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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Renowned dancer, choreographer Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky dies



Roman Iwasiwka

Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky during a 1997 performance by her students at Soyuzivka.

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, internationally renowned prima ballerina, choreographer and artistic director, died on Sunday, May 23, after a prolonged illness. She was 77.

Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky began her dance career in Ukraine and continued it in Europe and North America. During four decades of work as a choreographer and dance instructor, she popularized Ukrainian folk dance. She directed Ukrainian folk dance ensembles in the tri-state, New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area, and her students over the past 40 years numbered in the thousands.

She was known especially for her choreography of regional dances from Ukraine, as well as for her stylized character dances and interpretive numbers that drew upon Ukrainian dance forms, classical ballet and modern dance.

Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky was born on March 3, 1927, in Peremyshl (today part of Poland) in Ukraine's Halychyna region, and was reared in Lviv.

She studied dance in Lviv and Vienna, graduating with high honors from the Vienna Academy of Music and Performing Arts, and was a member of the corps de ballet in the Lviv Opera Theater in 1939-1944, becoming its youngest soloist at age 14. She was prima ballerina with the Innsbruck Theater in Austria in 1947-1949, and afterwards performed in Canada, where she was a guest artist with the

Winnipeg Royal Ballet and a soloist with the Ruth Sorrell Company of Montreal.

In 1951 she settled in New York City, where she worked with leading choreographers, among them Valentyna Peryaslavets and Martha Graham. All the while she continued to perform highly successful solo recitals in the United States, Canada, Europe and Central America.

She married the noted bass-baritone George Bohachewsky in 1963; the couple eventually had two children, Ania and Boris.

In 1963, Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky established her own school of ballet and dance. Fifteen years later she founded Syzokryli, which evolved into a troupe of advanced dancers comprising her top students from her various dance studios — many of them college students and young professionals. The ensemble has performed extensively throughout the United States, at concert venues in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, and Newark, N.J., and in 1992 concluded a critically acclaimed tour of Ukraine, performing at the opera houses of major cities.

Since the mid-1970s Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky also directed successful and highly popular dance camps and dance workshops at the Verkhovyna and Soyuzivka resorts in New York state.

As a dancer Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky performed throughout the world, including in New York, Paris, Munich, Vienna,

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Former President Bush returns to Kyiv, comments on "Chicken Kiev" speech

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President George H.W. Bush, notorious for his reference to "suicidal nationalism" in what has come to be called the "Chicken Kiev" speech, finally explained his statement on his first trip back to the Ukrainian capital 13 years later, on May 21.

"That's not what I said," explained the 41st president of the United States, referring to the statement, which he made in Ukraine's capital just three weeks before the Soviet Union collapsed and Ukraine declared independence in August 1991.

"I encouraged them not to do something stupid. My speech here — if you look at it, if you read it — I said to restrain from doing anything that would cause them to react when things were going the right way," he added.

Mr. Bush explained that, indeed, because the Ukrainian leadership of the time acted carefully and with restraint the country moved smoothly towards sovereignty and independence without what could have been a bloody encounter with Moscow.

"Because your leaders acted in the

national interest and not in self-interest they avoided what could have been another Prague Spring," noted Mr. Bush.

He compared Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, to Lech Walesa, the leader of the Polish independence movement, and Vaclav Havel, the Czech Republic's charismatic first president.

Mr. Bush made his remarks during a 40-minute presentation to the students of Kyiv State University in which he encouraged them to a life in public service, volunteerism and charitable work.

Looking tan and fit, former President Bush, who will turn 80 in June, called on the students not to become discouraged as Ukraine continued through the painstaking process of building a democracy and making the transition to a free-market economy. He said he was sure that there were those who were "frustrated by the problems of reforms and the checks and balances of democracy that make progress difficult," but asked them to persevere because "better days lie ahead."

He alluded to his much-publicized "thousand points of light program," which he espoused during his presidency

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At Yalta summit, four presidents discuss Single Economic Space

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The presidents of the four states of the former Soviet Union that intend to form a common market, including Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, expressed satisfaction on May 24 with the pace at which the new economic ties are developing. However, little was said about the timetable for the implementation of a free-trade zone, which Ukraine considers the keystone in the development of the trade partnership.

Mr. Kuchma, speaking during a press conference in Yalta at the end of a special three-day summit on the Single Economic Space (SES) agreement, said now that the Parliaments of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan had ratified the document, it was time to prepare the legal framework.

"This will undoubtedly be a complicated process, but it is very important," explained Mr. Kuchma in opening the third day of the summit, a meeting of the four heads of state, held at the historic Livadia Palace.

He said that experts were working on some 80 international documents that would be required to make the Single Economic Space a reality. Many of them would need parliamentary approval.

Mr. Kuchma reiterated that a "full-fledged free-trade zone" remains a priority in order to show the world that the four countries are serious in their intent.

"I am sure that the implementation of the first phase in the creation of the SES will become a litmus test to show the parties' real preparedness and the will to go further than political declarations towards a higher quality of economic cooperation," Mr. Kuchma commented.

However, during the three-day summit almost no one at any level was ready to agree that the free-trade zone would not include a major list of excepted goods, enumerations that have dislodged earlier efforts between Russia and Ukraine to develop a free trade zone, most often presented by the Moscow side.

Interfax-Ukraine reported on May 24 that one Russian source said that while there is a possibility that a free trade zone agreement could be signed this year, it would most likely include some exceptions and limits as to certain products.

In the past Russia has maintained that oil and gas should not be part of a free trade zone agreement. On May 22, during a press conference after a ministerial-level meeting at the Yalta summit, Ukraine's First Vice Prime Minister

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ANALYSIS

Summit on Single Economic Space produces little of substance

by Jan Maksymiuk
RFE/RL Newsline

The presidents of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakstan – Vladimir Putin, Leonid Kuchma, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, and Nursultan Nazarbaev, respectively – gathered in the Ukrainian sea resort of Yalta on May 23-24 to discuss further moves in developing the Single Economic Space (SES), the body they created in September 2003.

The agreement on the SES commits the signatories to establishing a free-trade zone and a customs alliance as well as ensuring free movement of commodities, labor, services and capital between the four countries. It also calls for a high level of political coordination of economic and financial policies of the four states.

The Yalta meeting, apart from the reiterated declaration of the four leaders to pursue closer integration within the SES framework, has brought little substance. The presidents agreed that, in order to proceed with further integration, experts

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

need to prepare 61 draft accords and some 50 normative acts that could give some shape to the hitherto amorphous SES idea. These documents are to be viewed by the four presidents at their subsequent summit, in September in Astana. "Each should lose something in order to find something else at the end of the road," President Kuchma reportedly said in summing up the Yalta summit on May 24.

However, what specifically should be lost and/or found by the SES signatories remains unclear. The presidents in Yalta seemed to disagree as regards SES priorities. Mr. Putin said the first package of documents to make the SES a reality may be signed in 2005 or early 2006. According to him, this package should include accords on the harmonization of foreign trade, the introduction of common customs tariffs and the creation of the same competition environment for businesses of the four countries. The Russian president also stressed the need to set up a supranational "regulatory body" for pursuing SES policies.

Ukraine insists that the formation of the SES should be started from the cre-

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Will Ukraine's president run again?

by Roman Kupchinsky
RFE/RL Newsline

Despite recent statements by President Leonid Kuchma suggesting that he has no intention of running for a third term as Ukraine's president in the October 31 election, signs are emerging that this might not be the case.

On May 14, Interfax-Ukraine reported that Mr. Kuchma ordered Vasyl Baziv, deputy head of his administration, to hold weekly press briefings about the president's activities. Such meetings had been halted in late 2000. "Lately the political situation in the state has become tense," Mr. Baziv told the media, according to Interfax. "We're on the eve of the election campaign and during the election campaign informing the public must be more intense than under 'peaceful' conditions."

Others believe the resumption of weekly briefings is meant to grant the president more pre-election exposure than he already receives.

Mr. Baziv's reference to a "tense" situation in the country presumably pertains to events surrounding a local election in March in the city of Mukachiv, where thugs threatened voters, destroyed property, and allegedly falsified voting records.

Eyewitness reports by election observers subsequently claimed that the goons had been hired by the Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) to ensure the victory of its mayoral candidate. The SDPU party has been a firm backer of President Kuchma, and some believe the disturbances in Mukachiv were sanctioned by the presidential administration.

When Procurator General Hennadii Vasyliiev was asked by Parliament to investigate the incident, he concluded that nothing improper had occurred – implying at the same time that it might have

Roman Kupchinsky, a Prague-based analyst, is a contributor to RFE/RL Newsline.

been the opposition that tried to falsify voting records in Mukachiv.

A second indication that President Kuchma might run for a new term is the more recent scandal involving the criminal past of presidential hopeful Viktor Yanukovich, the current prime minister. As a young man, Mr. Yanukovich was twice sentenced to short prison terms for assault. These facts were already a matter of public record when Mr. Yanukovich was nominated as prime minister, but they resurfaced in conjunction with the announcement that he was the presumed "presidential candidate of the parliamentary majority."

Some opposition leaders have questioned the wisdom of promoting a former convict as president.

What is more intriguing is that some media in Ukraine have given this charge such wide coverage. Some observers point out that – had it wanted to prevent this type of damaging debate about its "candidate" – the presidential administration could have easily prevented the media from doing so. Yet it did the opposite, effectively giving the charges wider publicity.

A third indication of Mr. Kuchma's aspirations for a new term is that many leading members of the presidential majority in the Verkhovna Rada have distanced themselves from Mr. Yanukovich's selection as their candidate, also suggesting that they were not overjoyed by the choice. The matter will be decided at a majority caucus in June, an event that promises a few surprises.

A likely scenario, according to some opposition leaders, would see a parliamentary majority publicly imploring President Kuchma to run again in order to "protect" the country's international prestige from a Yanukovich presidency.

Mr. Kuchma secured the legal right to campaign for a third term when the Constitutional Court of Ukraine ruled that he was in fact serving only his first term, since he was first elected to the presidency prior to the adoption in 1996 of the country's current constitution.

NEWSBRIEFS

Deputy says West sponsors opposition

KYIV – Communist Party legislator Valerii Mishura told the Verkhovna Rada on May 21 that Western organizations and funds – primarily in the United States and Germany – finance non-governmental organizations (NGO) in Ukraine in an effort to interfere in the country's political situation and help Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko win the upcoming presidential elections, UNIAN reported. "The president of Ukraine, his administration [and] the Internal Affairs Ministry should inform the international community about the actual situation in the country and resolutely resist attempts by foreign embassies and organizations to meddle in our domestic affairs, dictate humiliating conditions, and influence decision making via organizations sponsored from abroad," Mr. Mishura said. Another Communist Party lawmaker, Yurii Solomatin, proposed that the government ban all Ukrainian NGOs whose operations are supported by foreign grants. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Journalist arrested in Mukachiv

MUKACHIV – Journalist Kostiantyn Sydorenko, who monitored the controversial mayoral election in Mukachiv on April 18, has been arrested on suspicion of possessing explosives, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on May 22. Mr. Sydorenko was reportedly told to visit the Mukachiv police station to retrieve a video camera that was stolen from him a few days earlier. "However, on his way to the police station, policemen detained Mr. Sydorenko, knocking him down on to the road. Suddenly a package in which the policemen found, quite by chance, three explosive devices [that] appeared out of the blue beside Sydorenko," the website reported, quoting a press release by the press service of Our Ukraine's local headquarters in Mukachiv. Mr. Sydorenko has reportedly rejected the accusations, saying he was not carrying anything on his way to the police station. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. congressmen visit Ukraine

KYIV – Seven members of the U.S. Congress are in Ukraine to meet with government and political officials. The members, all U.S. delegates to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, are Mike Bilirakis (R-Fla.), Congressman Joel Hefley (R-Colo.), Paul Gillmor (R-Ohio), John Tanner (D-Tenn.), Vern Ehlers (R-Mich.), John Boozman (R-Ark.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) During their meetings with government officials and political party representatives, the congressmen will discuss NATO and bilateral issues. They arrived Monday, May 24, and were to depart Thursday, May

27. No press events were scheduled during the visit. Also in Ukraine is Congressman Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.), president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He also is chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe of the U.S. House of Representatives. His visit has been arranged under the auspices of the Verkhovna Rada. (Embassy of the United States)

Tymoshenko charged with bribery

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office has instituted criminal proceedings against lawmaker Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition bloc, on charges of attempting to bribe a judge following a complaint from Volodymyr Borovko, Ukrainian media reported on May 20. Earlier that week Mr. Borovko said that Ms. Tymoshenko had given him \$125,000 to give to the judge in order to influence the court's decision and release her former business partners from custody. Mr. Borovko said the partners included Hennadii Tymoshenko (her father-in-law) and Antonina Boliura, former executives at the Unified Energy Systems, which Ms. Tymoshenko headed in 1996-1997. Mr. Borovko claimed he failed to fulfill Ms. Tymoshenko's request and that she is now threatening him and demanding the money back. Ms. Tymoshenko has denied the accusations as "totally wrong" and provocative. On May 20 police reportedly arrested Ms. Boliura, who was hospitalized, and took her into custody. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma orders payment of wage arrears

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has instructed the government and oblast chairman to pay all wage arrears by the end of this year, Interfax reported on May 20. The total sum of overdue wages in Ukraine, according to Mr. Kuchma, is 2.2 billion hryv (\$413 million U.S.). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada rejects five motions re Iraq

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 19 rejected five draft resolutions calling for the pullout of the Ukrainian military contingent from Iraq, Ukrainian media reported. None of the resolutions was supported by more than 160 votes, while 226 votes were needed for approval. The voting followed a closed-door debate on the situation in Iraq. National Security and Defense Council Secretary Volodymyr Radchenko and Security Service of Ukraine Deputy Chief Yurii Zemlianskiy reportedly told lawmakers during the debate that there is a threat of terrorist acts within Ukraine in connection with the presence of Ukrainian soldiers in Iraq. On May 20 lawmakers from the

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Andrew Nynka
Ika Koznarska Casanova (part time)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

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Elections in Mukachiv cause for concern about transparency in Ukrainian elections

by Orysia Kulick

MUKACHIV, Ukraine – The mayoral by-elections of April 18 in Mukachiv, on the western border of Ukraine near Hungary, were hailed as a litmus test for the state of democracy in Ukraine, as well as an indicator of what to expect during the upcoming presidential elections this October. What happened in this city of 90,000 presents significant concerns about the transparency, validity and conduct of any and all elections in Ukraine.

