine.

Our editorial underlined: “If we coordinate our activities and channel our efforts to see to it that the bill gets passed, then we will show ourselves and our neighbors that we understand and are capable of working within the American government process. If we do nothing, if we fail to deluge our lawmakers with letters and telegrams, if we continue to shun the political mechanism, then we will only succeed in showing that we need not be taken seriously as a voting bloc. And we will continue to be, in large measure, ignored.”

The Great Famine in Ukraine, we argued, was not a moot issue simply because its 50th anniversary and our community’s observance of it had come and gone. Too few organizations and individuals had spoken out in support of the Famine bill, we noted.

“It is tremendously easy to jump from one anniversary to another, to pick a historical event, concentrate on it for one year, and then off to the next anniversary of yet another event,” we argued. “What we need to make our causes better known to the world is staying power, the tenacity to stick with an issue and use every possible means to get that issue across regardless of how long it takes. After all, the Famine – with its 7 to 10 million victims – is our national holocaust. It was mass murder, genocide, one of the greatest atrocities to stain the history of modern man. ... A one-shot rally/demonstration/concert, or a series of local, weekend affairs are not enough.”

Our editorial emphasized that “The important thing is to let our legislators know that, in this crucial election year, our vote depends on their support for the Famine legislation. Not only must we vote our self-interest, but we must let our representatives know to vote our interest as well. ...”

Ultimately, the Famine bill was passed by both houses of Congress. Today its report stands as a valuable record of the Famine-Genocide that ravaged Ukraine and killed millions of our kin.

Source: “The Famine bill,” (editorial) and text of “Bill to establish a commission to study the 1932-1933 famine caused by the Soviet Government in Ukraine,” *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 1, 1984, Vol. LII, No. 14.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Announcement regarding closure of schools in Newark and Northampton

by Metropolitan Stefan

The announcement of the closure of two of our remaining seven Ukrainian Catholic schools in our archeparchy was a sad but a necessary one. Our Archeparchy of Philadelphia, when it still encompassed today’s Parma Eparchy, once had some twenty-five Ukrainian Catholic Schools. The reasons for this necessity of closing schools are varied and have much to do with the changing demographics of our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S.A.

The size of families today is rarely more than one or two children, as opposed to much larger families in the previous decades. There has been a migration of our faithful to suburbs and housing located at considerable distances from our schools and parishes. The once very strong commitment to the necessity of financially sponsoring private Catholic education for our children has, also, significantly lessened. For example, recent fund-raising efforts among parishes without schools to help support our schools have not been positively and generously supported.

Our schools and the parishes which have a school are, as a result, left to

assume a large deficit. This deficit is usually covered by extensive fund-raising and charitable activities by the parishioners of parishes with schools. Those parishes then struggle to meet parish needs, and the parish and school often operate on shoe-string budgets.

Much honorable recognition and gratitude is due to the parish priests, teachers and school administrative staffs, parish committees, parents and parishioners for their tireless dedication to keeping the schools operating. However, despite their best efforts, the sheer practical realities sometimes prevent their success. Deficits of the schools become just too large to be carried by the parishes alone and the difficult, yet necessary, decision to close becomes reality. The financial stability of the parish itself is threatened, risking the continued existence of the parish.

The deficits of both schools closing this year were approximately \$225,000 or more, each. Student populations were not sufficient to affordably operate these schools. The registration for St. John the Baptist School in Newark was not expected to surpass 50 this fall and St. John the Baptist Schools in Northampton had some 93 students.

The tuition increases proposed for the schools to be able to continue were prohibitive for parents. The lay board operating St. John the Baptist School in Newark was proposing to charge a tuition rate of \$3,500 annually. The

(Continued on page 23)

The real tragedy behind the closing of Northampton’s St. John’s School

by Dr. Paula Holoviak

Those of us who are students of history or who have lived through the decade of the 1960s know the famous story of the clash between President Lyndon Johnson and Gov. George Wallace. In a heated exchange on segregation, LBJ challenged Gov. Wallace with the thought of the judgment of history. Would Wallace’s monument read “George Wallace, He Built” or “George Wallace: he Hated.”

We are faced with this same challenge as we read about the closing of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Elementary School in the town of Northampton in eastern Pennsylvania. Founded in 1950 by a pastor and parish dedicated to its youth, the school has been suddenly slated to close at the end of this school year.

The reported reason cited, as usual: lack of funding. There was no discussion, no chance to raise tuition or actively fund-raise. The decision was arbitrarily made by Msgr. David Clooney and Metropolitan Stepan Soroka with no input from parents, faculty or the majority of the parishioners at St. John the Baptist Parish.

Let’s look at the real reasons behind the closure of this important community asset and the real effects of the loss of yet another Ukrainian school.

Contrary to the words of Metropolitan Soroka, the faculty and parents were not

aware of any financial difficulties prior to the one-sentence announcement of the school’s closing. Parents and interested individuals promptly formed a fund-raising committee. Within three weeks, \$90,000 was pledged toward funding the school including \$50,000 from an anonymous donor, \$30,000 in tuition increases and \$10,000 in miscellaneous donations.

More importantly, the Pennsylvania legislature, just last month with the passage of Legislative Act 48, expanded a special tax-exempt scholarship fund for private schools. Under this program, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit, businesses donating to a given scholarship program for a specified school could claim up to a 90 percent state tax exemption. This program offers concrete, guaranteed tax benefits and a real opportunity for our Ukrainian schools to raise substantial operating funds.

As a professor of public administration, specializing in non-profit management, I reviewed the financial plan and deemed it to be workable. I also offered my services as well as the assistance of two student interns, to develop and manage a capital giving campaign and to work with the new Pennsylvania tax credit program. In a form letter that I received in late February, Metropolitan Soroka summarily dismissed any fund-raising ideas and never acknowledged my offers of professional assistance.

Yes, no parish should be required to have total funding responsibility for an undertaking as large as a regional school. Education does not make money in either the public or private sector. It exists to

(Continued on page 16)

Paula Holoviak, Ph.D., is associate professor of political science at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania. This article was submitted on March 18.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paying for programs in Ukrainian studies

Dear Editor:

The idea that the Ukrainian community should not have to pay private universities to "teach their culture" has been suggested in commentaries, which have criticized the drive to raise funds at Columbia University ("My friend, George Kalbous," "Persepctives" by Andrew Fedynsky, March 7; letter from George Kalbous, November 30 2003). The "Introduction to Ukrainian History and Culture" course at Ohio State University is cited as an example of how faculty (Dr. Kalbous) and Ukrainian community lobbying of legislators got the state university to offer and pay for a Ukrainian course.

Communities should certainly pursue this strategy and Prof. Kalbous and Mr. Fedynsky are to be congratulated for their initiative. In arguing their case they could turn to the prominence given to Ukrainian studies by the chairs at Harvard and they could show that the field possessed a considerable literature published primarily by the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press. Hence, programs funded by the community (HURI totally, CIUS in part) have strengthened the case for those seeking state support.

Moreover, endowing funds at top private universities, such as Columbia, and public funding of courses at state schools are not mutually exclusive. Both have helped to advance Ukrainian studies. Even in Canada, where public money was once readily available, private donations and endowments have now become essential components of support for Ukrainian studies programs.

I must clarify several points in the commentaries. This spring is not the first time Ukrainian history was taught at Columbia. The history courses offered this year are the first funded by the new endowed fund established just last year as part of the expansion of the Ukrainian studies curriculum. More importantly, the Columbia expansion is not about

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed.

The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Letters may also be e-mailed to staff@ukrweekly.com.

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establishing a course in a department. It encompasses a broad program that covers history, language, political science and other disciplines in different departments, institutes and schools at Columbia.

Arguing that Ukrainian studies should be funded by universities because they are wealthy or because they routinely fund Russian, German or French studies has not produced great results for us in our 46 years as advocates of Ukrainian studies. At a time when language and area studies are endangered, introducing new programs is difficult. The relatively weak international standing of Ukraine and the deplorable state of Ukrainian language and culture in Ukraine have not served to raise the prestige of Ukrainian studies to the degree we had hoped for since 1991.

Our goal must continue to include the initiation of programs in leading universities that recognize the value of a Ukrainian studies component in their humanities or international affairs curriculum. When we see this at an excellent university such as Columbia, we believe our organization and community should invest in it. And once the program at Columbia is established, it will be able to take advantage of the many resources the university offers, including government and private grants. I do hope that we shall be able to involve Prof. Kalbous, as a Columbia alumnus and successful builder of the field, in our important endeavor.

Roman Procyk
New York

The letter-writer is manager of the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

U.S.-Russia relations show signs of cooling

Dear Editor:

Peter D. Senkiw's well-written and informative letter to the editor "Sen. John McCain deserves thanks" from (February 22), about the article written by William Safire (one of the rare friends of the young Ukrainian state) in The New York Times, shows that America's Russia-friendly foreign policy might be cooling off.

In a similar vein, the editorial "Mr. Putin's remarks" published in The Providence Journal on Tuesday, February 24, ("remarks" that were noticed in all major American newspapers) shows that most American journalists are well informed and have full understanding of present-day Russia and its government's neo-Soviet-revanchist political culture. Russian President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB agent, by calling the demise of the Soviet Union "a national tragedy on an enormous scale..." showed his true colors. Note the word "national" in this context, which refers only to Russia.

The editorial further comments "Russia now has military forces in Belarus, Georgia and Moldova – and secret agents throughout the former empire. For example: Viktor Medvedchuk, a likely candidate for president of Ukraine, is a former KGB colleague of Mr. Putin."

The question for all Ukrainians (during this year of presidential elections) is: Are people like Mr. Medvedchuk going to continue to lead and govern Ukraine in the future?

G. Miroslaw Burbelo, MD
Westerly, R.I.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



"The Passion" according to Kurelek

Long before Mel Gibson there was William Kurelek. Like Mr. Gibson, Kurelek experienced a Christian epiphany that moved him to turn his prodigious Ukrainian Canadian artistic talents to illustrating the Bible, specifically "The Passion of Christ According to the Gospel of St. Matthew."

It was a monumental task. Each sentence in Matthew's gospel was deserving of a separate painting. Kurelek began his passion project on New Year's Day, 1960, and continued at an unbelievable pace, one painting per week for three years.

Once completed, there remained the question of where to exhibit the paintings. Mr. Kurelek was hoping for a permanent public exhibition somewhere, anywhere. An impossible dream. Who would risk providing facilities for 160 paintings devoted to "The Passion of Christ" in the 1960s, a time when the atheistic Left in North America was in its ascendancy?

But the Lord works in wondrous ways. "The advice in the Bible, 'Give and it shall be given unto you' – good measure, shaken together and overflowing," wrote William Kurelek in the foreword to his art book, "was quite literally fulfilled in my experience." Gloria Ochitva, art director of St. Vladimir's Institute in Toronto displayed the Passion series in its entirety. Most impressed were Toronto's Ukrainian Art Gallery dealers, Olha and Mykola Kolankiwsy. They offered to purchase the entire collection and to house it in the Art Gallery and Museum they were planning to build in Niagara Falls, Ontario. And that's where Lesia and I saw it many years ago.

William Kurelek was born in Whitford, Alberta, in 1927, the son of a Ukrainian immigrant family. The family later moved to Stonewall, Manitoba, where his father farmed and William attended a one-room school house. He excelled in his school work, especially his art projects and his teacher, a Mrs. Houghton, urged him to consider becoming an artist. Inspired, young William continued to draw and paint and to dream of monumental art projects.

Kurelek completed high school and university in Winnipeg, attending Ukrainian

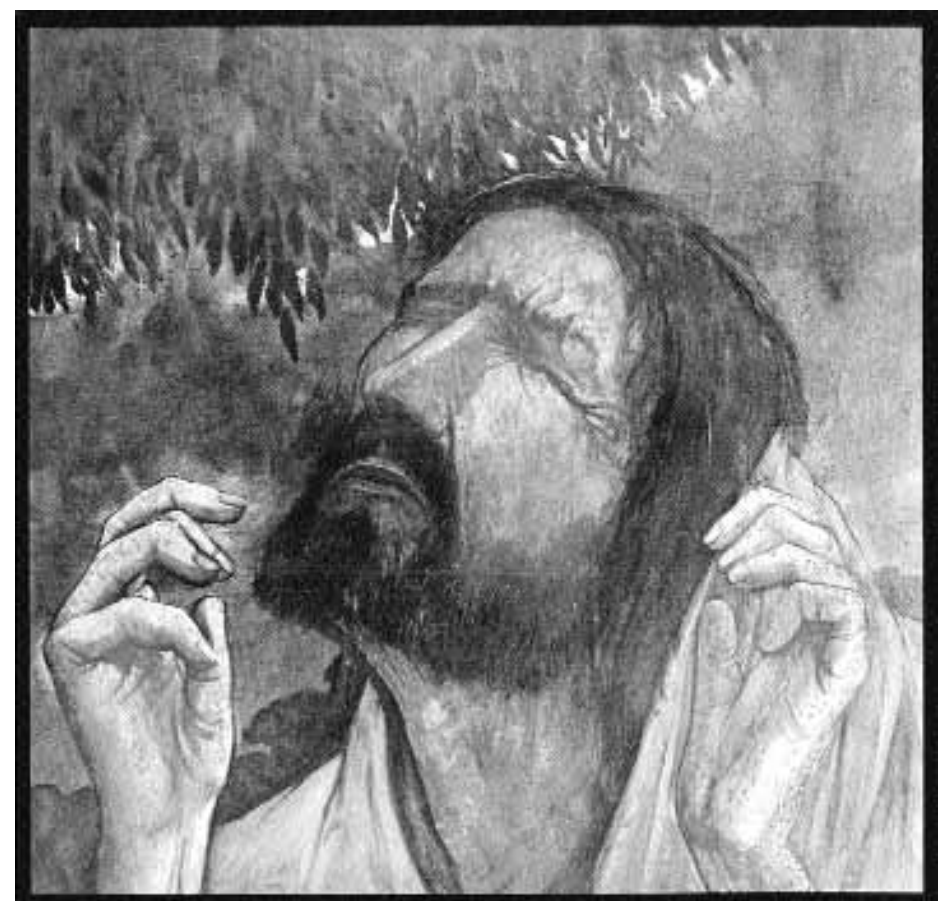
night school at the same time. Father Mayevsky, described by Kurelek in his foreword as "a dedicated Ukrainian nationalist," also had a great influence on his later career. To improve his skills as an artist, Kurelek later attended the Ontario College of Art and the Instituto Allende in Mexico.

It was during a seven-year stay in England, where he was hospitalized for severe depression, that Kurelek experienced his epiphany. At the time, he was not a religious person. "Religion nauseated me for I was a practicing atheist," he wrote. "Yet sorrow sometimes remarries a person to God ... I re-examined Christianity; it took me three long years, so determined was I that no one would pull the wool over my eyes. Finally, about the time I did see the light, it also dawned on me that this was what the prompting to do a monumental series of illustrations had been leading up to! What better story in the wide whole world to illustrate than the Word of God itself?" Returning to the Catholic faith of his parents, Kurelek continued his spiritual quest with the "Passion."

Called the Breughel of the North by art critics, Kurelek's most popular depictions focused on the ethnic life of Ukrainians, Jews, Poles, Irish, even Eskimos on the Canadian prairies. His works can be found in some 15 art museums and galleries in North America, including the Museum of Modern Art and the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. In addition to "The Passion of Christ," some 17 volumes of his plates and illustrations have been published including the prize-winning "A Prairie Boy's Winter" (1973), "Lumberjack" (1974) and "Fox Mykyta" (1978). He died in 1977.

As mentioned earlier, Kurelek's 160 masterpieces are available in book form. Interested readers can order "The Passion of Christ" from the Niagara Falls Art Gallery and Children's Museum, 8058 Oakwood Drive, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2E 6S5 for \$50 plus \$15 shipping and handling.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is: mbkuropas@compuserve.com.



One of the paintings from William Kurelek's series "The Passion of Christ."



Soyuzivka

for all seasons

TENNIS CAMP kicks off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction for boys and girls ages 12-18. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, expert lessons and a life time of memories are included!

June 20 - July 2, 2004

\$540 UNA Members, \$590 Non UNA Members

\$120 Instructors Fee/ Per Student

EXPLORATION DAY CAMP— a new day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with 6 hours of supervised day fun!

Week One: June 28- July 2, 2004

Week Two: July 5- July 9, 2004

\$100.00 Per Week/Per Child OR \$25.00 Per Day/Per Child

ADVENTURE CAMP is a brand new sleepover camp for 13-16 year olds and will focus on the outdoors. Like the Kozaks of old, daily life will include outdoor, overnight campouts with cooking & fireside storytelling. Will include wilderness survival skills, a kayak river trip, hiking, rock climbing lessons and more!

Week One: July 17 - July 24, 2004

Summer Camps 2004

Week Two: July 24- July 31, 2004

\$425 UNA Members, \$475 Non UNA Members

DISCOVERY CAMP a new sleepover program modeled after the Adventure Camp but geared for 8-12 year olds. This camp offers exposure to Ukrainian heritage & outdoor instruction. Daily life is filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included!

Week One: July 10- July 17, 2004

Week Two: July 17- July 24, 2004

Week Three: July 24- July 31, 2004

\$375- UNA Members, \$425- Non UNA Members

CHIMNEY YOUTH DAY CAMP a returning favorite for boys and girls ages 4-7. Kids will be exposed to Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Week One: July 18 - July 23, 2004

Week Two: July 25 - July 30, 2004

\$135 Per Camper

\$175 Per Camper If Not Overnight Guest

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NEWS AND VIEWS: St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church to be built in Hamptonburgh, N.Y.

by the Rev. Yaroslav Kostyk

"Thus says the Lord: the heavens are my throne, the earth is my footstool. What kind of house can you build for Me; what is to be My resting place?" (Isaiah 66:1). What could be more pleasing in our life than the conviction that we are doing something, not for ourselves, but for God and His glory? About the House of God, words from Holy Scripture come to mind when the Lord says "They will build a house for Me, and I will abide there."

When people talk about building a church, all too often they neglect to consider the reason we are erecting this house: a church is a special place where God lives. We know there are beautiful churches, not because man is looking for ways to magnify himself but because man is looking for God and wants to give back to God the talents He has given us building or renovating the House of God is evidence of a living faith. As Paul, the apostle to all nations, says, "He who is just lives by faith" (Galatians 3:11). If the process of building stops, it means man has lost faith, the meaning of his life. Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is for Ukrainians always and everywhere the rock on which our Ukrainian nation stands.

Behold the joy that has come to members of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church on the grounds of Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y. The good news about the beginning of construction of the new church in this holy place is joy

for our parishioners, Ukrainian Catholics of the Stamford Diocese, and those living beyond its borders. We call this place "holy" not only because it is consecrated, but because of the many sleeping here who have passed from us to eternity – our parents, brothers and sisters in Christ, and loved ones dear to our hearts – who earned their holiness during their lifetimes.

During their time among us, these people raised their children, loved Ukraine and their new American homeland, worked to build a better life, built churches, all for the glory of God. They devoted their energies to sacrificing for us. Surely, they took nothing out of this world, but they made us stewards of their inheritance, which is ours to preserve and pass on to the generations that come after us. The first gifts of their legacy are our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and the holy traditions of Ukraine.

In 2004 we observe the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Mission Parish of St. Andrew. Uniquely, our parish exists to meet not only the spiritual needs of the 48 families living in Orange County who participate in our parish life, but also the needs of all who come to Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery. We consider it to be our mission to minister to all our brothers and sisters in Christ who come to us which is why we wish to share our joy at the prospect of building our church. Maybe your loved one found rest in our parish, or, more correctly, in Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in which our parish of St. Andrew grew up. If so, you will be welcome to pray

with us.

Just as every parish's history has interesting lessons to teach to anyone who takes the time to acquaint himself with it, the history of our past 20 years will be recorded by the Eparchy of Stamford as a preparation for the building of our church. Let us remind you that, as of 1971, the diocesan cemetery was started here in Hamptonburgh and the central cross is a historical monument, the importance of which is universally acknowledged. In 1983, Bishop Basil Losten felt the necessity of meeting the spiritual needs of the faithful living in Orange County. He requested that the Rev. Roman Russo explore the possibility of celebrating the divine liturgy for the Ukrainian Catholics living in the Hamptonburgh region. These beautiful surroundings have inspired us to design a church worthy of the cross.

The Rev. Russo celebrated the first liturgy in the chapel in what would become the priest's house on Easter Sunday 1983, according to the Gregorian calendar. The chapel was consecrated to the honor of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle. The new parish, which consisted of 17 families, was established as a mission of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Spring Valley, N.Y. After this first Resurrection liturgy, the faithful gathered for worship on Saturday evenings, as the priest had to reserve Sundays to serve his main parish. After Father Russo, Father Julian Osadca of blessed memory commuted to St. Andrew's from Glen Spey, N.Y., Father Taras Galonzka served briefly after

Father Osadca, followed by Msgr. Peter Fedorchuck. Msgr. Fedorchuck commuted from Yonkers, N.Y., for a while, but soon made the house on the grounds of the cemetery his residence. In 1984, St. Andrew's was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York.