As an international observer from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America accredited by the Central Election Commission, I witnessed journalists being barred access to sites and meetings related to the election. There also was harassment of voters and election committee members reportedly by criminal elements, brawls, the physical expulsion of deputies, observers and journalists from polling stations – and ultimately the outright falsification of the election results.

The trouble starts

At the door of each polling station stood anywhere from five to 10 young men dressed in black leather jackets with closely cropped hair. These “bratky” or “bratoholovky,” are widely considered to be linked with criminal gangs; rumors circulated that a number of them were brought in from various parts of Ukraine, specifically for the purpose of intimidation.

Just after 9:30 a.m., I witnessed two young observers being physically thrown out of polling station No. 9. A group of five observers from the NGO Pora Holosuvaty (Time to Vote) entered the facility, and questions immediately arose about the validity of their credentials and their right to observe. By law, journalists and observers have the right to be present at any site and meeting that relates to the election, including polling stations, the territorial electoral commission and the courts. However, there is also a process of accreditation that must be fulfilled and proper identification must be provided by the journalists and observers. The misunderstanding between the members of the election commission and these observers quickly escalated and began disrupting the voting process in the room.

The observers were accused of agitation, forcibly pushed out of the room and pinned to the wall in the corridor by 15-20 “bratkys.” Five of them cornered the youngest member of the group, who was not only punched in one kidney but was ultimately thrown down two flights of stairs and out the building. He then was kicked from behind in the Achilles’ heel of his left foot. While he was hauled to the hospital with severe bruising of internal organs, the conflict continued outside the building. A national deputy with a camera to document the events arrived, and there was an attempt to seize his camera.

I moved on to polling station No. 32, where there were more confrontations and violence. Here there were attempts to throw out not only an observer, but also the national deputy from Our Ukraine Borys

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Orysia Kulick is a graduate student at the University of Michigan who is working toward a dual master's degree in Russian and East European studies and public policy. She was awarded a Fulbright grant to Ukraine this year to follow election processes and the role of students and young people in those processes.

Congressional hearing focuses on Ukraine and U.S. interests

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – The House of Representatives International Relations Committee (HIRC), European Subcommittee, on May 12 held a special hearing titled “The Future of Ukraine and U.S. Interests.”

In opening the proceedings European Subcommittee Chairman Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.), mentioned the strategic positioning of Ukraine, especially in light of the recent enlargements of NATO and the European Union (EU) on Ukraine’s westernmost border. Acknowledging Ukraine’s great importance to U.S. foreign policy, Rep. Bereuter clearly stated that “U.S. policy must remain focused on promoting and strengthening a stable, democratic and prosperous Ukraine, more closely integrated into European and Euro-Atlantic structures.”

Many aspects of the congressional hearing centered on Ukraine’s upcoming presidential election on October 31. Chairman Bereuter raised this concern in his opening statement noting that “the Congress, like the Bush administration, has made the presidential election a litmus test of Ukraine’s commitment to democracy. Several high-level officials of the administration, such as Assistant Secretary [Richard] Armitage, have recently visited Kyiv and have tried to stress the importance of free and fair elections.”

Adding to open comments was Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), ranking democrat on the House International Relations European Subcommittee, who pointed

out that Ukraine’s economy has made a remarkable turnaround since independence, yet issues of concern such as democratic initiatives need to be bolstered.

The first witness to appear before the panel was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Steven Pifer, former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in 1998-2000. Having submitted his official testimony into the record, Mr. Pifer provided brief opening statements before accepting questions from the congressional panel.

“Ukraine is a stable independent democratic state, which has achieved impressive accomplishments such as denuclearization and impressive economic growth,” he said. He added that Ukraine had problems on the democratization front, but acknowledged the need to improve relations between Ukraine and the United States.

During the question and answer period, Chairman Bereuter questioned witnesses about press freedom in Ukraine (and attempts at intimidation), as well as Ukraine’s record on non-proliferation of weapons. “If Ukraine wishes to be seen as a normal European state,” Mr. Bereuter responded, “then a free democratic press is key.” He stated that there is a distinction in Ukraine between the print and TV media, as major TV networks are controlled by a small group of individuals, while new print represents the entire spectrum.

As for non-proliferation, Mr. Pifer acknowledged Ukraine’s good success rate in denuclearization, but commented that the United States is presently assisting Ukraine

in improving its export control system.

In a question related to U.S.-Ukrainian relations, Rep. Wexler inquired, “How the U.S. may maximize its ability to assist Ukraine?” Mr. Pifer responded that, through diplomatic engagement, the United States can see success in Ukraine as in the growth of Ukraine’s civil society.

The next set of witnesses included Dr. Anders Aslund, director, Russian and Eurasian Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Dr. Nadia Diuk, Director, Central Europe and Eurasia, at the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Known for his economic analysis of many Central and East European countries, Dr. Aslund emphasized that “Ukraine needs to join the WTO (World Trade Organization), and this needs to be the focus [of the government’s activities].” Referring to the recent vote in Ukraine’s Parliament ratifying the Single Economic Space treaty, Dr. Aslund downplayed its significance as “minimal.”

He pointed out that the stakes for Ukraine’s upcoming presidential election are high, while the resources to be used are enormous – ranging between \$200 million and \$300 million. Continuing on the theme of the elections, Dr. Aslund emphasized that “Russia will be a key player in Ukraine [for the elections].” He concluded his remarks by underscoring that integration with the West should be a priority for the Ukrainian government.

The last witness to testify before the

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Two Ukrainian sailors still in Iraqi prison

by Askold Krushelnicky

RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report

Last summer the Navstar-1, a Panamanian-flagged vessel belonging to a United Arab Emirates company, was detained off the southern coast of Iraq. Its Ukrainian crew was arrested and charged with smuggling Iraqi oil from the port of Umm Qasr.

Most of the crew was eventually released. But the ship’s captain and second in command, Mykola Mazurenko and Ivan Soschenko, respectively, were brought to trial. The two men denied knowing that the 1,100 tons of oil aboard the Navstar-1 were banned for export. But in October 2003, an Iraqi court sentenced the men to seven years in jail and fined them \$1.2 million each.

Since then, Messrs. Mazurenko and Soschenko – both in their 60s and suffering from poor health – have been languishing in Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib prison complex. Infamous under Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as a place where opponents of the regime were routinely tortured and murdered, Abu Ghraib is at the heart of a new controversy involving abuse of Iraqi detainees by U.S. forces.

The recent publication of photographs detailing the abuses has outraged the Arab world and put the United States on the defensive. It has also alarmed the families of the two Ukrainian detainees and raised questions in Kyiv about how the men are being treated.

The Ukrainian prisoners’ wives told RFE/RL they have been unable to speak to their husbands by phone since February. Mrs. Mazurenko said her husband had complained of a sinister atmosphere at Abu Ghraib, saying he was being held in cramped conditions and that prison guards had attacked some detainees.

A spokesman for Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Ministry said diplomats had not been able to visit the two men for some

time because of continued fighting between coalition forces and Iraqi insurgents.

At the end of April the Ukrainian ombudsman for human rights, Nina Karpachova, asked U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, for his country’s diplomatic support to enable Ukrainian diplomats to visit the two sailors and assess their conditions. Ms. Karpachova reiterated her call last week after the abuse photos from Abu Ghraib were aired. She said she “could not exclude absolutely” that the two Ukrainians were not being subjected to similar treatment.

Patricia Guy, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, said Embassy officials were looking into the matter. “We have seen the letter from ombudswoman Karpachova about the Navstar crewmen, and we are inquiring into the situation of the Ukrainian seamen,” Ms. Guy said.

Ms. Guy said the U.S. government condemned the way some of its soldiers had treated the Iraqi prisoners, but she said the situation of the two sailors was different. “We have no information suggesting that the crewmen are not receiving proper care. If we were to receive such information, we would address these concerns with the appropriate authorities,” she added.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Markian Lubkivskyi said the U.S. military on May 2 allowed Ukrainian diplomats to visit Messrs. Mazurenko and Soschenko, who were deemed to be in satisfactory condition. “According to the information that our diplomats got directly from the Ukrainian sailors, there are no complaints about the behavior towards them of other prisoners or the guards,” Mr. Lubkivskyi said.

He said the two sailors had been transferred to slightly better conditions than the ones they were initially held in. However, he said the conditions were still extremely grim. “Mazurenko and Soschenko have been transferred to a cell

for older people,” Mr. Lubkivskyi continued. “There are 56 people in that cell – you can imagine they all sleep on mattresses on the floor next to one another. Therefore, conditions are not straightforward even from the point of view of their accommodation. Even though from the point of view of food, the information we get is that they receive food regularly and there are no complaints on that count.”

Mr. Lubkivskyi said that the health of the two men is poor. The ministry spokesman said Captain Mazurenko, who is 66, is at particular risk because he suffers from diabetes, but reportedly is able to receive medicine only when his symptoms become acute. “The state of their health in these conditions and the understandable stress they are undergoing causes us concern,” he said.

“They do not have regular contact with doctors. Doctors have restricted access to the prison. Therefore, we are troubled by this situation and we have called the attention of both the Iraqi transitional government and the effective [U.S.] authorities to the situation of our sailors,” he noted.

Mr. Lubkivskyi said the two men, who are awaiting a second appeal of their sentence, have become a top priority for the Foreign Affairs Ministry. He said Ukraine, which is contributing 1,650 troops in Iraq, hopes the United States will lend its weight to help the two sailors in their forthcoming appeal.

“The Iraqi courts will have the last word. But at the same time, we rely on the support of the Americans as our partners in the coalition. I think that they are listened to, and their role and their influence will not be the least important factor in the resolution of this issue,” he said. Mr. Lubkivskyi commented that he hopes that, even if the appeal is unsuccessful, a deal can be worked out to allow the two sailors to serve their prison sentences in Ukraine.

8-foot-4-inch Leonid Stadnik sees glimmer of hope for his future

by Anna Ketz

PODOLIANTSI, Ukraine – His life now has two parts: before and after. Before there was despair. Now there is a glimmer of hope. The fate of Leonid Stadnik, an 8-foot-4-inch tall resident of the tiny village of Podoliantsi in Ukraine's northwestern Zhytomyr Oblast, has dramatically changed since journalists discovered his plight less than a month ago.

"My height was God's penalty, my life had no sense," he asserted in explaining his situation until now.

Today he is 33 and still growing. As a youth, Leonid had enjoyed good health, but when he was 14, he underwent brain surgery. Experts believe it stimulated his pituitary gland, which has produced much higher than normal levels of growth hormone ever since. But he never visited a doctor after he began to grow because as he described it, for all practical purposes he became chained to his home village as he grew taller and taller and taller. "Taking a bus for me is the same as getting into a car's trunk for a normal person," explained Mr. Stadiuk.

He once went to Zhytomyr to participate in the tallest man contest, which he easily won. It only drove him to despair. "They looked at me as if I were a clown. I wished I could disappear," he said.

His gigantism has caused other problems as well. He weighs 440 pounds, which puts a huge strain on his legs. He has had problems recovering from a recently broken leg. He also suffers from recurring pain in his knees. "My tendons don't keep pace with my rapidly growing bone tissue," he explained.

Things have begun to change quickly for Mr. Stadnik since the news of the giant from Ukraine hit the international news wires. After journalists' reports reached a specialized institute in Germany, it expressed a willingness to treat the Ukrainian citizen cost-free.

Mr. Stadnik, whose bashful and reticent personality belies his overbearing physical appearance, looked rather more embarrassed than happy when told the



AP/Efrem Lukatsky

Leonid Stadnik stands next to a door as his mother, Halyna, left, looks on in the village of Podoliantsi in Ukraine's northwestern Zhytomyr region.

news. "I never expected that my dreams might come true one day," he commented.

The stories of Mr. Stadnik's plight have brought sympathetic responses even from the Ukrainian diaspora.

"I feel like I should go to Ukraine to help Leonid," said Len Wasyluk, a Ukrainian from Toronto who e-mailed this reporter. Mr. Wasyluk, whose grandparents emigrated to Canada at the beginning of the last century

said that Mr. Stadnik's story had "captured my heart."

Being more than eight feet tall is no easy task. Mr. Stadnik sleeps on two beds joined lengthwise. He moves in a crouch through the small one-story house that he shares with his mother, Halyna. His fingers are so large that he couldn't manage to press the buttons on a journal-

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Elections in Mukachiv...

(Continued from page 3)

Bezpalj, who was monitoring the station. Deputies are allowed to be present without question, however, challenges arose regarding the credentials of one observer with a camera, who was reportedly asked to leave after capturing one unwilling individual on film. He claims to have hidden behind National Deputy Yevhen Chervonenko from Our Ukraine and amidst the chaos all observers were asked to leave.

By 8 p.m. the polls were closed, and I arrived at polling station No. 3 to observe the counting of votes because an observer from the Committee of Voters of Ukraine was thrown out earlier in the day. Polling station No. 3 was one of several (also 1 and 15) in a wider "pogrom" of breaking into polling stations reportedly to steal the ballots and intimidate the voting committees in order to falsify the results.

The violence continues

At around 10:45 p.m. the first wave of five to 10 bratky arrived at polling station No. 3. The doors had been locked at 8 p.m., when the counting began, however those of us inside noted more bratky were arriving in several waves. By midnight it was clear that a significant number of them had gathered around the building, which heightened the tension in the room. The police captain made no less than three calls to headquarters to ask for back-up, which arrived just as the bratky stormed the building. National Deputy Mykola Polischuk of Our Ukraine was reported to have made a similar call.

Just after midnight the committee had paused to take a short break before signing the protocol with the official results. Immediately afterwards, there was the sound of something shattering below – everyone in the room knew the bratky had broken into the building and were heading for the second floor, where the counting had been taking place. The committee and observers scattered and gathered in the corner of the room farthest away from the

doorway. The 10 unarmed policemen present quickly erected a barricade of chairs and five small tables to the doorless entrance to the room. These were insufficient and as the bratky threatened to break through this makeshift barricade the policemen started throwing chairs at them. Deputy Polischuk apparently tried to stop them in the hallway and was beaten as a result.

The protocol from polling station No. 3 was ultimately signed and delivered to the territorial election commission. However, results from stations 7, 14, 26 and 32, among others, were either not delivered or disappeared in transit.