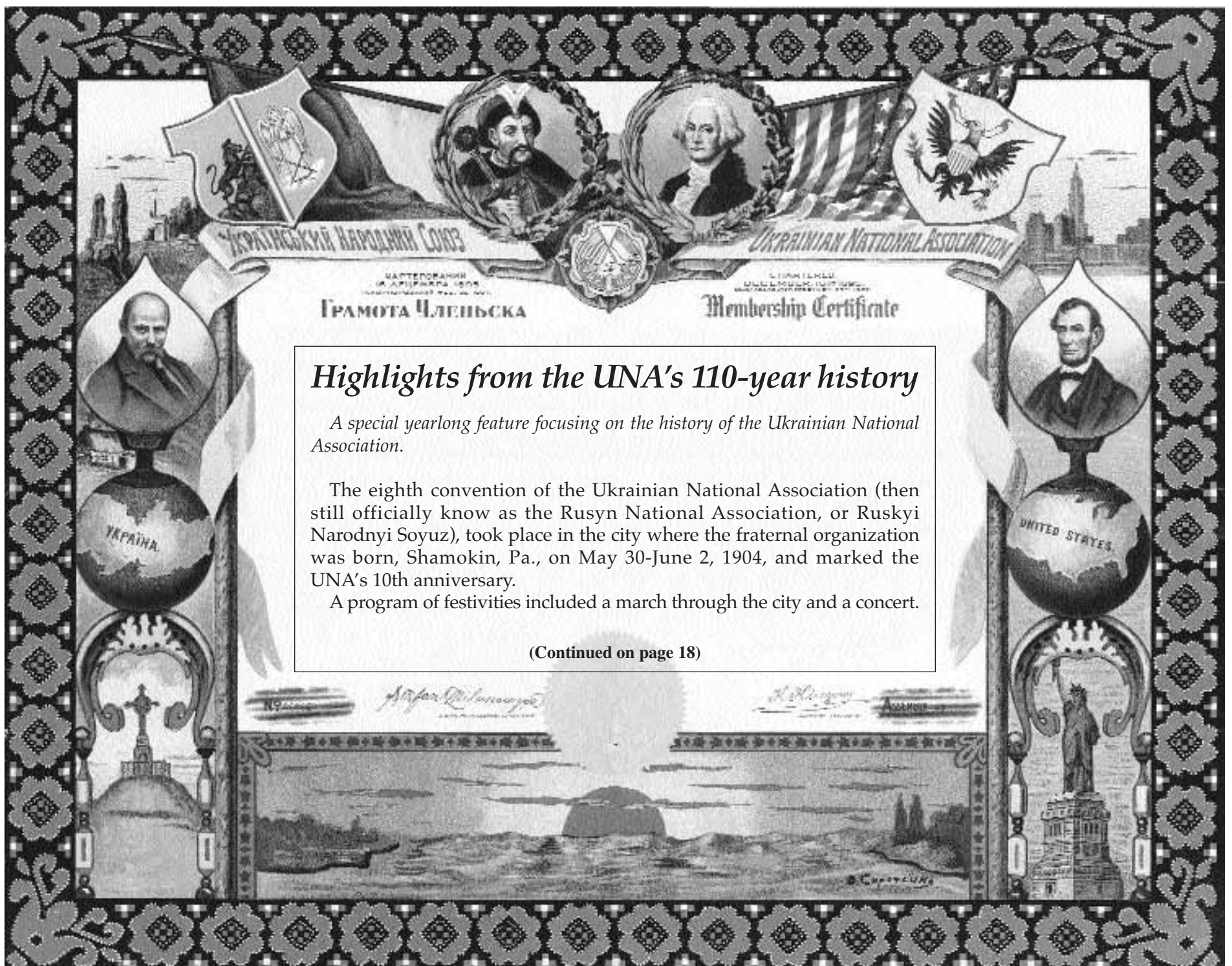
In 1994 during the tenure of Msgr. John Squiller, the mission parish of 48 families was raised to the status of full parish by Bishop Losten in acknowledgment of the hard work of the parishioners in support of the Eparchy of Stamford. The parishioners understood that their new status meant that more would be expected of them for the spiritual and material betterment of the parish.

For the past 10 years that we have been a full parish, Bishop Losten has been supportive of our desire to build a church. As our pastor is also the director of the cemetery, we are able to save money on the priest's expenses and devote it to the building of a church instead.

When the cemetery chapel was no longer able to meet the needs of our growing parish because it was too small, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Parish in nearby Washingtonville generously made its chapel available to our use for Sunday liturgy. For holy days, our parish is invited to come to the chapel in the priest's house.

Since 1994, the question of building a church has come under serious consideration. To encourage our aspirations, Bishop Losten personally donated

(Continued on page 23)



(Continued on page 18)

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

SUM debutante ball is 40th annual for youth association

by Orest Kozicky

SECAUCUS, N.J. – The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) sponsored its 40th annual Debutante Ball at the Secaucus-Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in New Jersey on February 14. The ball is a traditional affair at which each debutante is formally presented to the community as a young lady, having attained the milestone of her 16th birthday.

Genya Kuzmowycz-Blahy, who was appointed by the national board of SUM to head the ball's organizing committee, formally opened the ceremonies and welcomed the debutantes and the 580 family members and guests. After the opening prayer was conducted by the Very Rev. Bohdan Danylo, the emcees, Marta Kolinsky-Boyko and Pavlo Figol, began the presentation of each of the 19 debutantes individually.

After an affectionate exchange with her parents, each debutante was joined by her escort and formally introduced while strolling through the center of the ballroom and was heartily welcomed by the guests.

This year's debutantes included Larysa Balko (SUM branch in Yonkers, N.Y.) escorted by Peter Drobenko, Cassandra Bytz (Whippany, N.J.) escorted by Volodya Yurcheniuk, Christina Diduch (Passaic, N.J.) escorted by Peter Podobinsky, Laura Diduch (Passaic) escorted by Stefan Porada, Christine Harhaj (New York) escorted by Andrew Paska, Natalie Horbachevsky (Yonkers) escorted by Andrew Bzowycyk, Orisia Kozicky (Yonkers) escorted by Andrew Medwid, Natalya Kuzewycz (Philadelphia) escorted by Mathew Johnson, Natalia Kuziw (Passaic) escorted by Roman Palylyk, Lida Nahorniak (Irvington, N.J.) escorted by Philip Usilowycz, Tamara Padko (Passaic) escorted by Peter Kovak, Alexandra Perich (Yonkers) escorted by Damian Shchur, Tatiana Rebensky (Philadelphia) escorted by Roman Kebalo, Melanie Romaniw (Hartford, Conn.) escorted by



Wowk Photography

The 2004 SUM debutantes, from branches in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, with their escorts.

Markian Kolinsky, Bohdanna Gensior-Sadnytsky (Goshen, N.Y.) escorted by Yuriy Romaniw, Daria Szafran (Hartford) escorted by Max Say, Tracy Torhan (unaffiliated) escorted by Taras Kulynych, Natalie Yaworsky (Philadelphia) escorted by Christopher Gojdyz and Tania Zurawski (Passaic) escorted by Danylo Vitek.

Bohdan Harhaj, the president of SUM's national executive board, congratulated and warmly addressed the debu-

tantes. The 19 young couples then delighted the audience with an exquisite minuet choreographed by balletmaster Hryhorij Momot. Each debutante then joined her father in a heartwarming waltz.

An evening of lively dancing to the music of Zolota Bulava of Montreal and Na Zdorovia of Yonkers followed and culminated in a kolomyika that lasted over 30 minutes.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the debutante ball, a reunion of all pre-

vious and current debutantes followed, providing an opportunity for a memorable photograph.

Each guest received a program booklet summarizing each debutante's accomplishments and future plans.

The organizing committee for the event included: Ms. Kuzmowycz-Blahy, the emcees, Ms. Kolinsky-Boyko and Mr. Figol, and members Lida Mykytyn, Petro Kosciolek, Natalka Kudryk, Adrianna Rudyk, Ircia Liber and Laryssa Blahy.



Wowk Photography

The reunion of debutantes, past and present, during the 40th annual SUM debutante ball.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Chicago SUM's Malanka introduces 2004 debutantes

by Chrystya Wereszczak

CHICAGO – The annual New Year's Ball, or Malanka, of the Mykola Pavlushkov Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) in Chicago was held on Saturday, January 10, at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

Guests arrived at 6 p.m. for delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails in the foyer of the Grand Ballroom. The traditional friendly and joyous atmosphere was at once evident as old and new friends greeted each other throughout the hour. Guests then entered the lovely gilded hall and were seated at elegantly set tables. Beautiful commemorative booklets compiled by Maryka Krutiak were included in the table setting. Paul Kulas, master of ceremonies, opened the celebration by greeting the more than 500 guests present.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of nine lovely debutantes, conducted by Kateryna Kulas, choreographer of the debutante presentation, and a counselor in SUM over many years for most of the debutantes. Guests greeted the proud and beaming parents.

Descending gracefully down one of two staircases leading from the balcony, each debutante was individually introduced with a brief description of her activities and future plans, receiving the traditional sash and congratulations from the "bulavnyi," Andriy Kosowsky, and president, Taras Drozd, of the Mykola Pavlushkov Branch, as well as the "bulavna," Diana Fedaj, of the Dmytro Vitovskiy Branch in Palatine. Their individual presentation ended with each of the debutantes greeting the guests with a deep and graceful bow.

Mr. Drozd greeted all of the guests and their families with warmest wishes for the coming New Year. Congratulating the debutantes, he wished them success as they embark on their path into adulthood.

Ms. Kulas continued with the presentation, calling upon the fathers to lead their daughters in a waltz. Throughout the nicely choreographed dance, one could not help but notice the bond of love between father and daughter, appropriately expressed at the end of the dance with a kiss from the fathers on the foreheads of their daughters.

The mothers were honored next in a touching ceremony. The youngest members of "yunatsvo," twins Roksolana and Petro Jerzewsky, distributed long-



Debutantes and their escorts at the Chicago SUM ball: Christina Bilyk with Gregory Sidelnik, Natalie Fedorenko with Joseph Skworch, Svetlana Goncharoff with Adrian Hulyk, Kristine Hrinik with Drew McKenna, Natalia Jerzewski with Michael Watral, Kristen Kulinczenko with Mark Fafendyk, Sonia Lawrecki with Mark Pawlos, Adriana Popowycz with Danylo Maksymiw, and Natalia Zaporaniuk with Lubomyr Boris.

stemmed red roses to each of the debutantes, who then presented them to their mothers. There were many tears of joy among the mothers as well as the guests.

The spotlight was then on the debutantes and their escorts. To an interesting medley by Andre Rieu, they delighted the guests with another wonderfully choreographed dance, interweaving traditional and Ukrainian flavor. Throughout a spirited series of dips, twirls and bows, they covered the entire large dance floor. Their radiance, grace, beauty, elegance and charm were awarded with extended applause from the guests.

After a prayer led by the Rev. Ivan Krotec, pastor of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Parish in Chicago, guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and dancing to the sounds of the Zorepad and Impulse bands, both from Chicago.

At the stroke of midnight New Year favors were brought out and friends and acquaintances embraced each other with the New Year. Reluctantly, guests left, but did so with wonderful memories. The lovely

evening was made possible by the Malanka committee chaired by Lilia Zaporaniuk and members Odarka Czerniak, Darka Kuszniir-Harrison, Ms. Krutiak, Ms. Kulas, Chrystyna Matkowskyj-Korol and Marusia Worobec.

Washington's annual Malanka continues regional tradition

by Chrystia Shashkewych-Oryshkevych

WASHINGTON – On Saturday, January 10, the Ukrainian Association of Washington again hosted a formal New Year's Malanka. The elegant happening took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Georgetown University Conference Center.

Though there were no debutantes at this year's ball (organizers expect a group of debutantes next year), it was refreshing to see many new faces, as well as familiar attendees at the gala. During the cocktail reception Mykhailo Reznik, Ukraine's new ambassador to the U.S., and his wife, Iryna, had an opportunity to mingle and chat with Ukrainians living in the Washington area.

Afterwards the co-presidents of the association, Sophika Nakonechny Smith and Halyna Breslawec, gave welcoming

remarks and introduced the board, who helped in planning this event: Iryna Kost, Rick Smith, John Kun, Chrystia and Yaromyr Oryshkevych, and Slavko and Oleh Voloshyn.

Also in attendance were the Revs. Taras Lonchyna, Volodymyr Steliak and Wasyl Charuk. The Rev. Dr. Petro Galadza, a visiting professor from the Sheptytsky Institute in Ottawa, gave the benediction.

Ms. Nakonechny-Smith introduced Ambassador Reznik, who greeted all and expressed best wishes for the New Year.

After dinner, music was provided by Chicago's Veseli Chasy. There was a champagne toast at midnight to welcome the New Year. The band played many favorites to everyone's enjoyment.

The association's next Malanka Debutante Ball is slated for January 15, 2005.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Illinois chapter of Ukrainian Medical Association sponsors ball

by Maria Hrycelak

CHICAGO, Ill. – The Illinois Chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) hosted the 43rd annual Charity Ball and Presentation of Debutantes on February 14 at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel in Chicago.

A simple St. Valentine's Day theme welcomed the 375 guests as they entered the historic Grand Ballroom. The entrance of the debutantes, their parents and escorts into the beautiful ballroom was impressive.

Dr. Bohdan Charkewycz, president of the Illinois Chapter of UMANA, and his wife, Roxana, presented the nine debutantes: Daria Chylak with Alec Kulinczenko, Helen Hanowsky with Antin Durbak, Andrea Iwaniuk with Yuri Petrasz, Inna Lonchyna with Alexander Oryshkevych, Andrea Markewych with Roman Pylypczak, Tatiana Matusiak with Daniel Demus, Diana Melnyk with Stephen Dykun, Tamara Pleskiewicz with Michael Reay, and Alanna Sosenko with Andrew Dziuk.

Under the expert choreography of Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak, an intricate and beautiful dance program materialized in the ballroom.

Dr. Charkewycz then welcomed the debutantes, their parents, escorts and guests from the United States and Canada. Dr. Ihor Jastremsky greeted the debutantes from the Ukrainian Veterinary Medical Association, Chicago Chapter. Representing the proud parents, Dr. Roksolana Tymiak-Lonchyna addressed the debutantes and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Speaking on behalf of the debutantes,



Elan Photography

Debutantes and their escorts at the ball of the Illinois Chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

Miss Matusiak and Andrea Markewych, thanked their parents as well as the organizers of the evening.

After dinner, several hundred more guests arrived and danced the night away

to the music of the local Veseli Chasy/Good Times band. This year, the charity ball will distribute any proceeds to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation and the Historic and

Educational Complex – Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The 2004 organizing committee members included Dr. Maria Hrycelak and Larissa Iwanetz.

Philly branch of Engineers' Society holds 50th annual ball

by Metodij Boretsky

PHILADELPHIA – The 50th Engineers' Ball of the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) was held here on Saturday, February 21, at the Park Hyatt Hotel. This year's ball included a banquet, presentation of debutantes, performance by the Voloshky Dance Ensemble and a ball to the music of the Tempo orchestra.

After the cocktail hour, Metodij Boretsky, head of the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, opened the event and greeted the guests, especially the Rev. John Tsurpita; Ukraine's Consul General in New York

Serhiy Pohoreltsev and his wife, Svitlana; parents of debutantes; the president of the executive board of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Andriy Wowk; and the vice-president of the UESA, Marco Shmerykowsky; and wished all the guests an enjoyable and a pleasant evening. Mr. Boretsky also introduced the master of ceremonies, Nestor Kyzymyshyn. After the formal opening, the dinner-banquet began with the invocation delivered by the Rev. Tsurpita.

After the dinner was served, the 10 debutantes and their escorts were presented: Natalia Olga Antoniak with Eryk Rizanow, Sophia Ulana Bilynsky with

Khristopher Rizanow, Aleksandra Marie Wolchasty with Alexander Knihnytsky, Taisa Nina Hewka with Oles Metsiyak, Ivanna Hovhere with Andriy Harasevych, Kristina Katherine Dukh with Stephan Drabyk, Roxanne Zalucky with Dmytro Hrytsiv, Dianna Iwaskiw with Hryhorij Kotsko, Kateryna Maria Olchowecky with Nikolas Evangelist, and Andrea Maria Fylypovych with Tymotej Andersen.

The debutantes and their escorts were formally greeted by Mr. Boretsky, and introduced by Mr. Kyzymyshyn and Olenka Karpynych.

Mr. Boretsky congratulated each debutante personally and pinned ribbons on

them with the assistance of Zirka Kyzymyshyn and Maria Cyhan. Ms. Cyhan, Nilya Pawluk, Slawa Halaway and Chrystyna Hud prepared debutantes for the presentation ceremony. As part of the presentation ceremony Mr. Boretsky formally greeted the debutantes on behalf of the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America and Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephan Soroka.

Consul General Pohoreltsev delivered his own greeting, as well as one on behalf of Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Mykhailo Reznik.

At this point of the event the Voloshky

(Continued on page 13)



Debutantes with their escorts and organizers of the 2004 Ukrainian Engineers' Society Ball in Philadelphia.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Chervona Kalyna ball presents debutantes to the community

by Marta Kichorowska-Kebalo

WHIPPANY, N.J. – This year's Chervona Kalyna debutante ball was held on February 7 at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, N.J. Four debutante couples were introduced to the Ukrainian community that evening, in the presence of their parents and the many guests attending the Chervona Kalyna banquet. Among those enjoying the evening were Ukraine's Consul General Serhii Pohoreltsev with his wife, Svitlana, and Col. Anatolii Kononenko, counselor and military advisor for the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, with his wife, Iryna.

Ihor Sochan, the head of the Chervona Kalyna Organizing Committee, greeted the guests and expressed his appreciation to various members of the Chervona Kalyna Plast Fraternity and the many others who helped make the evening a success: Yaroslav Stawnychy, assistant head of the Chervona Kalyna committee; Olya Stawnychy, who chose the beautiful flower arrangements and debutante bouquets; Marta and Orest Kebalo, the debutante presentation coordinators; and Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, the debut choreographer. He also acknowledged the contributions of Marichka Sochan-Tymyc, press liaison (tableau) and designer of the Chervona Kalyna printed programs, and Bohdan Tytla, designer of the invitation. Several members of the younger chapter of the Chervona Kalyna fraternity also volunteered as controllers at the doors all evening.

The four debutante couples were: Larissa Andrejko of Ronkonkoma, N.Y. escorted by Vasil Kunitski of East Meadow, N.Y.; Natalia Bilchuk of Jersey City, N.J., escorted by Lesyk Myskiw of Union, N.J.; Ola Oliyarnik of Manhattan, escorted by Andrew Dziuk of Elmhurst, Ill.; and Larissa Pyszczymuka of Bellmore, N.Y., escorted by Petro Mycio of Old Bethpage, N.Y.

The couples made a captivating entrance to the traditional melody of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen. The Tempo orchestra, also a Chervona Kalyna tradition, provided the musical background to their elegant "debutante quadrille" and their first waltz to the soft romantic strains of "My Kyiv."

Then the four couples joined the rest



Wowk Photography

Chervona Kalyna's 2004 debutantes with their escorts and the ball organizing committee.

of the Chervona Kalyna revelers, dancing the night away to the music of Tempo and Oles Kuzyszyn's Luna orchestra, right up to the traditional "Hopak" climax of the evening. They were a wonderful presence on the dance floor all evening; the escorts taking their roles seriously, charmingly exchanging partners for various dances, and reminding us all of the meaning of a "social."

Next year's Chervona Kalyna will be held on January 29, 2005, at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel in East Rutherford, N.J. Questions regarding debutante registration may be directed to Marta Kichorowska-Kebalo at (718) 291-4166 or mkebal@aol.com.



The four debutantes and their escorts happily take time out for an unusual photo of their special day.

Philly branch...

(Continued from page 12)

Dance Ensemble performed several Ukrainian dances to the delight of the audience. Mr. Wowk of New York also delivered a short speech on behalf of the UESA executive board. The dance program continued.

About 400 people attended the dinner

and more than 600 persons enjoyed the dance afterwards.

The committee that organized the 2004 Engineers' Ball was composed of Mr. Boretsky, chairman, Petro Hewka, Larissa Zaika, Martha Shyprykevych, Ihor Kowaliw, Alexander Jarymowych, Wolodymyr Horbowyj, Myron Bilas, Mychajlo Komanowsky and Wolodymyr Kuzyk.