The results are announced

Early Monday morning around 4:30 a.m. the territorial election commission announced that Ernest Nuser of the Social Democratic Party-United had defeated Viktor Baloha of Our Ukraine by a margin of roughly 5,000 votes. These numbers were entirely contrary to what exit pollsters from the Razumkov Center, Democratic Initiatives and Socis-Gallup, observers and national deputies had been reporting throughout the day. Deputies from Our Ukraine and their supporters organized an impromptu demonstration at the doors of the territorial election commission to protest the results, but their efforts proved fruitless.

Some 10,000 people took part in an unauthorized rally in Mukachiv on April 21 to support the Our Ukraine mayoral candidate, Mr. Baloha, who, according to the opposition, was robbed of a decisive victory in the April 18 election.

A postscript: media moratorium

Despite the recently declared moratorium on investigations of Ukrainian media outlets, concerns over press freedoms in Ukraine have not abated. Recent events in the city of Mukachiv suggest that problems facing journalists extend well beyond disruptive financial audits and licensing investigations, including barred entry, petty harassment and limited access to sources.

President Leonid Kuchma's decision on

March 15 to ban law enforcement agencies from reviewing the financial records and licensing agreements of the mass media was followed by a similar resolution in the Verkhovna Rada, reported the UNIAN news service. Both were widely perceived as a positive step in the right direction, but many still question whether the political will exists to uphold these decisions, which are not legally binding, and whether they will significantly improve the media climate before the pre-election campaign.

Yurii Yakymenko of the Razumkov Center, a Kyiv-based think-tank, noted that "it goes without saying, that the issuance of these normative acts is positive. Their implementation with regard to mass media, especially oppositional media, is another issue entirely." In order for these acts to have an effect, he added, "There needs to really be a logical legal approach in settling these kinds of questions. The political will necessary to uphold laws and normative acts equally with respect to all political forces and mass media orientations is key."

The Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) also welcomed the declared moratorium as "an attractive gesture by the president, who is trying to demonstrate, domestically and internationally, his commitment to engage more positively with mass media." On the other hand, Oleksander Chernenko, CVU's press secretary, noted that "many key mass media outlets, who articulate their own independent positions, have already faced considerable pressures. Shutting down one radio station appears to have been relatively easy, in fact, four or five stations were deprived of their listeners. Unfortunately, this moratorium is not a 100 percent guarantee that independent mass media will not continue to be targeted."

Recent events in Mukachiv illustrate the cause of continuing concern over press freedoms in Ukraine. On March 23, Volodymyr Aryev and Oleksander Pronine of Channel 5 were barred from access to a local administrative building and now face charges of hooliganism, the Ukrainian Institute of Mass Information reported. This

occurred when the reporters tried to meet with local officials to cover the by-election.

The closure of M-Studio, a popular and reportedly oppositional television station is widely considered to be a politicized decision. M-Studio's transmission was suspended on March 12 and it has since been barred access from City Council sessions that discussed the upcoming by-election, IMI reported. The Mukachiv city government claims that M-Studio's taxes are in arrears and that its insolvency means that it essentially does not exist.

Oleksander Chernenko of CVU notes that it is possible to agree with this logic to a point, but that radio stations in similar situations in Zakarpattia continue to operate – "only M-Studio was shut down," he noted. The pre-election campaign has become absolutely lawless and so sharp that "any laws and legislative acts are no longer paid attention to." Mr. Chernenko said he "would not be surprised if M-Studio was closed without any warning and without an explanation. The main goal here was not to give people information from this channel. For these reasons, one can talk with relative certainty about an order from someone."

When asked about the closure of M-Studio, Mykola Veresen, a well-known journalist stated, "The situation in Mukachiv is marasmic because everything that is happening there from beginning to end has an unpleasant odor. I would not direct attention solely to the media climate. Everything in Mukachiv, from the courts to the election committees, is a barrier not an advancement. There is a colossal battle for power taking place, which on the watch of this government has not been fair."

Mukachiv is the most recent example of declining press freedoms in Ukraine, and the most pressing given the mayoral by-elections (which took place on April 18). The case of Mukachiv illustrates that, even if the moratorium on investigations of mass media takes root, the possibility to bar or limit access to information still needs to be addressed. Moreover, the even-handed application of the moratorium remains to be seen.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Executive Committee meeting reviews 2003 operations

by **Christine E. Kozak**
UNA National Secretary

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association met on Friday, March 26, here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters. All committee members were present: Stefan Kaczaraj, president; Martha Lysko, first vice-president; Eugene Iwanciw, second vice-president; Al Kachkowski, director for Canada; Christine E. Kozak, national secretary; and Roma Lisovich, treasurer. Representing the UNA Auditing Committee was Yaroslav Zaviysky.

President Kaczaraj began the meeting with a summary of the UNA's statement of operations for the year ending December 31, 2003. The year 2003 was both positive and negative, he said. The negative news: the UNA had a net loss from insurance operations in the amount to \$46,000; this does not include the UNA's cost of fraternal benefits. The positive news: the UNA's surplus increased by \$463,000. The downside of this increase, unfortunately, is not due to operations, but due to the Canadian dollar and the slight recovery of the stock market.

One immediate answer for increasing the UNA's surplus from operations is for branch secretaries, organizers and professional sales persons to sell, sell, sell, said Mr. Kaczaraj. The UNA must continue selling life insurance and annuities, for without the

support of insurance operations, the UNA will not survive.

The UNA as a fraternal organization offers its members various member benefits. Following are the benefit costs for the report period: UNA subsidy of Soyuzivka, \$388,000; UNA subsidy of publications, \$180,000; premiums paid for 79-year-olds, \$122,000; scholarships, \$20,000. Thus, the total cost of fraternal benefits in 2003 was \$710,000, the president noted.

The Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp. for this report period had a profit of \$211,000, which helped boost the UNA's surplus to \$463,000.

Soyuzivka has had a slight improvement for the report period. In comparing 2002 to 2003, the previous year had a net loss of \$721,000, whereas in the year ending December 31, 2003, Soyuzivka's net loss was \$388,000. One positive factor for Soyuzivka was the increase in room revenue from \$388,000 for 2002 to \$490,000 for 2003 – an increase of over \$102,000, or 26 percent. Soyuzivka, as a fraternal benefit and as a community cultural center is in need of much community support if it is to stand on its own, the president added.

The UNA is moving in the right direction, but we must do better, Mr. Kaczaraj continued. The point is that we must do better than we did last year. If we could accomplish this, the UNA will be better able to provide its

members and the Ukrainian community the services and benefits it has provided in the past and provide new benefits for the future. Once again we must sell, sell, sell.

The president went on to note that UNA publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, have also improved their bottom lines. In comparing year-end 2002 with year-end 2003, both publications have increased their net income by \$72,000. This is an improvement of approximately 28 percent. However, there still is a high deficit, he added.

Both publications lost subscribers. Svoboda lost 291 subscribers or 4.3 percent, and The Ukrainian Weekly lost 114 subscribers or 1.8 percent. In 2002 Svoboda lost 5.4 percent of its subscribers, while The Weekly lost 4.51 percent. The trend of subscription losses is slowly declining but in the end subscriptions have to increase in order to sustain both newspapers, Mr. Kaczaraj stated.

The UNA received a letter of resignation from Advisor Barbara Bachynsky effective immediately. In accordance with the number of votes received at the 2002 convention, Gloria Horbaty, secretary of Branch 414, Connecticut district, will replace Mrs. Bachynsky on the UNA General Assembly.

The UNA executives expressed thanks to Mrs. Bachynsky for all the years she has been with the UNA. Mrs. Bachynsky was

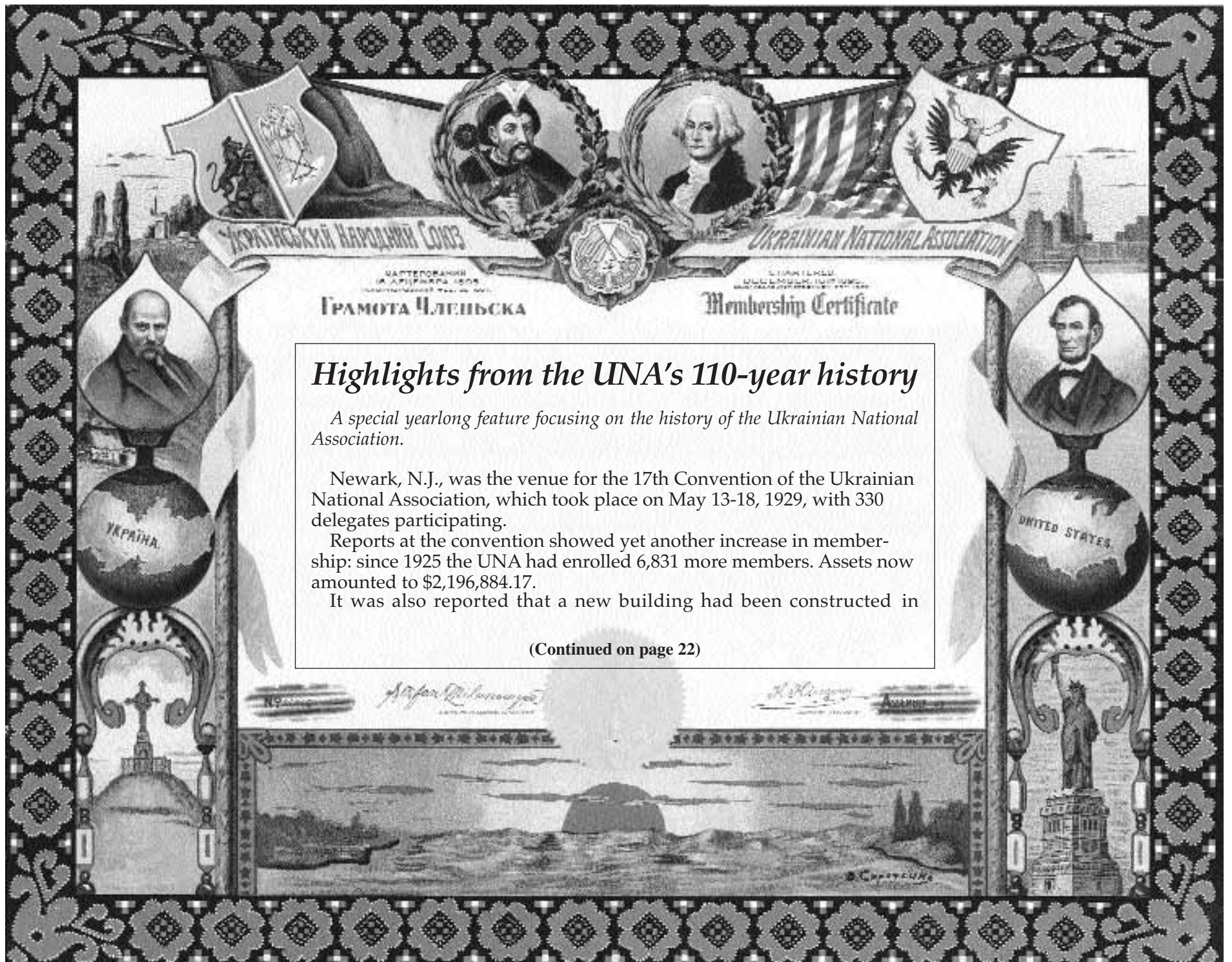
employed at the UNA Home Office prior to her election to the General Assembly. Mrs. Bachynsky is also secretary of Branch 184 and chairperson of the New York Districts; she will remain at those positions.

Ms. Lysko reported on her work with the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington and Soyuzivka regarding the Soyuzivka Adoptive Parents weekend scheduled for June 18-20. The UNA and the Embassy of Ukraine are co-sponsoring this event for the very first time. Families of children who were adopted from Ukraine will be treated to a Ukrainian weekend at the UNA resort.

The goal is to introduce the adoptive parents to Ukraine's rich culture and heritage, so they can pass on to their children the richness of Ukrainian traditions. It is also the goal of the weekend for the parents to see what Soyuzivka has to offer in children's camps, summer activities for families, etc., and to showcase Soyuzivka as a cultural heritage center, the culture of Ukraine, it's people and the diaspora.

The UNA as a sales organization has always supported its professional sales force by publishing their business cards as advertisements in both UNA publications. It was suggested that should a salesperson not produce one new member in a year, his/her ad should be pulled from both publications.

(Continued on page 19)



(Continued on page 22)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, 1927-2004

This week the Ukrainian community was saddened to hear of the passing of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, the doyenne of Ukrainian dance, who left us at age 77.

A prima ballerina who began her career in her native Ukraine, she performed in the cultural capitals of the world, in cities throughout Europe, the United States, Canada and even Central America. Hers was a special gift – one that she shared with appreciative audiences in countless venues, as a recent glance at our files of news clippings revealed. She chose to share that gift with the next generation when she established her School of Ballet and Ukrainian Dance in 1963. Thus, she devoted herself to teaching for the next 40 years.

Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky saw many an SRO audience in her day – both as a soloist and as a teacher. Our arts correspondent Helen Smindak wrote in one of her features about the famed choreographer and artistic director: “Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky has skillfully woven Ukrainian culture with classical ballet to create an originally exquisite, stylized ethnic art of dance.” The kaleidoscope of her choreography, as Ms. Smindak described it, encompassed full-length ballets and topical dances, including many on historic themes.

Older generations no doubt remember the stunning young dancer’s solo recitals in which she told her audiences about Ukraine and its culture through dance. Her New York debut was on March 26, 1961, at Town Hall, where she performed a recital billed as “Dances and Characters of Ukraine.” Writing in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, Lev Oleksandrovych noted: “Miss Pryma’s performance, comprising 10 different numbers, each in a different and exquisite costume ... were extremely well-received by the audience. Virtually every number demanded a curtain call, and at intermission there seemed to be no end to flowers for the charming dancer.”

Many of us of the next generation remember Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky’s colorful and exuberant ballet productions – a treat for us when we were growing up. Among these were “Kvit Paporoti” (1970) and “Peer Gynt” (1973). It was special to travel into New York with your parents for these shows. Plus, we got to see our friends performing on professional stages. How wonderful they looked in their elaborate costumes ... and how they danced!

Not to be forgotten were the splendid performances of Pani Roma’s Syzokryli troupe, composed of her advanced dancers. The Syzokryli revealed the richness of Ukrainian folk dance by performing dances from all regions of Ukraine: Poltavshyna, Hutsulshyna, Bukovyna, Volyn, Lemkivshyna and more, and they presented the beauty, vitality and diversity of Ukrainian dance to Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian audiences alike.

There were also the annual appearances of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky’s dance groups during the Ukrainian Festival presented on East Seventh Street by St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church. Sometimes it seemed her dancers were the entire show. Coming in all ages and sizes, from the tiniest 5-year-olds to high-school-age kids, they made every parent, and Pani Roma, very proud of their accomplishments.