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Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Plast's Newark branch hosts its traditional debutante ball



Plast debutantes and their escorts at the annual ball organized by the Newark branch of Plast-Pryiat and the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

by Irene Turynsky

WHIPPANY, N.J. – On January 31, Plast-Pryiat and the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization branch of Newark, N.J., held their traditional debutante ball at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, N.J.

As the debutantes, resplendent in their long white gowns, entered the Grand Ballroom with a graceful promenade choreographed by Oksana Bauer, masters of ceremonies Lida Moczula and Lubodar Olesnycky presented the eight

debutantes to the Ukrainian community.

On the occasion of this special event, Alexandra Lebed, vice-president of the Newark Plast branch, warmly greeted the debutantes. The program also included an invocation by two local pastors, the Rev. Roman Mirchuk of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, and the Rev. Bohdan Lukie of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark.

Andrea Lebed, hurtkova (leader) of the girls' hurtok (troop), whose members were making their debut that evening, recounted some of the memorable moments she and her friends had experienced during their scouting years.

The debutantes, accompanied by their escorts, were as follows: Olena Stefania Borkowsky with Markian Kuzmowycz, Lidia Maria Doll with Alexander Drabyk, Deanna Tamara Kochan with Jonathan Nahnybida, Natalia Olha Kuziv with Maksym Artymyshyn, Andrea Ivanna Lebed with Stephan Drabyk, Kristina

Olga Melnyk with Alexander Myskiw, Amanda Rohowsky with Paul Mulyk, and Natalie Maria Temnycky with Alexander Skalchuk.

Over 375 guests enjoyed the dinner, and numerous additional guests arrived to dance to the music of two orchestras, Tempo of New Jersey and Zolota Bulava of Montreal. The evening was a magical event for the debutantes, families and guests alike.

The organizing committee for the 2004 debut comprised Irene Turynsky, Darka Semanyshyn, Laryssa Nahnybida, Zenia Olesnycky and Lida Moczula.

As the past years, the committee members thanked the Self Reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union of Newark for its continued support, which included funding the printing of invitations, advertisements, tickets and the program book for the debutante ball.

Next year's Newark Plast debutante ball has been scheduled for February 5, 2005.

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Ukrainian Debutante Balls

California debutante ball raises funds for aid to Ukraine

by Anne Kokawa Prokopovych

LOS ANGELES – Debutantes and guests traveled from near and far to discover that it really does rain in “sunny” southern California. However, the elegance and high spirits of the 2004 California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) Ball and Presentation of Debutantes, held at the Glendale Hilton, transformed the evening into one that the 300 or so in attendance hoped would never end.

Seven of the nine debutantes flew in from Canada to debut in Los Angeles. The evening was also honored by the attendance of Dr. Valery Hrebeniuk, consul general of Ukraine, and five others from the recently opened Consulate in San Francisco.

The annual ball is a major fund-raising and community-building event for CAAU. Proceeds from the 2004 event are designated for programs to benefit orphans in Ukraine. This year’s direct appeal for winter hats, gloves and mittens for orphans brought in over 300 items, which will be shipped to several orphanages in Ukraine.

The silent auction has become an outstanding feature of the annual event, generating good-natured competition, as guests bid for their favorite items. There were over 100 items to choose from in categories such as “movies, music and more,” “art and collectibles,” and “special experiences.” Some of the items won by successful bidders include a world premiere of an upcoming major film, a complete DirectTV System, a two-hour sunset flight over Los Angeles, an afternoon of sailing in San Diego Bay, and an autographed poster from the movie “Legally Blonde 2.”

The California Association to Aid Ukraine began about 14 years ago as a grass-roots Ukrainian American community response to democratic developments in Ukraine. It continues to channel local resources toward projects in Ukraine, allowing the local community to have a direct and positive impact in the fields of health, education, ecology, economy, cultural development and national democratic processes. Specific projects are adapted to local priorities and the changing needs in Ukraine.

Over the years, CAAU has coordinated several fund-raising programs to channel support through organizations such as the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. CAAU has provided assistance to the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and other educational institutions, various orphanages, meals for senior citizens, hospitals and medical research facilities. In 2003, CAAU helped to sponsor a conference organized by the Youth Diplomacy Center at Ivan Franko University in Lviv, whose mission is to create a better public image of Ukraine through student exchange programs.

CAAU has joined with the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine, U.S.A., to support the rebirth of sports in Ukraine, Ukrainian Olympic teams, and the publication of school books, technical books and manuals.

The association has also worked in partnership with other organizations. It joined with the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) to support the “Eye Project for Ukraine,” which improved the delivery of ophthalmologic services. It has collaborated with the Children’s Medical Foundation to improve training and medical service delivery, especially in the field of neonatology.



California debutantes (from left) Christina Blumer (Van Nuys, Calif.), Natalka Semotiuk (Edmonton), Andriyka Nazarevich (Winnipeg), Lesia Stefaniw (Edmonton), Adriana Tovstiuk (Edmonton), Areta Hryshuk (Edmonton), Julie Jelf (Mission Viejo, Calif.), Svitlana Malyzynsky (Winnipeg) and Anastacia Koper (Edmonton) with their escorts (from left) Eric Hernandez, Stefan Iwankiw, Jack Wysocki, Zac Yacimec, Mark Semotiuk, Yuriy Gaborak, Robbie Lamour, Michael Nazarevich and Michael Kasij.

CAAU also has a long-standing collaboration with Wheelchairs for Humanity that has supplied hundreds of wheelchairs to needy people in Ukraine. Volunteers at the Wheelchairs for Humanity facility in North Hollywood, Calif., refurbish and customize used wheelchairs for individuals with special needs in Ukraine. In October 2003, 161 of these wheelchairs, along with other related equipment and

tools, were delivered and fitted to 250 individuals in Ivano-Frankivsk. The next shipment is planned for Uzhorod in 2004.

CAUU has worked closely with the Committee to Assist Ukrainian Orphans and Children without Parental Care to distribute aid to needy orphans in various areas of Ukraine. Assistance delivered to Ukraine in 2003 includes stipends for students in the Kharkiv region enrolled in

higher educational programs, and the purchase of cows for an orphanage in Radomyshl to provide milk and milk products for the 276 resident orphans.

CAAU is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Contributions and inquiries may be addressed to CAAU, c/o Marta Mykytyn-Hill, Treasurer, 1219 Via Arroyo, Ventura, CA 93003.



The board of directors California Association to Aid Ukraine (seated, from left) Christina Shymkovich, Nadine Hewko, Andrea Wynnyk, Marta Mykytyn-Hill, (standing) Ivan Dutka, Luba Keske, Bohdan Mykytyn, Susan Koziak, Roman Kulczycky, Lesia Chopko, Paul Micevych, Taras Matla, Mark Billey, Yarko Maryniuk, Anne Prokopovych and Irynej Prokopovych.

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The real tragedy...

(Continued from page 6)

inculcate certain societal values necessary to the functioning of the community. St. John's offers an Eastern Christian perspective to Catholic, Orthodox and, yes, even Protestant students.

St. John's is a living example of ecumenism and evangelization. Do our Church leaders take this seriously or is this just another instance of empty platitudes?

St. John's offers more than just education to the Ukrainian community of the Lehigh Valley. Without St. John's School, there will be no religious education beyond the second grade in the parish. There will be no formal teaching of Ukrainian language, culture or history in the Lehigh Valley. The charitable relationships between the school and the orphanage in Kherson Oblast in Ukraine and with the Northampton area food bank will cease.

I have reached a personal crisis of faith. Our hierarchy, Catholic and Orthodox, talk a great deal about the future of our Church and put forth many pastoral pronouncements about youth. Yet their actions do not correspond with their words.

In a recent meeting in sunny Florida in February, the hierarchs of both Churches bemoaned the lack of cooperation between secular Ukrainian community groups and the Church leadership. Could this be happening because, while the bishops meet and discuss, the community leaders actually work with our youth?

The next time you attend a church service, make a mental note of the average age of the congregation. In my own parish at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts this past week, with the exception of my son, the priest's son and the cantor's two boys, the average age of the attendees was probably 70.

So, the next time some hierarch asks for your money to fund a closed or nearly empty seminary or a church in Ukraine, think long and hard about where it is headed. Meanwhile, our secular organizations run camps and teach dance, hold scout meetings and spend their Saturdays teaching language and literature. These are the organizations concerned with our youth. These are the organizations teaching Christian values.

We all know how the story ended for Gov. Wallace. Desegregation triumphed in the South and even Gov. Wallace came to espouse right thinking. As for Metropolitan Soroka, the jury is still out on his legacy. If the closing of our schools is any indication, his monument will surely read "Metropolitan Soroka: he destroyed."

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

UUARC marks 60th year of helping Ukrainians in need

PHILADELPHIA – The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. – the first Ukrainian humanitarian aid organization in the United States – is celebrating its 60th year of helping Ukrainians in need. UUARC was formed with the intent of uniting the assistance efforts of all Ukrainian organizations in the U.S., as decided at the second congress of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on January 22, 1944, in Philadelphia.

In the spirit of the motto "Brother to Brother," the UUARC during its six decades of community work, has united Ukrainian Americans, their political or religious differences notwithstanding.

The UUARC's work over the years has been based on a well-thought-out plan of aid to ethnic Ukrainians scattered around the globe, and is primarily funded through donations from the Ukrainian American community. The charitable activities of the UUARC are mainly humanitarian and extend to aid to refugees, immigrants, orphans, the elderly, invalids, former dissidents, victims of natural and man-made disasters and, generally, to anyone in need.

The UUARC supports the Ukrainian Church, Ukrainian art, and Ukrainian education and publishing. Currently, the UUARC is concentrating on helping Ukrainians in Ukraine withstand the difficulties their country is experiencing.

The UUARC will observe its 60 years of service with a festive celebration to be held in November in Philadelphia.

The UUARC is asking anyone who was sponsored in their immigration efforts by the UUARC (or anyone whose parents may have been sponsored) to send any pictures they may have from their time of immigration, along with a brief description. Please

include first and last names (and maiden names), date of arrival (approximate dates are OK), where from and where to. Please include an addressed and stamped envelope for the return of the original pictures. Please mail photos to: UUARC Inc., 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111; or e-mail to: uuarc@bellatlantic.net. Please mark submissions "Immigration Photos."

UUARC helps orphan get eye operation

PHILADELPHIA – An operation to remove 17-year-old Ukrainian orphan Olya Bartkiv's atrophied eye was finally successful, and a prosthetic eye is to be implanted this March. The operation required three surgical procedures, as certain complications were encountered. Performed by Drs. Ihor Bakym, Natalia Sychevska and Myroslava Handiy, the operation was a joint effort between Prizma Direct, a German company headed by Jorgan Jungnitz of Frankfurt am Main and the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee office in Lviv.

Olya, an orphan since her earliest years, has resided at the Koropetska School for Orphaned Children, and her eye has been atrophied since early childhood. It was imperative that the eye be removed and a prosthesis implanted.

Thanks to the intercession of Bohdan Kurylko, the German company Prizma Direct sponsored the operation. Now that the operations are over the UUARC's Dr. Andriy Dyda continues to coordinate the effort, driving Olya to doctors' appointments and to the fittings for the prosthesis.

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With deep sorrow, we announce the unexpected passing on March 9, 2004, of our dear friend, beloved son and brother

BOHDAN BUCICOVSCHI, PhD

born June 9, 1963, in Sighet, Romania, founding member of the Ukrainian Students' Club at Ohio State University and member of the Ukrainian Cultural Association in Columbus, Ohio

Left in deep sorrow:

Father – Vasyl in Romania
Brother – Orest in Romania

Near and distant relatives in Romania and Ukraine, as well as grieving friends in Columbus, Middletown, Conn., Cleveland, Los Angeles and Rochester, N.Y.



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що дня 17 березня 2004 р. упокоїлася у Бозі найдорожча МАМА

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СЛУЖБА БОЖА була відправлена у суботу, 20 березня 2004 р. о год. 12-й пол. в церкві св. Андрея в Гемптонбургу, Н.Й.

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North Dakota pysanka maker decorates egg for White House

by Agnes Palanuk

DICKINSON, N.D. – Ukrainian American Ruth Olienyk Radebaugh of Belfield, N.D., was selected by the American Egg Board to design an egg to represent the state of North Dakota. All states submit a decorated egg for the White House exhibit that will be staged in the nation's capital in April. The egg is designed specifically with the First Lady in mind for it will become part of the White House collection.

Ms. Radebaugh used the wax-resist method to create her design. She divided the egg into four sections, each separated by netting lines. In each section, she

placed the symbols for North Dakota. These symbols are a map of North Dakota showing the Missouri River, a buffalo, an eagle, wheat stalks, the wild rose, and Lewis and Clark. The ends of the egg are designed with Christian symbols shown on white, magenta and orange on a black background.

Ms. Radebaugh and her family will be invited to view the display and tour the White House in April.

Ms. Radebaugh, along with North Dakota's 2003 egg designer, Paulette Haverluk Haldeman, also teaches the wax-resist method used in creating the

(Continued on page 19)



Ruth Olienyk Radebaugh of Belfield, N.D., was chosen to design an egg to represent the state at a White House exhibit. On the right is a photo of the pysanka that she completed, using symbols of North Dakota and noting the historic expedition of Lewis and Clark.



Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

(Continued from page 9)

During the parade, Ukrainian brotherhoods were joined by American groups in what Svoboda described as "a truly magnificent march." Among the marchers were the local police and fireman, Spanish War Veterans, and American Indians led by their chief. "... for the first time the Ukrainian people showed their strength and unity to the world," Svoboda noted. Afterwards, the Ukrainians attended liturgy in the local church where Father Strutynsky delivered a sermon "calling for unity, cooperation, brotherly love and hard work for the good of Ukraine-Rus'."

Svoboda also cited an excerpt from a news report about the jubilee concert that was carried by the local press:

"The freedom-loving Ukrainians concluded yesterday with a convention of their National Association with a concert at the opera hall. There was a large audience on hand. It was thrilled by Ukrainian music. For many Ukrainian music was a revelation.

"In depth of emotion it surpasses the music of many other peoples, and contains a kind of sadness and yearning that reflect the nature of this freedom-loving people, who have fought so long to gain freedom. Many of them have come to America to enjoy our freedom and to become the best citizens of our country."

This was perhaps the first time that the American press referred to the Ukrainians as a distinct people, wrote Anthony Dragan in his book "Ukrainian National Association: Its Past and Present, (1894-1964)."

Also on the occasion of the UNA's 10th anniversary, as well as the 10th anniversary of Svoboda, the Ukrainian-language newspaper published a special 18-page issue that consisted of two sections: "Native Ukrainians to Their Brothers Beyond the Ocean" and "Ukrainians Beyond the Ocean to Their Brothers in Ukraine." The special edition illustrated that Ukrainians back home cared about the fate of their brothers abroad and that Ukrainians who had emigrated cared about the fate of their homeland. Svoboda's editorial noted: "Let us pledge today that we shall work constantly for the good of our great nation to bring about as soon as possible the greatest of all great days when Ukraine shall be free and independent."

Source: "Ukrainian National Association: Its Past and Present, (1894-1964)," by Anthony Dragan (translated from the original Ukrainian by Zenon Snylyk). Jersey City, N.J.: Svoboda Press, 1964. The border featured in this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.

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Spotlight...

(Continued from page 5)

eventually merged with Branch 7.

In 1933 at the convention in Detroit, Mr. Kapitula was re-elected as auditor. He was re-elected at each convention thereafter until he died.

On April 27, 1934, Branch 7 along with Branch 85 in Hazleton, Pa., jointly commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Association. A concert was held in the former Strand Theater in McAdoo. The church choir, under the direction of Mr. Laboyko, performed, and schoolchildren presented recitations. The main speaker for the event was Roman Slobodian, supreme treasurer of the UNA; attorney Adam Bavolack spoke in English. A dinner followed the concert held in the church hall.

In 1938, Branch 7 organized and sponsored a baseball team in McAdoo.

During his tenure as supreme auditor, Mr. Kapitula was instrumental in purchasing the property in Ellenville, N.Y., now known as Soyuzivka. On July 4, 1953, he raised the first American flag at Soyuzivka.

Mr. Kapitula served as supreme auditor until his death on December 25, 1953. To recognize this man for his dedication to the UNA, the branch was renamed in his honor.

Branch 7 was involved in commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the UNA in Shamokin, Pa., the cradle of the UNA; the 75th anniversary of the UNA and the 80th anniversary of Svoboda. Branch 7 joined in sponsoring a two-day festival in Lakewood Park, in Barnesville, Pa., on August 18-19, 1973. The festival included a dance and a moleben followed by a concert.

In 1983 Branch 85 from Hazleton merged with Branch 7.

Branch 7 has been involved in church activities and community affairs. The secretary/treasurer of the branch, Helen Slovik, for many years has taught the parish youth and young adults the Ukrainian language. Adolph Slovik is the branch president.

Officers of the branch continually strive to increase UNA membership.

The current officers of UNA Branch 7 are: Adolph Slovik, president, and Helen Slovik, secretary/treasurer.

North Dakota...

(Continued from page 18)

Ukrainian Easter egg – the pysanka. A one-day workshop was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Dickinson, N.D., on Saturday, March 6.

Ms. Radebaugh notes that she herself took a pysanka-decorating class at the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in 2000. After her sister Debbie gave her an electric kistka, the stylus used in writing on the egg, she said she hasn't been able to put it down since. "So, at age 50, I was hooked," she commented.

The pysanka designer serves on the board of directors of the Ukrainian Cultural Institute, which was founded in 1981. For information about the UCI, readers may call (701) 483-1486 or log on to www.ukrainiannnd.org.

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NEWSBRIEFS...

(Continued from page 2)

March 23 that a recent decision by NATO to deploy four aircraft in Lithuania to patrol the airspace over the Baltic states is a threat to Russia's national security, Interfax and ORT reported. Mr. Yakovenko said NATO has developed a plan to deploy new aircraft and anti-aircraft defenses in the region, and "Russia has the right to draw conclusions and to react accordingly if necessary." He added that the NATO decision does not correspond to the spirit of the partnership that has been established between Russia and the alliance. Earlier this month, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff General Yuri Baluevskii said Russia might take reciprocal measures. Former Duma Deputy Arbatov told Russkii Telegraf on March 21 that NATO expansion into the Baltic airspace confirms "that NATO expansion is directed against Russia." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Bremer visits Ukrainian contingent

KYIV – Paul Bremer, head of the Interim Civil Administration in Iraq, made his first-ever visit to the Ukrainian military contingent's sector in Wasit Province of Iraq, reported the Ukrinform news service. He held a working meeting in Al Kut with Maj. Gen. Sergei Ostrovsky, commander of the 6th Detached Mechanized Brigade, who familiarized the American visitor with the Ukrainian peacekeepers' tasks, missions and problems of Wasit Province residents. As Mr. Bremer noted, thanks to the Ukrainian military contingent's presence the situation in Wasit Province is relatively calm. He attributed this to the Ukrainian peacekeepers' good relations with local authorities, religious leaders and ordinary citizens. During the meeting the parties also discussed the problem of disposal of stocks of ammunition left by the Saddam Hussein army. (ARTUIS)

Parties unite to back Yushchenko

KYIV – A congress of the opposition National Rukh of Ukraine (NRU) resolved on March 20 to set up an electoral bloc of nearly 40 parties to support Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko in the upcoming presidential election, UNIAN reported. In particular, apart from the National Rukh, the bloc is expected to include the Ukrainian National Party, the Reforms and Order Party, the Solidarity Party, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Yabluko Party. The congress obliged NRU leader Borys Tarasyuk to work out a deal with interested parties on the creation of the bloc. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin meets with Kuchma in Moscow

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin met in Moscow on March 17 with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to discuss bilateral economic and political relations, Izvestia, RTR, and other Russian media reported. Topics of discussion included the proposed creation of a joint economic zone including Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus; the creation of a Russian-Ukrainian natural-gas consortium; and the resolution of a border dispute in the Azov Sea and the Kerch Straits. Speaking to journalists, the presidents said that the agreements reached on these issues last year have been submitted to both countries' parliaments for ratification. Messrs. Putin and Kuchma also discussed the situation in Georgia, and Mr. Kuchma congratulated Mr. Putin on his "tremendous victory" in Russia's March 14 presidential election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin eager to make deals with Kyiv

MOSCOW – Izvestia on March 17 commented that despite the niceties, many unresolved issues remain between the two countries. Although the presi-

dents were able to defuse the Kerch Strait crisis in December 2003, no permanent solution has been found, particularly on the issue of delimiting the common border in the Azov Sea. Nevertheless, Russian President Vladimir Putin is interested in reaching as many agreements as possible with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma quickly because later this year, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada might well adopt political reforms that could drastically reduce the power of the Ukrainian president and transform the country into a parliamentary republic. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma urges political continuity...