From the Hopak and “Volynianka,” to “Fight for Freedom” and “Icon,” Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky prided herself on always presenting Ukrainian culture on the highest level. She was a professional and expected perfection from her students. In addition, she worked hard to prepare a corps of young instructors who today are continuing what she had begun back in 1963.

This year Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky was to celebrate 40 years of teaching the art of dance to younger generations. In September the Ukrainian Institute of America was planning to present its first ever Lifetime Achievement Award to her at a gala banquet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. In November her students of all ages are to appear at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall in a special jubilee concert in tribute and thanks to their teacher and mentor.

Pani Roma has now passed on, but there is no doubt the show will go on. And Pani Roma’s legacy, as well as her dream of handing down the beauty of Ukrainian dance to future generations, will live

June
2
1990

Turning the pages back...

Fourteen years ago, on June 2, 1990, Lincoln Center’s famed Alice Tully Hall was the scene of a 25th anniversary tribute to Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, founder and director of the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky School of Dance.

The afternoon program, dubbed a “Festival of Ukrainian Dance,” was held under the sponsorship of the Ukrainian National Association. It featured the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and students of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky’s dance school, which by then had expanded to several branches in three states.

A capacity audience filled Alice Tully Hall to see dances choreographed by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky, among them works marking historic anniversaries and tragic events in Ukraine’s history, as well as Ukrainian folk dances from the Poltava, Hutsul, Zakarpattia, Lemko and Volyn regions.

Master of ceremonies Ihor Rakowsky spoke of the great contributions of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky to Ukrainian culture and noted that her cadres of young dancers, knowingly or not, are in fact participating in the national reawakening that was then taking place in Ukraine.

At the conclusion of the program all the dancers gathered on stage to thank their teacher, choreographer and mentor for over 25 years of service in the cultural sphere of Ukrainian community life. Scores of bouquets of flowers were presented to Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky from her students, fans and supporters, including the UNA, the Dumka Chorus and the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Philadelphia.

Source: “Festival of Ukrainian Dance pays tribute to Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky,” *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 1, 1990, Vol. LVIII, No. 26.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukrainianizing Ukraine

by James Mace

The article below was published in the Kyiv-based newspaper Den (The Day) on April 27. It was Dr. James E. Mace’s last published article and is emblematic of the topics addressed by the late scholar and publicist in his commentaries for Den.

One can only receive with amusement the recent protest from the Russian State Duma that radio and television broadcasting in Ukraine should be in Ukrainian, if only with subtitles if need be.

First of all, one doubts how well this will be carried out. Quality programming in Ukrainian does not exist as yet, and translating Hollywood movies into Ukrainian is likely to be of benefit only to a limited number of translators. The polls show that roughly half the population of Ukraine speaks Russian at home, although it is a brand of Russian that our friends from Russia often have trouble understanding, while the other half claims to speak Ukrainian, for many of whom the brand of which is fairly far removed from the literary language.

Despite the best efforts of Ukrainian officialdom, this is probably not going to change significantly in the immediate future. About the best we can hope for in the next few years is that most of those who claim to speak Ukrainian will actually learn the language, that some of those who speak Russian will get it in a shape that our Russian friends can actually understand them and learn some passive command of Ukrainian, and at last there will be a larger space for the Ukrainian language, literature, arts, and other culture in the broadest sense.

If, of course, the Russian Duma makes claims about the Russian language in Ukraine, Ukraine has every right to make similar claims on behalf of the estimated 10 million Ukrainians living there. To my knowledge, Russia boasts a number of Ukrainian-language periodicals but no schools to teach the younger generation how to read them. If Russia would like a bilateral agreement on Russian-Ukrainian bilingualism, this writer has no doubt that Ukraine can provide the appropriate negotiators and hammer something out. Fair is fair.

The brutal fact is this: Ukraine has for a very long time suffered from imperial policies designed to reduce the utility of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine and expand the range of Russian. Other places – Ireland and Quebec come to mind – have faced this problem and tried

to restore the national language to the place it would have been in had the external pressure on it not occurred. Quebec has been a bit more successful than Ireland.

We also have the fact that many Russians consider the Ukrainian language a form of Russian corrupted by Polish (try to read the chancellery Russian from the time of Ivan the Terrible, and you might find that the roots of Russian are a bit different from those of Ukrainian), that Russian history began in Kyiv (you can begin your history wherever you want, because you are projecting later concepts onto times, places and peoples, to which they were completely foreign, but I would recommend reading A. E. Presniakov, “Obrazovanie Velikorusskogo Gosudarstva” (Petrograd, 1918, translated into English as *The Making of the Great Russian State*) to see how it all got started there), and that this country really is part of Russia’s legitimate sphere of influence. The announced measures are really only an attempt to correct this.

There are many Ukrainians who see things differently from our Russian friends, and international relations is, above all, the right to agree to disagree about things from time to time. Ukraine has chosen to try to enter NATO and the European Union as the best guarantee against those who think it really should not be independent at all. After all, our Dutch friends have a language that some other Europeans consider less than pleasing to the ear, but nobody is prepared to prevent them from speaking it.

Ukraine’s duly elected representatives have decided to defend the Ukrainian language, and those who have been selected by the people to have the right to speak on behalf of the state deserve their say. Europe has worked to create a state of tolerance, where peoples and languages might differ, but all are united in the common goal of making their individual national contributions to human civilization. There are strong measures on record about preserving the rights of those who might speak another language or do other things differently. Ukraine has decided that it wants to be part of that community, and it has not only the right to make that decision: it has the right decision to make.

Incidentally, Kyiv, which has perhaps the cheapest cable television in the world, receives Russian Channel 1, so those who want a Russian television show will not be left without something to watch.

Correction

The punctuation in one section of Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky’s speech at Columbia University (May 23) rendered the text improperly. The sentence should have read:

This is also not something that most folks who studied the Soviet Union or now study post-Soviet countries seem adequately to have understood and appreciated, so there now seems little awareness that perhaps something important is

reflected by the fact that whereas Russia is happily ruled by a career KGB officer, 60 percent of its population thinks Lenin was a great leader, 45 percent of its population thinks Stalin was a great leader, and 30 percent of the Russian population would vote for Stalin if he were running for office, in Ukraine, by contrast, and despite all of the official and media hanky-panky directed at undermining his candidacy, for the last two years a genuine democrat has continued to lead in Ukraine’s presidential polls.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Visit our archive on the Internet at:
<http://www.ukrweekly.com/>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chicago crisis: sour grapes?

Dear Editor:

Enough already, with this latest tempest in the Ukrainian American community – this time in Chicago. It's beginning to sound like sour grapes.

I read the Ukrainian press and enjoy the letters to the editor; it is obvious that a small group in Chicago is perpetuating and projecting this crisis on the U.S. community. I strongly doubt that this crisis as projected by the few is as newsworthy as they want us to think. From reading our press it has become evident that four or five individuals who have in some way been connected with 1st Security Bank in Chicago think or feel that the board should have consulted with them as to its planned merger. It is obvious that these community-minded individuals are unfamiliar with Securities and Exchange Commission rules on mergers and acquisitions, not to mention insider-trading rules.

But, gentleman, all is not lost; you most certainly know that in order for a merger to take place the stockholders must vote on accepting or rejecting this merger. Now, if the community is as outraged by this merger as you want us to believe, then the shareholders will most certainly reject the merger. I don't recall if I read this in *Svoboda* or *The Weekly*, but one writer noted that "we don't need the Heritage Foundation and its millions, the community will pick up the donations." Does that mean that we can start sending our requests for donations to the writer?

My fellow Ukrainians of Chicago, stop beating yourself, do not follow a false prophet. Do these gentlemen offer a better solution, do they have a vision for the future? No, but in the Ukrainian tradition they yell very loud. Today it's Julian Kulas and tomorrow it'll be someone else.

Mr. Kulas, above all, is an outstanding Ukrainian patriot – one who had a vision of our future financial needs. He was instrumental in forming the Heritage Foundation, whose mission is to financially assist our Ukrainian organizations, projects, schools, youth organizations, women's organizations as well as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Information Service and many other institutions.

We face so many problems this year in America and in Ukraine so what do we do, why we do what we do best, we beat up Julian Kulas. Gentleman, will you dedicate this much energy to work toward a democratic election in Ukraine? Will you say: "I was instrumental in the election of October 31. I organized new Ukrainian immigrants and helped them to the Ukrainian Consulate to vote." Or will you look back and say: Boy, we got Julian Kulas but good.

Zenko Halkowycz
Teaneck, N.J.

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

Was 1st Security sold or merged?

Dear Editor:

Was the Ukrainian-managed bank 1st Security Federal Savings Bank sold or merged? It was sold, of course, and President and CEO Julian E. Kulas could pocket several million dollars for his personal gain as a result of this pending sale. The acquiring bank has promised to retain branch personnel, but for the most part the current Ukrainian executive leadership will no longer exist in the next few months, if the sale is approved by a majority of the shareholders.

One can research online who the majority shareholders are, especially, banks and other foundations. I consulted several financial analysts who all said that the bank's balance sheet and income statement were outstanding, and saw no reason to sell such a profitable financial institution. Furthermore, there is a trend in America today showing that such community-oriented banks are prospering and play a vital role in the development of the American economy.

It now appears evident that the bank converted to a stock-owned organization in 1998 from a depositor-owned one, in order to successfully complete a sale to another acquiring bank. 1st Security Federal Savings Bank's executives said at many annual meetings held here in Philadelphia that the bank would have a majority control of the shares by buying back shares from stockholders in order to prevent such a takeover and maintain ownership in Ukrainian hands. What a pathetic and misleading lie. It reminds one of the current oligarch-style of business transactions pervasive today in Ukraine.

Ukrainians in the diaspora, specifically in Chicago and Philadelphia, are outraged that Mr. Kulas and his board of directors agreed to sell out for personal profit, rather than continue the legacy of this financially sound and prospering bank. Mr. Kulas repeatedly stated in his prior year community meetings in Philadelphia that we should make sure that the bank would be run by the next generation of young Ukrainian professionals. Mr. Kulas also stated that it is very encouraging to see non-Ukrainian depositors and borrowers utilize 1st Security's services and products, which ultimately allows 1st Security Bank to use the income proceeds to help Ukrainian and other organizations in the form of monetary donations. It appears evident now that those young Ukrainian bankers will never have that opportunity that Mr. Kulas was afforded by Lew Bodnar et al.

Perhaps one of the most betrayed and disappointed is Lew Bodnar, who many years ago was instrumental in organizing 1st Security Federal Savings Bank as a Ukrainian-managed bank. As a young student at Chortkiw's Ukrainian Gymnasium, Mr. Bodnar was known to many Ukrainians in town as a young activist and leader among Ukrainian students. Mr. Bodnar now realizes that hiring Mr. Kulas as a young manager to guide this bank was a grave mistake.

They say, "The love of money is the root of all evil." The million-dollar (or perhaps more) price tag to sellout one of the Ukrainian diaspora's best run and financially sound banks was nothing less than an evil, self-serving act of betrayal to 1st Security's customers, Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian alike.

Jaroslav Kaczaj
Cheltenham, Pa.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Opening tonight: Lesia Ukrainka

Over the past 40 years, I must have driven past the Lesia Ukrainka statue in Cleveland's Cultural Gardens a thousand times. I also come across her name on the letterhead of Branch 33 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and my wife's Plast scouting sorority, *Lisovi Mavky*, inspired by Lesia's "Forest Song" (*Lisova Pisnia*). Now with Cleveland Public Theater staging a production of *Forest Song* in the second weekend of June, I figure it's time I write a column.

To be honest, I knew little about Lesia Ukrainka besides the fact that she was a great poet who suffered from tuberculosis. From the *Ridna Shkola* Saturday school, I remember reading "Contra Spem Spero" (Hoping Against Hope), in which Lesia vows to struggle regardless of the odds. There's also "Konvalii" (Lilies of the Valley) and volumes of other sensitive poems about nature, creating an image of a syrupy optimist confined to a wicker chair in the garden observing flowers, butterflies and spider webs.

After reading about Lesia Ukrainka in the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine* and rifling through the 12 volumes of her complete works, I now see someone far more complex. She was an invalid bravely fighting tuberculosis, to be sure, but her enormous literary output and the broad range of her subjects and themes suggest an enormously erudite person of great resolution, toughness and imagination.

She was born in 1871 in the Russian Empire, not long after the *Valuiev Ukaz* of 1863 had declared "a Little Russian language has not, does not and cannot exist." The language was deemed "dangerous and harmful" and the police, Ministry of Education, Interior and Orthodox Church were all instructed to stop people from using it.

The ukaz, however, had no validity in the Austrian Empire, where a quarter of Ukrainians lived. The kaiser was not as autocratic as the Tsar, nor as hostile to Ukrainian culture. Given space, geniuses like Mykhailo Hrushevsky and Ivan Franko, along with thousands of other dedicated artists, scholars and teachers in Galicia, helped to develop their long-suppressed heritage. These idealists were fascinated by Ukrainian culture and motivated by an aching sense of injustice over the brutal way it was being stifled. All of them shared the conviction that the denial of basic rights stymied the development of each person's potential. The right to free expression in your own language and idiom was basic; achieving that right involved struggle, one which Lesia joined at an early age.

She was born into a well-to-do, land-owning family in Volyn. Unlike many Ukrainian gentry, the Kosach family resisted the overwhelming pressures to assimilate into Russian culture. They spoke Ukrainian and cultivated their daughter Larysa's talent for literature: to say she was precocious would be an understatement. She was 12 when her first poetry appeared in a literary journal published in Hapsburg-controlled Halychyna. Since it was dangerous for the family to be seen as openly circumventing the ban on Ukrainian publication, Larysa chose a penname: Lesia Ukrainka.

At 14, she published translations of Nikolai Gogol (*Mykola Hohol*), a Ukrainian who wrote exclusively in Russian. (In her career, she also translated works of Polish, Russian, French, German, Greek, Latin and other masters.) At 19, she wrote a 250-page textbook on the "Ancient History of the

Eastern Peoples."

In her mid-20s, Lesia began a series of poetic dramas, nearly a dozen of which are set in biblical and/or classical times. She often compares Ukrainians in the Russian Empire to Babylonian prisoners, Christians in the catacombs or Greeks struggling to assert their culture in the face of a Roman Imperial juggernaut. She wrote one play set in colonial America, another in the French Revolution and a number that take place in Ukraine and Russia. At each turn, she implicitly refers to her Ukrainian countrymen, exhorting them to shake off their inertia and apathy, and to struggle for their liberation. Although her works are special for Ukrainians, her themes of revolution, individual rights, the conflict between conformity and freedom, responsibility and license are universal.

Her most famous play is "Forest Song." Literally written in a fever over four days, this three-act fairytale explores the relationship between man and nature, domesticity and freedom. Tapping into Slavic mythology, the play depicts elves, goblins, woodsprites and water nymphs interacting with humans much as they do in Shakespeare's "Mid-Summer Night's Dream." It tells the tragic love story of the forest nymph, Mavka, who tries to please the peasant Lukash and his mother by becoming something she's not: a hard-working peasant girl. As she ceases to be a fantastical creature, Lukash's love for her dies and Mavka ends up losing both herself and the boy she loves.

Lending itself to music, dance and visual effects, "Forest Song" has become a standard of the Ukrainian theater. In the mid-1990s, the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble directed by Lydia Krushelnyska and the Yara Arts Group led by Virlana Tkacz, staged separate Ukrainian and English-language productions in New York.

In my hometown of Cleveland, Nadia Tamawsky and Michael Flohr have taken on the mission to popularize Ukrainian culture in their corner of the planet. Two years ago they staged Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky's "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors." Four years ago, it was "Ancestral Voices," an original musical production based on the poetry of Taras Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka, Oleksander Oles and Mykhailo Drai-Khmara.

Nadia and her husband, Mike, are adamant about staging their productions in English in a professional theater using professional actors and musicians, all aimed at an American audience. They've won grants from the Ohio Arts Council and enjoyed enthusiastic reviews from the Cleveland Plain Dealer and other mainstream media. "Forest Song" in June will feature music in Ukrainian and text in Nadia's own English translation. Pittsburgh's Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Company will perform the wedding scene.

Lesia Ukrainka, who died in 1913 at the early age of 41, worked arduously, along with others, to lift Ukrainian culture to a world-class level. In my view, they succeeded. Theater folks like Lydia and Virlana in New York and Mike and Nadia in Cleveland have discovered those works and are giving them life. The last piece of the puzzle is the audience. And that's where we come in, entering the scene from the back of the theater.

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

Reception at UNA raises funds for 40th anniversary concert honoring Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association and the parents of dancers of the Iskra dance studio in Whippany, N.J., hosted a wine-and-cheese reception here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters building on Sunday, May 23, with the goal of raising funds for a gala celebration of the 40th anniversary of the work of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky.

The internationally recognized dancer, choreographer, artistic director and dance instructor recently marked four decades of her creative work in the realm of ballet and Ukrainian folk dance. The anniversary is to be capped off with a special performance by all her students – members of various troupes in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut – at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in November.

UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich welcomed guests to the reception. She was joined by parents of the Iskra dance ensemble's members, who belong to three different groups (organized by proficiency level and age).

Ms. Lisovich noted Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's unequalled contributions to Ukrainian culture through the preservation and development of dance, as well as her highly successful efforts to popularize Ukrainian dance to non-Ukrainian audiences in Europe and North America.

A film highlighting the life and work of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky was screened during the event, and archival materials were on display to supplement the presentation.

Many participants reminisced about experiences with "Pani Roma," as she is known by her students and supporters, and, indeed, the entire Ukrainian American community.

A raffle was organized to raise additional funds, with the prize being a beautiful headdress, a Ukrainian vinok, worn by dancers from the Poltava region of Ukraine. The winner of the raffle was Nadia Matkiwsky, whose children were and whose grandchildren are students of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's dance studios.

In addition, many guests made donations beyond the \$50 ticket price to the



Participants of the wine-and-cheese reception held in the atrium of the UNA Corporate Headquarters.

reception, and persons unable to attend the event forwarded their contributions.

Guests were somewhat worried that Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's daughter, Ania Lonkevych, who was scheduled to attend the reception, did not arrive.

As fate would have it, on the very day that supporters and fans of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's work were gathering to pay tribute to her work and to raise funds for the jubilee concert, she passed away at the age of 77 after a bout with cancer. Reception participants, though aware that their beloved Pani Roma was seriously ill, would hear of her death later that day.

The show, however, will go on in November – as will Pani Roma's legacy.

Donations in support of the 40th Anniversary Jubilee Concert of the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky School of Ukrainian Dance are being accepted. Checks should be made payable to UCDA Inc. and mailed to UCDA, c/o Emilia Liteplo, 941 57th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219.



UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich (right) addresses the gathering. Looking on are Christine Syzonenko (left) and Ksenia Rakowsky, members of the parents committee of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky's Iskra dance troupe.

Cleveland troupe to present Lesia Ukrainka classic, "Lisova Pisnia"



Cover of the CD recording of "Lisova Pisnia."

CLEVELAND – MN2 Productions will premiere its latest dance theater piece, "Forest Song" at Cleveland Public Theater's Old Parish Hall on Friday, June 11, at 8 p.m.

"Forest Song" is a tale of sacrificial love reminiscent of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Little Mermaid." Mavka, a forest nymph, has been awakened from her wintry slumber by the music of Lukash, a village youth. Their love blossoms like the flowers of the spring, until she relinquishes her immortal forest life to become mortal and be with him. This story is presented against the backdrop of the ancient forests of Polissia in

Ukraine, a forest filled with water spirits, mischievous imps and other mythical sprites and creatures.

Originally written in Ukrainian by Lesia Ukrainka, the work is translated into English by Nadia Tarnawsky and is brought to life through the vibrant choreography of Natalie M. Kapeluck of the Mary Miller Modern Dance Company and artistic director of the Slava Modern Dance Company and the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, with the adept staging of Michael D. Flohr.

Ukrainian folk songs and folk music were collected in villages in Polissia and Volyn to serve as the soundtrack for this production and are performed by some of the strongest musicians in their field: Beata Begeniova on accordion, Alexander Fedoriouk on cimbalom and buben, Andrei Pidkivka on sopilka, frilka and dvo-dentsivka, Nadia Tarnawsky as vocalist and on bandura, and Mykhailo Pidloha providing additional vocals.

The production has been generously funded through an Artist's Project Grant by the Ohio Arts Council and with the support of the Ukrainian Museum and Archives of Cleveland.

"Forest Song" will run for three performances only – June 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and June 13 at 3 p.m. Performances will take place in Cleveland Public Theater's Old Parish Hall, 6209 Detroit Ave. Tickets are \$15, general admission and \$12 for seniors and students with a valid student ID. For ticket reservations, call the MN2 Productions box office at (216) 832-4225.

For more information about MN2 Productions, access the website at <http://go.to/mn2productions> or contact Ms. Tarnawsky by phone at (216) 832-4225 or via e-mail at mn2productions@yahoo.com.



The Field Nymph (Natalie Kapeluck) and Mavka (Emilia Zankina) in a scene from "Lisova Pisnia."

Embassy of Ukraine in Cairo – an update ten years later

by Oksana Zakydalsky

CAIRO – Ten years ago – in March 1994 – I was in Cairo and interviewed Dr. Viktor Nahaichuk, then Ukraine's chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Ukraine, which had opened the previous year. It was a modest apartment of several rooms in an ordinary high-rise apartment building in downtown Cairo. It was the first Ukrainian Embassy in the Arab world and the first in Africa. (See *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 24, 1994).

Ten years later, I'm in Cairo again, at the gate of the Embassy of Ukraine, this time a grand white building behind high bougainvillea-covered walls in Maadi, a Cairo suburb filled with other embassies and ambassadorial residences. Dr. Nahaichuk left several years ago (he is now Ukraine's ambassador in Tunisia) and the current Ukrainian ambassador to Egypt is Andrij Vessolovsky, former minister-counselor (1992-1996) at the Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa.

Born in 1951, and a career diplomat, Mr. Vessolovsky belongs to the younger post-Soviet generation of Ukrainian diplomats. A former journalist, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1986 and has served in Guinea and Algeria. He came to Cairo in the spring of 2001 and talked fondly of his years in Ottawa, mentioning that one of his sons was studying at the University of Toronto.

Mr. Vessolovsky described the Embassy in Cairo – which also has responsibility for Sudan – as an important one for Ukraine because Egypt is the largest Arab country and working there means having to follow events and politics of other Arab countries. Although the staff is not large – eight diplomats and two support staff – it is a full-service Embassy with a trade and economics attaché, a military attaché and a Consulate.

In the last two years, annual trade between Ukraine and Egypt has reached \$300 million (10 years ago it was \$55 million), and it consists of mostly Ukrainian exports of metal and metal products and some chemical products. Mr. Vessolovsky explained, "We would like to develop our trade and economic relations in such industries as aerospace and electronics so that we don't rely only on raw materials like metal. We also think there is a future in exporting to Egypt, as the population here is growing but all arable land is taken."

Where Egypt gains from Ukraine is in tourism, which is growing dramatically – in 1999 there were 20,000 visitors from Ukraine; in 2000, 40,000 and in 2003, 76,000. The direct thrice-weekly Kyiv-Cairo flights of 10 years ago no longer exist; instead, flights go directly from Kyiv to Hurghada, a resort area on the Red Sea.

I asked Mr. Vessolovsky if there was a Ukrainian community in Cairo. He answered that the permanent community is made up of families of Ukrainian women who married Egyptians studying in Ukraine and estimated that there were around 200 such families in Cairo. Many of these women kept their Ukrainian citizenship as this gives their children the right to study in Ukraine and allows them to visit relatives back home.

The transitory Ukrainian community of tourists from Ukraine sometimes poses problems for the Embassy – Mr. Vessolovsky was careful to emphasize that they are no different from tourists of any country anywhere. Tourism is a thriving and rapidly growing business in Ukraine and sometimes the tour companies don't do what they promise, leaving people in the lurch and forcing the Consulate to step in. Such problems, he said, take up a lot of time.

I remembered that 10 years ago there were many people from Ukraine working in Cairo – for example, one half of the Cairo Opera House orchestra was recruited in Kyiv. Their pay – \$500 per month at the time – was low by European standards but a good salary for Ukrainians. Mr. Vessolovsky explained that the number of such workers had dwindled considerably because their pay has remained the same as it was 10 years ago, while the purchasing power of the money is worth half of what it was a decade earlier. But some of the workers have stayed. The embassy regularly holds concerts and cultural evenings inviting the Ukrainian artists to perform before other diplomats.

I broached the subject of the international sex trade and the trafficking of women from Ukraine. I referred to Victor Malarek's book "The Natashas" which begins with a girl from Kharkiv (with three companions – two from Russia and one from Moldova) arriving at the Cairo airport thinking they are going to jobs in Tel Aviv. In Cairo they are met by some sleazy characters, transported to the desert and handed over to Bedouins who take them across the desert to the Israeli border to join the sex trade. I asked Mr. Vessolovsky if, in his official capacity, he had come across the problem of the trafficking of Ukrainian women.

Mr. Vessolovsky replied that, although he had not read the book, "I think it's misleading to have it begin here – to introduce the topic using Cairo. In Cairo there is a very

small number of Ukrainian women involved in providing sexual services. There are many more of them in Istanbul, Athens, Rome or Tel Aviv. The Egyptian government is very aware of the problem and is taking measures to make sure that, at least, it does not find root in Egypt. Just recently it passed a regulation whereby single women under 25 are not let into Egypt."

"This sex trade takes root where there is acquiescence, where both the authorities and the people shut their eyes to it. To establish oneself as a prostitute in Cairo is very difficult. Prostitution – although it exists here – is not a major problem for our city. Most of the women who come through Egypt head to Israel. I would guess that out of any 150 members of a tourist group, at most five are women who have set out to work as prostitutes. They have made previous arrangements to meet with people who will guide them to places where they can ply their trade," he added.

I pointed out that Mr. Malarek's book shows that the women who are enticed into the sex trade are not really prostitutes, that an international organized crime network preys on those who want to find work outside Ukraine and are not aware of what they are getting into.

Mr. Vessolovsky answered, "I'm familiar with this point of view, but I don't wholly agree with it. Although I am not an expert in this matter – I am sure Mr. Malarek studied this issue and knows it very well. I don't want to contradict him, but I would like to say that this talk of enticing innocent girls who were told that they would look after old people or mind children or work in orchards picking fruit – there are very few such cases. All the more so in Ukraine where society is very well aware of what these girls are getting into. They have enough information to know what is going on. We've had cases where we've pulled our girls out of very sticky situations, helped them, sent them home – and a month or two later, they were back. Such women know very well where and for what they are going. Although I agree that Ukraine today is no paradise, many of those who can't cope become desperate and are ready to do anything to get out," he explained.

He continued, "We also come across women who come to live in Egypt, who end up in circumstances they were not expecting. The rules of Egyptian family life can be very different from such rules in Ukraine. Most of the mixed marriages here work out well, but there are those that don't. The rules here are based on Egyptian traditions and customs, and anyone who contemplates coming to live here should find out what these are. Sometimes women who are unprepared for life here come to the Embassy for help and shelter."

What was the image of Ukraine among Egyptians? The image, Mr. Vessolovsky said, is mostly positive. Egyptians are interested in Ukraine. Ukraine has a long-standing relationship with Egypt. Many Egyptians studied in Ukraine and many Ukrainians worked in Egypt on various construction projects such as the Aswan dam. According to the ambassador, there are no controversial issues or important differences between Egypt and Ukraine at this time.

I asked Mr. Vessolovsky in what way working in Cairo differed from working in Ottawa. He laughed and answered, "In every way. Even in such details as riding in the diplomatic car: here the way is cleared for you; in



Ambassador Andrij Vessolovsky

Ottawa nobody notices. Consideration, hierarchy and what I would call slowness are the characteristics of society here. Nobody hurries anywhere – there is always time enough. Whereas in Canada, the effectiveness of your working life is measured by how clearly you have marked out your time and how carefully you keep to your schedule. I believe you have to make yourself function in any society and be prepared to work within it. For example, to cross over from a formal to a friendship-based working relationship is much harder in Egypt than in Canada, but once you have crossed that line, you have a more open and sincere colleague in the Egyptian than you would in a Canadian."

I asked him if he missed having a Ukrainian diaspora here as he had in Canada, or does not having one make life easier. "I had extensive relations with the Ukrainian community in Canada – in Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg. I corresponded with former Governor-General Raymond Hnatyshyn up to 2002. Such relations helped in many situations – for example, I could consult on issues where it would not have been comfortable for me to ask a stranger. There were some differing points of view between the diaspora community and us," he said.