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said in his annual message to the Verkhovna Rada distributed among deputies on March 17 that this year's presidential election should ensure continuity in the country's political and socioeconomic spheres, Ukrainian news agencies reported. "Acknowledging the inevitability of some correction in the state policies in accordance with the programmatic and ideological guidelines of a future president, it is necessary to do everything to secure continuity of the state course as an indispensable condition for maintaining positive achievements and strengthening favorable trends in the social development," Mr. Kuchma said. "I will do everything to hold the election of a new head of state in a civilized way [and] democratically, in full accordance with the legislation in force." (RFE/RL Newsline)

... and 'European' party system in Ukraine

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma also said in his message to the Verkhovna Rada on March 17 that Ukraine's future party system should be based on several "powerful" parliamentary parties of a "European model," Ukrainian news agencies reported. According to the president, building an efficient party system should be a priority in the transformation of Ukraine into a more democratic state. Mr. Kuchma noted that the current party system in Ukraine is immature and weak, with parties reflecting the interests of business groups and part of the administration apparatus rather than those of the electorate. The president proposed that lawmakers hold a parliamentary hearing on the formation of a "European" party system. He also called on the Verkhovna Rada to adopt a law on political opposition in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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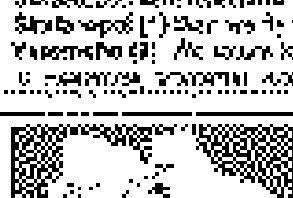
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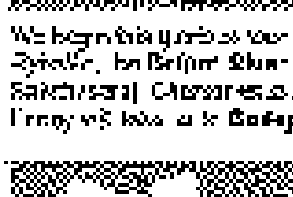
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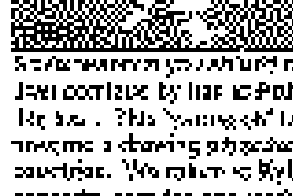
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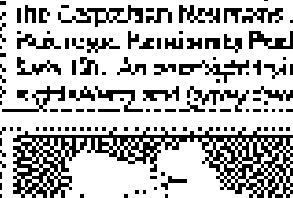
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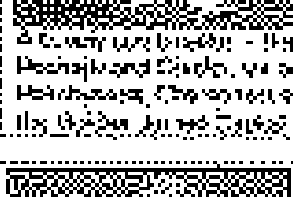
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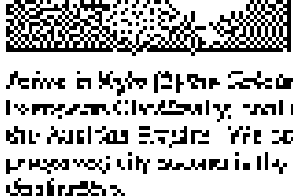
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St. Andrew's...

(Continued from page 9)

\$10,000 to our building fund.

During the tenure of Father Zbigniew Brzezicki, which began in 1997, our parishioners continued fund-raising for the building of our church. The culmination of our efforts came in the autumn of 2002. Accepting the will of Bishop Losten and the Administrative Council, our Building Committee consulted five architects and chose Taras Dobusz, AIA, of Bridgewater, N.J., to design our beautiful church, a church both modern and traditional. It was clear to us that such a beautiful church would cost accordingly, but serious enterprises require serious sacrifices, especially when it comes to building God's House.

As with each House of God, the church at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic

Cemetery will be the mirror of our spirituality. This church will be a tribute to all of those Ukrainians who worked hard all their lives for their loved ones, for God's Church and for Ukraine. There are many Ukrainians from different parishes in different states such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut, as well as Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Virginia, who have occasion to visit our cemetery.

While visiting the graves of Josef and Ustina, their sons Volodymyr and Leo Petranuwsy from Texas told me, "Father, if you only knew how good these people were – not only our parents, but their neighbors and acquaintances from New York who are buried here!" I've heard the same words spoken from many other people about our loved ones who have found their rest in this Ukrainian corner in American soil. Is it not joyful to know that not only our relatives but our neighbors and acquaintances will come to visit those who are buried here in Hamptonburgh and will pray for our Ukrainian Church?

The soon-to-be built St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church will continue its mission to meet the spiritual needs of the faithful and will bear silent witness to our Eastern Ukrainian Catholic traditions.

Many of you, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, have had the opportunity to see how our parish lives in the present time. We welcome you not only on the second Sunday in June when we have the Pilgrimage and our Ladies Guild volunteers work to meet your needs during your visit to the cemetery, but our parish doors are always open for anyone who comes for divine liturgy, panakhyda or for a reception after a funeral. You can always take home tasty varenyky or delicious real Ukrainian borsch.

Our Ladies Guild workers are trying harder than ever to raise money for the building of our church. In 2003 alone our Ladies Guild volunteers have donated more than \$10,000 toward the building of our church. Perhaps it seems like a lot, but our church will cost 100 times as much. We are aware that the Ladies Guild and everyone who reads this article and is not indifferent to the future of our parish will respond with their help. All names of benefactors will be recorded on the Tree of Life, not only in our St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery but also where Our Lord marks those who worked for His Holy Name while on earth who will be rewarded in Eternity.

The Holy Apostle Paul says, "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God has given the growth. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the growth. (1st Cor. 3.6) Therefore, by building our new church, the Lord wishes to show His omnipotence through us. Our obedience and submission to the will of God will bring abundant fruits and will be witness of our living faith.

In closing, I want to recall the words of our Savior Jesus Christ when he summoned Nathaniel to his apostleship: "I told you ... and you believed, and I tell you, you will see more than this." When you read the simple words in this article and you believe and respond to the Voice of God that speaks to us, we will see something bigger.

We hope for your help. Our Ukrainian Catholic Church with its golden dome rising above the hill overlooking Holy Spirit Cemetery will be a fitting monument for succeeding generations to our

Ukrainian faith, tradition and language, and will serve as the last portal to the House of the Lord for those who will rest eternally at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery.

Let's build the church! The Lord will reward us a hundredfold! Our descendants will thank us for preserving our Church, our culture and the Ukrainian community in America.

Announcement...

(Continued from page 6)

tuition at St. John the Baptist School in Northampton was inordinately low and would also need to have been increased to prohibitive levels.

Commendable efforts and promises were made and/or contemplated by the board members and teachers of both schools. Yet, during their one year of administration of St. John the Baptist School in Newark, the lay board was able to raise only a very small fraction of the funds they had hoped for. Raising funds is increasingly difficult and their efforts, while admirable, could not help to achieve their expectation. Yet, someone must pay the bills and cover the deficits.

Yes, the closing of these two fine schools is a sad reality for many. The lives of teachers, students and parishioners are significantly impacted. The parish priests and parish committees of both parishes have struggled with the necessity of taking such an action.

It is not easy and follows only a very close scrutiny of the parish and school finances and resources. It is understandably unpopular to close a school and it causes worry and concern for parish life. However, parish priests of both these parishes will endeavor to establish catechetical instruction for the children of the parish and, where possible and needed, a Saturday Ukrainian school program. Such programs ought to be a part of parish life and fulfill the parish's mission to instruct our children in the faith and in our culture. So, despite the present pain of the loss of something dear to many, there is hope for the future for our parishes.

I recognize the difficulty in accepting such decisions, especially by those personally affected. I pray for your peaceful acceptance of that which became necessary due to the fault of no one. The financial realities of operating St. John the Baptist School in Newark and St. John the Baptist School in Northampton have become overwhelming for the parishes and this has necessitated the unfortunate but necessary decision for these schools to close.

This reality of life has been faced by some 25 Ukrainian Catholic schools in the past two decades, and they have struggled and coped with the effects. This will equally be true of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Northampton. The clergy and faithful of these parishes will ensure that their faith and their Church will continue to survive and develop in ways and directions inspired by the Holy Spirit.

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UWCC reports...

(Continued from page 1)

government leadership was very responsive to the needs of its Ukrainian citizens.

"They look compassionately and warmly at our Ukrainians living there. They understand that we have something in common," explained Mr. Horyn, referring to the Tatar experience of forced migration pressed upon them by Stalin at the end of World War II. Many of the Ukrainians living in Russia were either forcibly transferred there from Ukraine to fill Soviet labor shortages or had forbears who were incarcerated in prisons and gulags in the regions or who were forced into exile there.

Mr. Horyn, who was a Soviet dissident in the 1970s-1980s and spent time in the Soviet gulag in Siberia, also voiced his unexpected pleasure at discovering that a Sunday school for Ukrainians existed on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Far East as well.

The UWCC leader said that he would push the organization to broaden its involvement with the new communities and to extend them to people-to-people contacts between the Ukrainians living there and citizens in the homeland.

He added that, in visiting the Far East, the UWCC delegation from Kyiv came to understand that Ukrainians in this far-away region of Russia had little ability to contact their consular representatives. As a result of the visit, the UWCC has undertaken an effort to have Ukraine open a consular office in the region.

Mr. Horyn gave individual praise to Larysa Skrypnykova, who resides in Karelia, a region that borders Finland. Ms. Skrypnykova, who was present at the annual meeting, received acknowledgment for being able to overcome obstacles of distance and dislocation to organize an educational conference, as well as to take the lead on various cultural events in Karelia.

Ms. Skrypnykova pointed out that ethnic Ukrainians living in Karelia were responsible to a large degree for the slave labor that built the White Sea Canal, and as a result should get Russian government funding for the schools and community centers they want to establish. Mr. Horyn added that a major problem for Ukrainian communities in Russia was to obtain government funding that was often promised but seldom received.

He emphasized that one of the two main problems for most communities in the Eastern diaspora continued to be a lack of newspapers, library materials and radio and television programming in the Ukrainian language. The other one is the continued Russification of Ukrainian youth and the scarce use of the Ukrainian language.

On another matter, Ms. Skrypnykova suggested that, in order to stimulate

organizational and community work within diaspora communities, the UWCC should concentrate its limited financial resources on awarding a single annual prize to the community that organized the most effective or unusual educational, cultural or organizational event.

Mr. Horyn pointed out that another notable achievement for the UWCC last year was more extensive media coverage. He said that 380 articles appeared about the UWCC in Ukrainian publications and 29 stories in the foreign press in 2003. "I want to underscore that last year we had the most media coverage ever," Mr. Horyn added.

The UWCC representatives touched on the matter of the current Ukrainian draft legislation on the rights of Ukrainians abroad, which President Leonid Kuchma vetoed earlier this year. The bill is currently with the respective parliamentary committee chaired by National Deputy Ihor Ostash, who addressed the UWCC leaders on the matter. It is being reworked and should soon return to the parliamentary floor for a vote, at which time it should be approved.