At the end of our meeting, the ambassador took me to the Embassy reading room, which houses the Adrian Hromiak Memorial Library. Mr. Hromiak, who was from Chicago, worked in Cairo for many years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and during that time established friendly contacts with the Embassy of Ukraine. After he died in 1996, memorial donations were used to establish a library in his name at the Embassy of Ukraine in Cairo.



The Embassy of Ukraine in Cairo.



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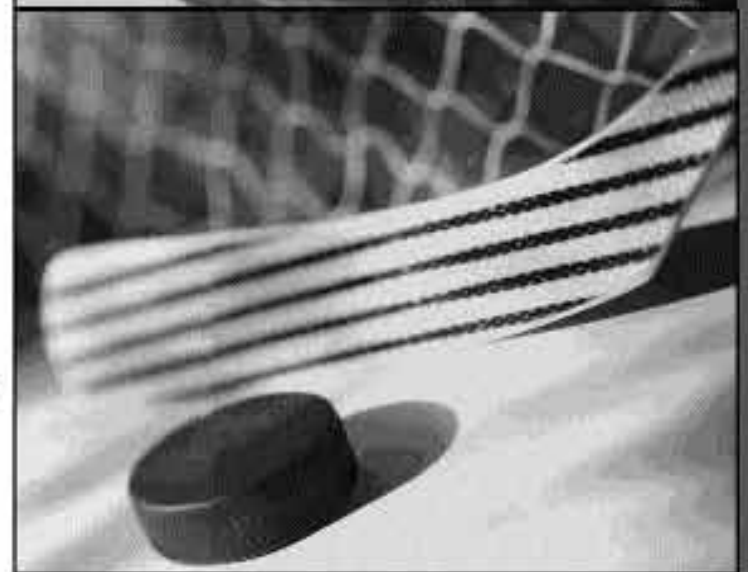
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INTERVIEW: Volodymyr Klitschko speaks about investigation of bout

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – *Following a disappointing loss to journeyman boxer Lamon Brewster this past April, Volodymyr Klitschko recently hired boxing lawyer Judd Burstein and asked authorities to investigate the circumstances surrounding his World Boxing Organization title bout, suggesting that he was perhaps drugged prior to or during the fight.*

Mr. Burstein subsequently sent a letter to Daniel Bogden, the United States attorney for the District of Nevada, requesting an investigation into what the lawyer reportedly called “the highly suspicious events surrounding Mr. Klitschko’s April 10, 2004, Las Vegas bout against Lamon Brewster.”

Mr. Burstein said the fight’s drop in odds – from 11-1 to 7-2 – was suspicious, and added that a press pass belonging to the Klitschko camp was stolen prior to the fight.

According to the Associated Press, the Klitschko camp had also been frustrated that efforts to learn if the Ukrainian boxer had been drugged or poisoned led to little progress in the matter.

Below is an edited portion of an exclusive interview conducted by Roman Kernitski, a correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly, with Volodymyr Klitschko, who spoke with The Weekly about the fight, the investigation and his boxing future.

Why is Judd Burstein representing you in this case?

We have known each other for some time and I highly value his professionalism. I am confident that his experience and knowledge will help to find the truth, and with that some answers to many

questions we have. He perfectly knows what he needs to do and how to do it.

Still, why wasn’t this done earlier – immediately after the fight?

At first we expected that the blood and urine tests would let us know what happened to me during the fight with Lamon Brewster. Furthermore, all of the following examinations after the fight showed that I have no serious or long-term illnesses. However, when all of my urine and blood samples were destroyed, with the exception of one milliliter of urine, our doubts that something was not right became certain.

Also, all of our attention and energy was turned toward Vitalii, so that he could prepare and carry out this highly important fight against Corrie Sanders. Now I can completely turn my attention to find out what really happened on April 10. That’s why just now I turned to Judd Burstein.

What do you expect from your work with Mr. Burstein?

Only one thing – I want to find out the truth. I want to find out what really happened to me in the fight with Brewster, where I carried out the fight not only against him but also with myself. Why, having been both physically and mentally ready for this fight, after the second round I was just holding on. I want one thing only – that what happened in the Brewster fight will not happen in my future fights.

Do you want the fight with Lamon Brewster to be declared a no contest?

I am not looking for an excuse and don’t want to appear as someone swing-

ing my fist after the fight. I lost the fight and admit this fact. However, I want to understand what was the cause of my loss. And with that I want to face Brewster again.

What if the fight is declared no contest? Are you going to be satisfied?

I don’t like to beat my opponents in the court. I ought to beat them in the ring. And even if the fight is declared no contest, I still want to fight him inside the ring.

How long will the investigation by Judd Burstein last?

It’s very difficult for me to answer this. I hope that we find out the outcome of it as soon as possible. But we have to be realistic; this investigation is very difficult and strenuous.

Will you carry out any fights before the outcome of this investigation?

Of course! I think that either at the end of August or beginning of September I will enter the ring.

And speaking of your opponent that you’re planning to face, can you give us any idea who it may be?

Right now, with certainty I can speak that I don’t plan to carry out a fight just for the heck of it. I expect that my opponent will be top-level. I don’t think that boxing fans would enjoy or be interested in Volodymyr Klitschko’s fight with some third-league, unknown boxer.

Then tell us the names of those boxers whom you would like to fight next.

It would be David Tua, James Toney, Dominick Guinn, Joe Mesi.

Volodymyr, I bet you can’t wait for your next fight.

Concerning my next fight, I myself want to return to the ring. If you’re implying that it’s another comeback, then you’re mistaken – I didn’t leave. I plan to continue my professional career and I am certain that the dream of the Klitschko brothers – for both of us to become world champions at the same time – will happen.

* * *

The Weekly also learned on May 17 that the Nevada Athletic Commission asked Mr. Burstein to appear before it in a public meeting to explain allegations made in his May 5 letter.

The chairman of that commission, John Bailey, said he was disappointed that the Nevada commission did not receive a copy of the letter, but had instead learned of the letter’s contents in the press, the Nevada-based Las Vegas Review-Journal reported on May 14.

“... You make some serious allegations regarding the integrity of the fight and events surrounding it,” Mr. Bailey wrote to Mr. Burstein, according to the media report. Mr. Klitschko’s attorney said on May 8 that his letter contained no allegations but, rather, sought an investigation to find the truth.

“I have tremendous respect for Mr. Bailey and tremendous respect for the commission in general,” Mr. Burstein told the Nevada newspaper. “To be clear, my letter was drafted in a way that was designed to make completely apparent that I was not accusing anyone on the commission of any wrongdoing. I wrote a letter that very simply asked for an investigation to try to discover the truth.”

Chess world at war: Ponomariov vs International Chess Federation

by Petro Marusenko

KYIV – A virtual war has developed between Ukrainian world chess champion Ruslan Ponomariov and the world governing body for chess, FIDE (International Chess Federation). The feud has become a focus of world attention as FIDE faces the possibility of holding its next chess championship without some of the world’s best talent, including Mr. Ponomariov.

The controversy is the result of a confusing global chess system and the well-documented eccentricities and self-centeredness retained almost as a tradition or a right of passage by the top chess grand masters.

At the end of January 2002, having beaten fellow Ukrainian Vasyl Ivanchuk, 18-year-old Mr. Ponomariov became the youngest champion in chess history. But Mr. Ponomariov has remained far from the undisputed champ. Vladimir Kramnyk of Russia has retained a second version of the championship title in the classic chess category, while Gary Kasparov, the acclaimed Russian master who has lost all his official titles, remains the highest rated chess master. With an ego to match his ratings, Mr. Kasparov will consider only championship matches and will not be bothered with elimination rounds.

It soon became evident that there could be only one king. To unite the chess world an agreement was signed on May 2002 in Prague, according to which Mr. Ponomariov has to play against Mr. Kasparov, while Mr. Kramnyk was to face the winner of a playoff between several leading chess masters (which Hungarian Peter Leko was to win). The winners of the two matches would then

play for the right to claim for themselves the title of absolute world champion.

While Mr. Ponomariov wasn’t even invited to Prague for the discussions that led to the deal, he agreed with the solution. Even so, it didn’t turn out as planned. The match between Mr. Ponomariov and Mr. Kasparov was put off and locations changed (from Argentina to Yalta) several times. Ultimately, the match didn’t occur at all. Moreover, FIDE blamed the Ukrainian chess player for the disruptions.

In truth, the viewpoint taken by Kirsana Ilumzhinov, the president of the federation, was somewhat strange, inasmuch as it supported Mr. Kasparov, whom many consider infantile in his attitude toward his approach to matches and the demands he puts forward. However, it was also strange for three other reasons: first, Mr. Kasparov had done a lot to cause chaos within the ranks of FIDE; second, Mr. Kasparov had previously publicly questioned the financial dealings of Mr. Ilumzhinov; and finally, if the FIDE president couldn’t support his own champion, then who would?

After the match was canceled, talks began on a new championship tournament in the spring of 2004, but as often has happened with FIDE, it was put off until the summer. The venue that was chosen – Tripoli, Libya – was also unusual. It is interesting to note that in 1996 Mr. Ilumzhinov tried to have a match between Mr. Kasparov, who we remind you is a Russian, and Gaty Kamsky, an American, in Iraq under the patronage of Saddam Hussein. Only after the U.S. State Department prohibited Mr. Kamsky from traveling to Iraq did the FIDE president change his mind. Now Mr. Ilumzhinov wants the world’s premier

chess forum to be held under the patronage of Muammar Qaddafi.

The participants in the championship tournament had until the end of April to commit to play in Tripoli in a playoff structure with one not-so-minor detail. The winner of the playoff would meet Mr. Kasparov, who is merely a grand master. FIDE maintains that Mr. Kasparov can wait out the playoffs and play only for the championship due to his astronomical masters rating, which remains much greater than those of other chess players even though it was gained several years ago. In the last two years Mr. Kasparov has not only failed to win any tournaments, he has competed only twice.

On the other hand, Mr. Ponomariov, the current world champion as recognized by FIDE, would have to play from the first round. The contest would be held under a single knockout system with 128 other grand masters. Mr. Ponomariov refused the conditions and rejected participation in the championship. As the world ex-champion Anatoly Karpov commented, “The tournament winner will play Kasparov for the title of ... Ponomariov.”

As the Ukrainian chess player admitted, he did not want to turn down the opportunity to play in Libya. He hadn’t taken part in any chess contests since last October. Many followers of the sport believe that Mr. Kasparov has used his profound effect on the chess world not to let Mr. Ponomariov play in prestigious tournaments.

Earlier the new resident of Kyiv (he moved from Donetsk some months ago) had kept silent, but now he has made some statements.

First he wrote a letter to the newly cre-

ated Association of Chess Professionals (similar to a chess masters’ trade union), where he made his point. He noted: “The title ‘the world’s best chess master,’ which Kasparov has bestowed upon himself, is not foreseen either within the statutes of FIDE or in any other official sources. I think that such a situation is in violation of all principles of fair play.” He emphasized: “I will not surrender to the absolute dictates of FIDE.”

Mr. Ponomariov also wrote to the Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma, intending to get the support of Ukraine’s leader. In that letter Mr. Ponomariov was less diplomatic in his description of the FIDE leadership, calling it a “chess mafia.”

The relations between Mr. Ponomariov and the Ukrainian Chess Federation and its leader Viktor Petrov also are not clear. The champion blames the national federation for betraying his interests. Mr. Petrov, however, has said that Mr. Ponomariov’s entourage (his manager, trainer, lawyer) have a negative influence on him and destroy the champion’s image. While it is difficult to say if they have worked out their problems, they seem to have come to a common position on resolving the impasses surrounding the Tripoli tournament.

Mr. Ponomariov presented his idea for determining a single 2004 world champion during a press conference in Kyiv. He suggested that a single tournament take place to decide the world championship title between Kasparov, Kramnyk, Leko, himself and other contenders, including the winner of the knockout tournament in Tripoli.

It seemed like a fair solution, but with

(Continued on page 14)

BOOK NOTES

Oldest chronicle, "Povest Vremennyk Let," published by Harvard

"The 'Povest Vremennykh Let': an Interlinear Collation and Paradosis," edited by Donald Ostrowski. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, 2004, three volumes, \$145.

NEW YORK – The latest addition to the Ukrainian Research Institute's multi-volume series The Harvard Library of Early Ukrainian Literature is a monumental edition of the Rus' Primary Chronicle ("Povest vremennykh let"), the oldest of the historical chronicles from Ukraine. The Harvard edition is the first to offer the chronicle in the original language with all variant readings from an edition prepared by a Ukrainian research institution.

For centuries, historians writing about Ukraine, for example, Mykhailo Hrushevsky in his "History of Ukraine-Rus'," cited the "Povest" only from Russian publications because there were no Ukrainian editions. The new 2,357-page compendium from Harvard offers historians an alternative for the first time.

The original chronicle compilation has not survived. Historians believe it was compiled from a number of sources in St. Michael's Monastery in Vydubychi, a village near Kyiv, in 1116. Initially, the Ukrainian Research Institute planned to publish the "Povest" as a facsimile of later chronicles, i.e. texts that began with a copy of the "Povest" text. After much effort in the 1970s, Harvard acquired microfilms of all of the important manuscripts from libraries in Moscow and Leningrad, where almost all documents relating to old Ukrainian history had been moved.

Unfortunately, the Harvard microfilms were found to be unsuitable for publication, so the current edition was prepared by transcribing the texts, word for word, from each microfilm into computer files and later checking the veracity of the transcription by inspecting the original manuscripts. This process, which took over 20 years to complete, was conducted by Dr. Donald Ostrowski, research associate at the Ukrainian Research Institute, research advisor in the Social Sciences and Lecturer in Extension Studies at Harvard.

The Harvard edition is actually an interlinear collation consisting of the five (and, at times, even more) main manuscript witnesses to the "Povest" that date from the late 14th to 16th centuries, as well as three Russian versions published in 1872, 1916 and 1950.

This is followed by a paradosis, or best reading, constructed by Dr. Ostrowski according to a rigid set of principles of textual criticism. In this way he produced a dynamic text of the "Povest" based on all of the main witnesses. His work is a significant improvement over many of the long-accepted but inferior readings of previous editions.

For example, in the traditional scheme of Russian history, the southern Rus' family of Primary Chronicle copies, especially the Hypatian and Khlebnikov copies that end with the Kyivan and Galician-Volhynian Chronicles, is thought to be inferior to (and derived from) the northern line that links ancient Kyiv to Vladimir-Suzdal' and thence to Moscow. This bias has been so pervasive that in some important Russian editions, the southern Rus' line was totally ignored.