The UWCC also turned its attention to preparations for the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians next year. Vitalii Riadchenko, head of the UWCC Secretariat, called on the organization to focus fully on preparations for the event, which is the largest global gathering of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations.

The UWCC announced that it had formed an organizing committee that included representatives from the Verkhovna Rada, the UWCC, the Ukrainian World Congress and national diaspora organizations of other countries. It also had invited Viktor Medvedchuk, President Kuchma's chief of staff, to become a member.



Larysa Skrypnykova of Karelia addresses meeting participants.



Mykhailo Horyn, president, leads the annual meeting of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council.

Rada OKs...

(Continued from page 1)

has met the two requirements.

The new legislation limits the budgets of registered candidates to 10.25 million hrv (less than \$2 million U.S.). It further stipulates that only the country's Supreme Court can disqualify a candidate from the election after he is registered and only based on a petition filed by the Central Election Commission. The detailed document goes so far as to identify what type of urns are to be used to collect completed voters' ballots on October 31: clear glass boxes, as opposed to the cardboard containers used in previous elections.

While the national deputies generally praised the new election law as the best one yet, there was room for criticism nonetheless. The chief concern was in regard to a passage in the law that allows for the disqualification of a candidate for submitting "incomplete information."

Yurii Kostenko, the leader of the Ukrainian National Party, said that while he liked the new law he was concerned that such a phrase could leave the door open to political manipulation by state authorities because the law did not spell out what qualified as incomplete information.

The Committee of Ukrainian Voters (CUV), a non-partisan civic organization recognized as one of the best election monitoring groups in Ukraine, also voiced a concern: that the law had not included any mention of the rights and responsibilities of monitors from Ukrainian civic organizations. In a press release issued on March 22, the CUV noted that earlier election laws had included such stipulations.

"We remind all that the participation of these types of monitors is an indivisible part of democratic elections, which is fixed in the 'Declaration of the Copenhagen Conference' from 1990," read the statement issued by the CUV.

THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE
of
UNA BRANCHES OF CLEVELAND, OH
announces that its
ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
will be held on
Saturday, April 4, 2004, at 2:00 p.m.
at the **Ukrainian Women's League, St. Joseph Church**
5720 State Road, Parma, OH 44134

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

106, 112, 166, 180, 233, 240, 291, 358, 364

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

Zenon Holubec – UNA Auditor
Taras Szmagala – Honorary Member of UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Evhen Bachynsky, District Chairman
Alice Olenchuk, Secretary
Natalie Miahky, Treasurer

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Letter to Kuchma...

(Continued from page 2)

Frequencies and Supervision for Telecommunication (Ukrchastotnaglyad), the regulatory body responsible for assigning radio frequencies, allegedly because of Kontinent's expired broadcasting license. However, as many local reports noted, Kontinent's broadcasting license had expired in 2001, raising questions as to why the station was closed three years later.

That same day, March 3, hours before the police raided Kontyent, Heorhii Chechyk, the director of the private radio and television company Yuta, which owns FM Radio Poltava Plus, was killed when his car collided with another vehicle in the Pyriatyn District, 215 miles (344 kilometers) east of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. Chechyk was driving to a meeting with executives from the Ukrainian service of RFE/RL to discuss rebroadcasting their news bulletin.

Local journalists say that RFE/RL is one of the few sources of independent news in the country where your government has successfully managed to control most of the country's broadcasting media. The March 3 raid of radio Kontyent left Kyiv without an FM carrier of RFE/RL news at a time when a variety of news sources is most needed. The fact that Kontyent's broadcasting license expired in 2001 but the station was pulled off the air just recently, combined with Dovira's refusal to carry RFE/RL programming strongly suggests that there are political motives behind these actions. In this context, Chechyk's death warrants a thorough investigation, the findings of which should be made public.

Your Excellency, denying opposition voices media access, as well as limiting the number of news sources available to

Ukrainian audiences in the run-up to the October presidential elections is a violation of press freedom and a blatant act of censorship. As people prepare to vote in the presidential election, they need as much access as possible to news that will allow them to make informed decisions about their country's future. As an independent, non-profit organization committed to defending press freedom worldwide, CPJ urges you to do everything within your power to allow radio Kontyent to resume broadcasting, including its rebroadcasts of RFE/RL news.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters. We await your reply.

Sincerely,
Ann K. Cooper
Executive Director

Copies of this letter were sent to: Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Mykhailo Reznik, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst, American Society of Newspaper Editors, Amnesty International, Article 19 (United Kingdom), Artikel 19 (The Netherlands), Canadian Journalists for Free Expression Freedom Forum, Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, Index on Censorship, International Center for Journalists, International Federation of Journalists, International PEN, International Press Institute, Lorne W. Craner (U.S. assistant secretary for democracy, human rights and labor), The Newspaper Guild, The North American Broadcasters Association, Overseas Press Club, Reporters Sans Frontiers, The Society of Professional Journalists, Louis Arbour (U.N. high commissioner for human rights), World World Press Freedom Committee.

The Pastor and Parishioners of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church cordially invite all who are visiting our Holy Spirit Cemetery and our Parish for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the founding of our parish and the beginning of construction of our new church on the grounds of Holy Spirit Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y.

A pontifical divine liturgy celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Basil H. Losten, D.D., will be held at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, N.Y., on Sunday, May 2, 2004, at noon, with a reception and banquet to follow at 2:00 p.m. at the Soyuzivka resort.

A reply as to attendance at the banquet is respectfully requested before April 11, 2004, by calling our rectory, (845) 496-4156, or (845) 496-5506.

The proceeds from this celebration are designated for the building of our new Church.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- March 27-28, 2004**
"Cooking in the Ukrainian Tradition"
– sponsored by Kurin Spartanky
Open to parents and children
15 and older.
- March 27-28, 2004**
Brooklyn Ukrainian Group
– Spring Cleaning Volunteer
Weekend
- April 10, 2004**
Easter Celebration
and Easter Brunch – \$17.00
- April 17, 2004**
Wedding – Nancy Medwid
and Jonathan McFall
- April 19-21, 2004**
Spring Clergy Days
- April 21-23, 2004**
SUNY New Paltz
– Migrant Special Education
Program
- April 30-May 2, 2004**
UNWLA Branch 95, Kerhonkson,
N.Y. sponsors a Spa Weekend
- May 7-9, 2004**
2nd Annual Cinco De Mayo
Festivities – outside performance
and zabava with LUNA
- May 9, 2004**
Mother's Day Brunch
Traditional Ukrainian Meal
– \$15.00
- May 14, 2004**
Ellenville High School Junior Prom
- May 15, 2004**
Wedding – Stephan Kowalczuk
and Alexandra Raut
- May 21, 2004**
Rochester Fire Company Banquet
- May 22, 2004**
Girls Scout Fashion Show
- May 28-31, 2004**
Memorial Day Weekend
Friday pub night with band,
Saturday with Fata Morgana, and
Sunday with Askold Buk Trio
- June 3, 2004**
Ellenville Teachers School
Related Association Banquet
- June 7-10, 2004**
Clergy Days
- June 13, 2004**
80th Birthday Party, Tony Percoco
- June 14-18, 2004**
UNA Seniors' Week
- June 18-20, 2004**
Adoptive Parents' Weekend,
sponsored by the Embassy
of Ukraine and the UNA
- June 20, 2004**
Father's Day Program
- June 20 - July 2, 2004**
Tennis Camp
- June 22, 2004**
Girls Scout Fashion Show
- June 27 - July 4**
Plast Camp – Tabir Ptshat,
Session One



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, March 29

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Lecture Series at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, presents: Prof. Serhij Lepyavko (department of history of Ukraine, Chernihiv State Teachers' Training University, Chernihiv, Ukraine; 2003-2004 Fulbright Scholar, University of Colorado-Boulder) speaking on "The Christian-Muslim Frontier in Eastern Europe (late 15th to late 18th centuries)." This event is free and open to the public, and will take place in Room 1219 of the International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St., at noon. For more information e-mail ms2147@columbia.edu or call (212) 854-4697.

Wednesday, March 31

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Lecture Series at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University, presents Yuri Duleraim (former chief, Radio Liberty, 1973-1993) speaking on the "Ukrainian Word Under Suppression: From Communism to Democracy." This event is free and open to the public, and will take place in Room 1219 of the International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St., at noon. For more information e-mail ms2147@columbia.edu or call (212) 854-4697.

Saturday, April 3

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a talk by Prof. Taras Hunczak of Rutgers University on "Halychyna Prior to World War I (1900-1914): From the Archives of the Viennese Police." This presentation is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Edward Zarsky. It will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between 9th and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center will host an annual Ukrainian Easter Bazaar and show of world famous Ukrainian pysanky, hand-decorated eggs with symbols and designs dating from pre-Christian times. These miniature works of art will also be for sale. An award-winning film by Slavko Nowytski on the history and art of pysanky will be shown in the Club Room at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Hand-made crafts, fine art, plants, ceramics, jewelry and many other gift items will be on sale. Home-baked Easter goods, in addition to a hot

lunch of pyrohy, stuffed cabbage, borsch, potato pancakes, etc., will also be available. During the Easter Bazaar the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee will be collecting donations of blankets, bedding, new and used clothing, and footwear to send to the needy in Ukraine. Admission to the Easter Bazaar and parking are free. The Ukrainian Center is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, Pa., between Fox Chase Road and Huntingdon Pike. For further information call (215) 663-1166.

Monday, April 5

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by George Liber, professor of history, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and HURI research fellow. His lecture, "Reassessing Tsarist Russia as a Multinational Empire," will be held in the Seminar Room of the institute at 4-6 p.m. The institute is located at 1583 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information please contact HURI at (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Monday, April 12

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by Halyna Hryn, research fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute. Her lecture, "The 'Executed Renaissance' Paradigm Revisited: Ukrainian Literature in the 1920s," will be held in the Seminar Room of the institute 4-6 p.m. The institute is located at 1583 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact HURI at (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Sunday, April 18

HILLSIDE, N.J.: Under the direction of Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, children will have an opportunity to learn basic hahilky (traditional Easter songs and dances). An Easter egg hunt will also be held and complimentary refreshments provided. All activities will be held immediately following the 10:45 a.m. Sunday divine liturgy at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church located at the intersection of Liberty Avenue and Bloy Street. All are invited to attend. For further information contact either Mike Szpyhulsky, (908) 289-0127, or Joe Shatynski, (973) 599-9381. In the event of inclement weather, all activities will be held in the parish hall. Directions to the parish can be found by loggin on to the parish website, www.byzantines.net/immaculateconception.

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