Dr. Ostrowski meticulously compared thousands of lines of text from both northern and southern chronicle copies. He noted the various duplications, omissions, spellings, and reworked passages of these manuscripts that later copyists of the Middle Ages made in their copies of the text. In observing these discrepancies, Dr. Ostrowski concluded that the southern Rus' (Ukrainian) manuscripts cannot be ignored and that they have independent authority in determining substantive readings of the "Povest." This is seen from the line-by-line comparisons and forms a sound basis for doubting at least some of the 200 years of Russian scholarship on the "Povest."

The Harvard edition is printed in three parts. The first contains a foreword by Dr. Omeljan Pritsak (Hrushevsky Professor of History Emeritus at Harvard, and former director of the Ukrainian Research Institute), an introduction by D. Ostrowski, a bibliography and a narrative on the technical principles of the transcription. These are followed by the first 690 pages of the "Povest" text.

Publication of this volume has been made possible by the generous \$25,000 donation of Vladimir and Helena Shyprykevich from Pennsylvania. Their donation honors Mr. Shyprykevich's par-

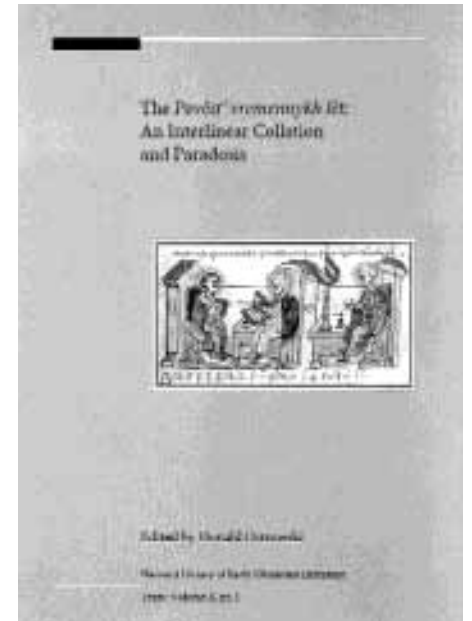
ents, Father Petro and Kateryna (nee Abramovych) Shyprykevich. Father Petro was the parish priest for 63 years in Ostrivtsi, a village in the Volyn region of Ukraine.

The second part of the edition contains the aforementioned introductory materials in Ukrainian translation, followed by the next 681 pages of "Povest" text. The Ukrainian front matter is important in that it will allow scholars in Ukraine to understand the methodology of the Harvard work.

This volume was produced with the support of a \$25,000 donation from Dr. Paul J. and Irena Dzul, noted benefactors of the Ukrainian Studies Fund from Michigan.

Sample facsimiles of folios from the five main manuscript copies of the "Povest" appear in the third part, followed by the final 793 pages of the text. The folios selected correspond to passages discussed in the introduction and allow readers to better judge the work that previous scholars have done in order to compare passages from the different witnesses. Publication of the final part has been made possible by the generous \$25,000 donation of Mychajlo and Maria Kryzaniwsky, noted donors of the Ukrainian Studies Fund from New York, as well as their sons Dr. Yuri and Bohdan Kryzaniwsky.

The three-part set of the "Povest" is priced at \$145 (includes shipping) for orders within the U.S., and may be ordered from the Ukrainian Research Institute (telephone, (617) 495-4243; HURI Publications, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138). This pub-



lication is listed as volume 10, text series, of The Harvard Library of Early Ukrainian Literature.

The library encompasses literary activity in Rus'-Ukraine from its beginning in the mid-11th century through the end of the 18th century and is a portion of the Harvard Project in Commemoration of the Millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine, sponsored by the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, with support of the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

The Ukrainian Studies Fund is currently seeking donations to purchase 100 sets of the "Povest" edition to ship to libraries and scholarly institutions in Ukraine. Support is also needed for exploring various possibilities to bring this huge undertaking online and provide it with search engines and other useful electronic resources.

Government of Ukraine gives a boost to U.S.-Ukrainian scientific collaboration

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – Cathleen A. Campbell, senior vice-president of the U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), and Andriy Gurzhiy, first vice minister of education and science of Ukraine, signed a joint agreement on May 19 in Kyiv committing both organizations to continued promotion of scientific development in Ukraine.

Since 1995, the CRDF has contributed over \$8.4 million toward collaborative research, commercialization of scientific research, travel grants and equipment grants in Ukraine. The Ministry of Education and Science has contributed over \$1.8 million to the collaborative research grants.

In the new agreement, the Ministry of Education and Science pledged to double its annual cost share of the programs to as much as \$450,000 in 2005 and for the

first time will extend its cofinancing to the CRDF's First Steps to Market and Next Steps to Market programs. These programs encourage technology commercialization and entrepreneurship in Ukraine by pairing Ukrainian researchers and U.S. companies in pre-commercial research and development.

"The CRDF welcomes the Ukrainian government's decision to expand its joint financing and looks forward to continuing to support quality research between U.S. and Ukrainian scientists," Ms. Campbell stated. She strongly encouraged scientists in Ukraine to take advantage of continued funding opportunities through CRDF, such as the current CRDF program to support research in HIV/AIDS and related co-infections.

The U.S. Civilian Research and

(Continued on page 18)

CIUS scholars help Ukraine return to Europe

TORONTO – At the beginning of 2004, the well-known publisher of reference literature, Charles Scribner's Sons, released "Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World." The richly illustrated, six-volume work features 12 articles specifically dealing with the history of Ukraine. Most of them were authored by scholars working at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies: Drs. Zenon E. Kohut, Frank E. Sysyn and Serhii Plokhii.

Throughout its history, CIUS has demonstrated that it is the leading academic institution involved in the dissemination of knowledge about Ukraine, its history, politics, economy and culture in the English-speaking world. The six-volume Encyclopedia of Ukraine, prepared by CIUS and the Shevchenko Scientific Society, has made a fundamental contribution in informing the world about Ukraine's past and present, and is now available in part on the web.

Recently, Dr. Kohut, Bohdan Nebesio and Myroslav Yurkevich, have prepared for publication a one-volume Historical Dictionary of Ukraine, which will be published by Scarecrow Press in its Historical Dictionaries series. The dictionary will present in most concise form not only the historical experience of the Ukrainian nation, but will also familiarize the English-reading public with current developments in Ukraine.

The CIUS contribution to "Europe 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the

Early Modern World" is especially important as it introduces a crucial age in Ukrainian history in which new political structures (the Hetmanate), social orders (the Kozaks), and cultural and religious trends (Orthodox revival, the Union of Brest) emerged within a broader all-European context. European history, therefore, would be incomplete without the history of Ukraine.

This was the vision advanced by Prof. Nancy Shields Kollmann of Stanford University, who served as associate editor of the encyclopedia. She not only invited students of Ukrainian history to contribute to this major reference work, but also decided to use Ukrainian place names in the Encyclopedia articles.

Encyclopedia entries cover most important topics of Ukrainian early modern history. There is a general overview of Ukrainian history from the 14th to the 18th centuries, authored by Dr. Plokhii. Dr. Sysyn wrote articles on the Kossacks, Bohdan Khmelnytsky, the Khmelnytsky Uprising, the Uniates, and the Union of Brest (1596). Dr. Kohut wrote entries on the Hetmanate and Ivan Mazepa. Prof. David Frick of Harvard University wrote entries on Ukrainian literature and language, Meletii Smotrytsky, Petro Mohyla, Kyiv and Lviv.

Ukraine and its history is anchored in the European experience, and the new encyclopedia makes this point much stronger than any other reference work published in the West.

Ukrainian archives in the U.S. are topic at roundtable

by Anisa Handzia Sawyckyj

NEW YORK – On the initiative of the Library and Archives of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S., a dozen specialists from several cities in the Northeast gathered recently at the society's headquarters in New York City for a first roundtable meeting to discuss the state of Ukrainian archives in the United States.

Librarians, archivists and researchers shared information about archival holdings in their respective institutions and discussed such topics as preservation techniques for fragile materials, cataloguing the contents of archives and the use of new technologies such as CDs to increase longevity of materials and online catalogues and websites to enhance information-sharing and accessibility to researchers.

"The documents of Ukrainians in the United States are a precious record of our community's history," said Svitlana Andrushkiw, librarian at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, and chair of the April 24 meeting. "As the years go by, many of the people familiar with these materials are passing away. We feel it is essential to initiate a discussion among archivists on how to best preserve this legacy."

Archival materials include such items as personal papers, diaries, letters, photographs, postcards, posters, films, records, tape recordings of meetings, convention minutes and much more. They are donated to a library or research institution by individuals or by organizations.

In addition to discussing a wide range of topics, participants were also able to view a demonstration by Vasyl Lopukh of the Shevchenko Scientific Society on how photographic images can be transferred to a CD from photographs or even from old glass negatives, of which the society has a large collection. He also showed how CDs have been utilized to preserve, store and catalogue archival materials on DP (displaced persons) camps, part of another extensive collection at the society.

By way of background, Ms. Andrushkiw pointed out the important work done by the State Committee on Archives of Ukraine, a project that was undertaken with the financial support of the Harvard Ukrainian Studies Fund and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. She urged anyone interested in this topic to view the impressive results of that project on the website www.archives.gov.ua.

Participating in the meeting and sharing information about their institution's archives were: Jurij Nawrocky of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's Library and Archives; Christine Pevny of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City; Ihor Vasylyshyn of The Ukrainian Museum and Library of the Stamford Catholic Diocese in Stamford, Conn.; the Rev. Frank Estocin of the Ukrainian Orthodox Cultural Center in South Bound Brook, N.J.; Victoria Kurchenko of the Documentation and Research Center at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City, organized by Taras Hunczak; and Ksenia Kiebusinski of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and Harvard University's Widener Library in Cambridge, Mass.

Tetiana Keis described the Ukrainian archives in the library of Columbia University in New York, and researcher Alexander Luzhnycky of Philadelphia familiarized the group with other Ukrainian archives in the U.S., such as the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland, a major archival program in Chicago's Ukrainian community, as well as collections in Palo Alto, Calif.,



Participants of a roundtable discussion about Ukrainian archives that took place at the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

Philadelphia, Glen Cove, N.Y., and other cities.

Unfortunately, not all invited institutions were able to send a representative to the roundtable. However, Halyna Myroniuk, the assistant curator of the Immigration History Research Center in Minneapolis, sent a report about its Ukrainian holdings, and Oksana Radysh of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in New York City conveyed important information in a telephone discussion prior to the meeting.

The exchange of information by archival specialists revealed a fascinating range of materials held by various institutions and the extraordinarily rich Ukrainian cultural life in the U.S. that these collections represent. The following offers just a small glimpse of the vast quantity of historical records available to researchers.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society, for example, holds 280,000 items as diverse as 50 complete family genealogies, glass negatives of Ukrainian Sich Rifleman and the papers of notable individuals.

The Ukrainian Museum has 30,000 photographs illustrating various aspects of Ukrainian community life in the U.S., in addition to many other documents.

The Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford has papers of Ukrainian community activists, archives of the Ukrainian Sitch Rifleman, records of the post-World War II Refugee Aid Committee, parish records and much more.

The Harvard University library's Ukrainian archive holdings are also extensive, and only half of them have been catalogued and described in detail. They include the papers of important Ukrainian individuals, as well as organizations.

The participants at the roundtable came to the conclusion that the major challenges facing Ukrainian archival institutions in the U.S. today are the need for more funding, the urgent need for more young archivists with a requisite background in Ukrainian matters to carry on this work, and the fragility of some archived materials which should be transferred to CDs or other stable media soon in order to be preserved for the future. All agreed that new technologies would be

highly useful in both the preservation effort and in the dissemination of information about existing archives to interested parties.

Participants said that it would be desirable if institutions could specialize in certain periods or in certain topics, or if archival holdings could be consolidated across institutions for greater efficiency. However, they recognized that legal impediments make such specialization and consolidation difficult, inasmuch as donors of archival materials are usually quite specific as to which institution they want to leave their archival legacy.

Determined that their meeting should combine theory with practice, the group decided to focus on a feasible project that could be initiated immediately: the creation of an inventory of Ukrainian archival holdings in the U.S. that would include both the institutions represented at the meeting, as well as all other archives in the U.S. without which such an inventory would be incomplete.

When completed, the inventory will be

made available online as well as in catalog form, and will provide researchers with a starting point for inquiries about archival sources in the U.S. A standardized form will be developed at the Shevchenko Scientific Society and mailed to all repositories of Ukrainian materials for their input and response.

Energized by each other's commitment to the preservation of the Ukrainian community's collective past, the attendees also decided to continue to work together on an ongoing basis under the aegis of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. The group will meet periodically, possibly in different cities, both in order to stay on top of innovations in the field of archival preservation and to monitor developments in the Ukrainian community, its institutions and its archives.

For further information, contact the Shevchenko Scientific Society at 63 Fourth Ave., New York, NY 10003-5200; telephone, (212) 254-5130; fax, (212) 254-5239; website, www.shevchenko.org; or e-mail, info@shevchenko.org.

Dr. Robert Conquest elected to Academy of Arts and Sciences

STANFORD, Calif. – Robert Conquest, the world-renowned authority on Joseph Stalin and Russian history, and a Hoover Institution research fellow, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He is one of 178 new fellows and 24 new foreign honorary members elected to the academy. The 202 men and women are leaders in scholarship, business, the arts, and public affairs.

The finest minds and most influential leaders from each generation – including George Washington and Ben Franklin in the 18th century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 19th, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the 20th century – are chosen to join the academy.

Dr. Conquest is the 31st Hoover Institution fellow to be elected to the academy. The announcement was made on April 30.

The academy was founded in 1780 by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other scholar-patriots "to

cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity and happiness of a free, independent and virtuous people." The unique structure of the American Academy allows it to conduct interdisciplinary studies on international security, social policy, education and the humanities that draw on the range of academic and intellectual disciplines of its members. The current membership of more than 4,500 includes 150 Nobel laureates and 50 Pulitzer Prize winners.

The academy will welcome this year's new fellows and foreign honorary members at its annual induction ceremony in October at its headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

Robert Conquest's awards and honors include the Jefferson Lectureship in the Humanities, the federal government's highest distinction in the field, in 1993; the Richard Weaver Award for Scholarly Letters in 1999; and the Alexis de

(Continued on page 19)

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8-foot-4-inch...

(Continued from page 4)

ist's cell phone. He holds a three quart jar as if it were a water glass. In his hands his large watchdog looks like a puppy.

His mother worries that he will never find a girl. Her other constant headache is finding proper clothing for her son. He can't buy it in a store and to sew it requires three times the normal amount of cloth. Recent measurements show that Mr. Stadnik is already 7 inches taller than Radhouane Charbib of Tunisia, listed by the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest living man. He is also gaining on the 8-foot-11-inch Robert Wadlow, the tallest man in history.

"The sleeves and pants of my two-year-old suit are now 10 centimeters too short," said Mr. Stadnik.

Although he once was able to work as a veterinarian at a cattle farm, he had to quit three years ago after his feet were frostbitten because he wasn't able to afford proper shoes for his 17-inch feet. This month he finally got a good pair, paid for by some local businessmen. They cost \$200 - the equivalent of about seven months' worth of the tiny pension that Mr. Stadnik receives from the government.

Trying to maintain the life of a typical villager, he performs the usual routines of country life, busying himself with the garden, caring for cows and pigs, helping neighbors treat their domestic animals. He seeks relaxation and consolation in reading, cultivating exotic plants and tenderly looking after his wee pet parakeet. His neighbors describe him as "very sensitive, open-hearted man; a vulnerable soul."

They are trying to arrange a trip for him to the Carpathian mountains. They believe it will help him to understand that there's something in the world taller than him.

Chess world...

(Continued from page 11)

a single, perhaps insurmountable hurdle: Mr. Kasparov has shown no inclination to agree to it. It is likely that he is interested only in his own needs (including financial), much more so than such an abstract idea as determining a single world champion. While chaos remains within the top echelon of world chess, Mr. Kasparov can continue to make considerable money playing matches with computers. His reputation obviously works for him. But imagine if he should lose one more world championship - then it would be difficult to persuade his sponsors he is the king of world chess.

Needless to say, the chess community for the most part supports Mr. Ponomarev's side. After the Ukrainian chess player declined to take part in the Tripoli tourney, other famous players such as Messrs. Karpov, Kramnyk and Leko refused to participate in the championship. So, then, why does FIDE remain opposed to Mr. Ponomarev's position?

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Renowned dancer, choreographer...

(Continued from page 1)

Geneva, London, Toronto and Athens. As a choreographer she created numerous dance pieces for her students, ranging from ballets like "Cinderella," "Kvit Paporoti" (Fern Flower) and "Peer Gynt" to thematic compositions such as "Strakhittia Viiny" (The Horrors of War), "Fight for Freedom" (commemorating the Chernobyl nuclear disaster), "Ivasiuk Suite" (dedicated to the late Ukrainian composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk) and "Icon" (celebrating the millennium of Christianity in Rus-Ukraine).

In 1990 the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky School of Ballet and Ukrainian Folk Dance officially celebrated its 25th anniversary by presenting what was billed as a "Festival of Ukrainian Dance" at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. The New York concert presented highlights of the school's repertoire and served as an anniversary reunion of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's dancers.

Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky was honored in 1997 by The Washington Group with its "Friend of Ukraine" award for "outstanding contributions to the cause of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community." She was recognized along with the noted actress and theater director Lidia Krushelnysky at the October 11 banquet during TWG's Leadership Conference.

For New York City's New Year's grand celebrations marking the arrival of the new millennium, Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky choreographed a three-and-a-half-minute Hopak that was performed by the Parsons Dance Foundation directed by world-renowned choreographer David Parsons. The dance was performed in Times Square on December 31, 1999, during the event billed as "The Global Celebration of the World."

Among her most recent achievements was a 2003 concert at New York's Town Hall that featured her Syzokryli troupe, along with the Cheres Ukrainian Folk Ensemble.



Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky with one of her dance groups, Iskra from Whippany, N.J., during the 2003 Ukrainian Festival in New York City.

Surviving are Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's husband, George Bohachevsky; daughter, Ania Lonkevych, with her husband, Mark; son, Boris Bohachevsky; and grandchildren Alexander and Roma; along with extended family in the United States, Canada and Ukraine.

Memorial services were held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 26 and 27, in New York City. A panakhyda was offered at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on Wednesday, and a parastas was offered on Thursday at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home.

The funeral liturgy was offered on Friday, May 28, at St. George Church;

interment followed at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Memorial donations may be made out to the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Trust Fund/Scholarship Fund (please note account No. 33671-00), and sent to the attention of Paul Liteplo at Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

The family has noted that the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Trust Fund/Scholarship Fund has been established "to ensure that her vision and dream of future generations of Ukrainian dancers may successfully continue."

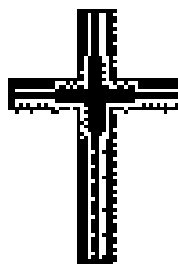


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With deep sorrow we announce that on Sunday, May 23, 2004,
our beloved wife, mother and grandmother

ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEWSKY

entered into eternal rest

Survived by:

Husband
Daughter
Son
Grandchildren

George Bohachevsky
Ania Lonkevych and her husband Mark
Boris Bohachevsky
Alexander and Roma

and extended family in the United States, Canada and Ukraine

Viewing took place on Wednesday, May 26, and Thursday, May 27, 2004, from 6-9 p.m. at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home, 126 7th St., New York.

A panakhyda was held on Wednesday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City.

A parastas was held on Thursday, May 27, at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home.

The funeral services took place on Friday, May 28, 2004, at 10 a.m. at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church with interment at St. Andrew Cemetery, South Bound Brook, N.J.

As a lasting tribute to Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, a Ukrainian Trust Fund/Scholarship Fund is being established to ensure that her vision and dream of future generations of Ukrainian dancers may successfully continue. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEWSKY TRUST FUND.

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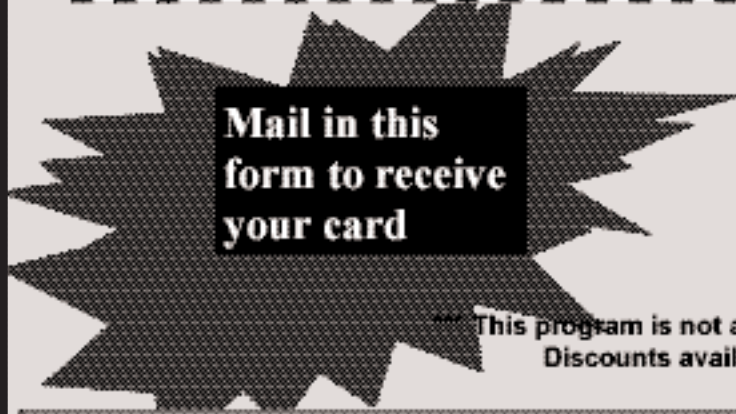


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Klufas wins Conservative Party nomination for Toronto riding



Jurij Klufas

TORONTO – Ukrainian Canadian Jurij Klufas on March 31 won the nomination to represent the Conservative Party of Canada in the riding of Parkdale-High Park in Toronto by a margin of 3 to 1.

Riding association members and supporters gathered at the Lithuanian Hall where Mr. Klufas was nominated by Dr. Jaroslaw Shudrak and former York Mayor Gail Christie. Investigative journalist and author Victor Malarek introduced Mr. Klufas as a community activist who could keep his word and get things done in Ottawa.

“On behalf of the board of directors, the executive and riding members, I congratulate Jurij on securing the candidacy of the Electoral District of Parkdale-High Park,” said Edward Adlers, president of the Parkdale-High Park EDA. “We now have a new, united Conservative alternative to the current Liberal Member of Parliament in the next election.”

Mr. Klufas has spent much of his life living, working and volunteering in Parkdale-High Park, and is a former executive member of the Parkdale-High Park PC Riding Association. He also has participated as an executive of other provincial and federal riding associations. He speaks Ukrainian, French,

Italian and Spanish, and he studied political science in Rome where he co-founded a branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

As a business owner and as the founder and executive producer of the Ukrainian television program “kontakt,” which airs in Canada, the U.S. and Ukraine, he has traveled around the world and gained a global perspective on the issues facing Canada.

Mr. Klufas, who is married and raising four children, said one of his greatest concerns is the safety of our communities. “We have to close the revolving door in our justice system and keep repeat violent offenders off the street. Our children deserve safe neighborhoods and we deserve the peace of mind that comes from that,” said Mr. Klufas. “I want to work closely with this riding because only community action based on common values will create the infrastructure for the safety we all desire for our families.”

Healthcare is another major concern. “St. Joseph’s Health Center is one of the better health care facilities in all of Canada, staffed by dedicated doctors and nurses. But it’s not receiving the attention it deserves and, as a result, our community is being left to suffer,” Mr. Klufas noted.

The candidate also said he believes that the federal government must create a mutually respectful partnership with the provinces and the municipalities to ensure that everyone has access to health care, no matter what their income. “We have to stop the patronage and favoritism that are gouging at the funds needed for public services. We have to help cities such as Toronto to improve public transit, roads and the environment.”

As founder and president of the annual Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival, Mr. Klufas said he is dedicated to continuing the promotion of community events and fund-raisers that bring in millions of dollars in economic prosperity and allow for the showcasing of community institutions and charities, including St. Joseph’s Health Center. “My goal has always been to build community confidence and spirit, because a community where people are involved is a healthier community. Parkdale-High Park is a riding rich in diverse social and cultur-

(Continued on page 22)

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Summit...

(Continued from page 2)

ation of a free-trade zone without any reservations. According to Mr. Kuchma, it is sufficient to adopt some 13 documents in order to achieve this goal. Mr. Kuchma expressed hope that these documents could be prepared and signed as soon as in the first quarter of 2005. In its economic relations with Russia, Ukraine is primarily concerned with Moscow's collection of value-added tax on Russian oil and gas exports according to the country-of-origin principle, that is, in Russia. The introduction of a free-trade zone would switch this collection to the country-of-destination principle, a move that could give Ukraine's budget some \$800 million annually.

The Kazak president said in Yalta that the SES formation should be started with the establishment of a customs union. "Otherwise, I don't understand what we are going to do next," he was quoted as saying. "And afterwards we need a transport union." Mr. Nazarbaev stressed that such an approach to the creation of the SES would allow the four states to present the same conditions while applying for membership in the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Lukashenka was less clear than Messrs. Kuchma and Nazarbaev in his vision of the SES. Upon arriving in Yalta, he announced that Belarus is unlikely to receive any additional advantages in relations with the other three countries at the current stage of the SES's development. "[Belarus] has advanced further than the others in relations with our major partner, the Russian Federation, and the economic measures that we are taking now in the framework of the four are behind the level that exists between Belarus and Russia," Mr. Lukashenka added. But following the summit talks, he assured journalists that Belarus does not "regret" joining the SES even if its economic interests are "satisfied" up to 90-95 percent in the Russia-Belarus Union. "But we are international people and advocate the processes of integration," he argued. "Moreover, the remaining five percent is not insignificant either."

In theory, the creation of a trade alliance with the same rules of the game for a market of some 225 million consumers is not a bad idea. Today's European Union was also preceded by the European Common Market, a much looser economic alliance than the current union run by an army of bureaucrats from Brussels.

But some in the post-Soviet area, par-

ticularly in Ukraine, are afraid that Russia is primarily seeking an alliance that could give it political levers of control over republics that left the USSR in 1991. The Ukrainian opposition also argues that the full implementation of the SES treaty will deprive Ukraine of any prospects of integrating with Europe in the future.

In an apparent move to address such fears, Mr. Putin stressed in Yalta that the SES will not hinder its members' moves to participate in "European integration processes."

"None of these countries is entering an [already existing] organization," he said. "It would be wrong to think that someone is dragging someone else into some sort of a regional organization by force. We have gathered together in order to work out, through discussion, rules of economic behavior that are favorable to each of the four countries."

It would be hasty to conclude right now that the SES is facing a brighter future than that of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The CIS, inaugurated by the Slavic "core" of the Soviet Union – Russia, Belarus and Ukraine in December 1991 – and shortly afterwards joined by Kazakhstan, has since then turned into nothing more significant than a talking shop. On the other hand, the creation of the SES may be Russia's last chance to firmly anchor some of the post-Soviet states in its sphere of political and economic influence. Therefore, Russia may now be ready to make some bolder moves and/or concessions in order not to lose this chance.

Whatever the final outcome of this latest reintegration attempt in the post-Soviet area, one can already say that the SES formation will be the principal issue on the political agenda of Ukraine and Belarus for many years to come. Brussels has recently unambiguously suggested that these two countries have no prospects of joining the EU. And one old, wise saying maintains that nature abhors a vacuum.

Government of Ukraine...

(Continued from page 12)

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The CRDF receives funds for its activities in Ukraine from the U.S. Department of State, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. The CRDF is based in Arlington, Va., with offices in Kyiv and Moscow and St. Petersburg. For additional information on current CRDF programs and funding opportunities, readers may visit CRDF's website at www.crdff.org.

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UNA Executive...

(Continued from page 5)

Mr. Iwanciw spoke on the importance of membership to the UNA. The biggest issue facing the UNA is the need to increase its membership, conserving the membership and increasing fraternal activities within communities.

What makes the UNA unique in the face of commercial life insurance companies is the fact that we are a fraternal organization, Mr. Iwanciw emphasized. As a fraternal organization it is imperative for the UNA's districts and branches to hold fraternal activities. It is through fraternal and community activities that the ranks of membership can be increased. Community activities draw individuals interested in community life. It is also through the various fraternal benefits offered by the UNA that makes the UNA more attractive to potential members, he added.

Mr. Kachkowski reported on his meeting with the Toronto district and secretaries. Topics of discussion were the events in the past history of the UNA in Toronto and the key to organizing new members, which, it is believed, is the appeal to Ukrainian patriotism. Toronto, which holds a large portion of the UNA's Canadian membership, is one important factor in determining success in Canada.

Ms. Kozak reported an increase in new business by 286 policies with an annual premium of \$200,297. This in itself is not at all remarkable and needs to be increased by at least 70 percent, she added. As President Kaczaraj stated, UNA secretaries, organizers and professional sales must sell, sell, sell.

UNA branches achieved only 31 percent of their self-assigned quota, Ms. Kozak continued. Unfortunately, out of 222 secretaries (as of December 31, 2003), 53 secretaries have not produced a single new member in six years. Due to the inactivity of these branches, and as per the provisions of the UNA By-Laws and manuals, we will either be replacing the secretaries or we will merge branches, the national secretary explained.

The year 2003 was a good year for the UNA in issuing annuities. The UNA's annuity rates are desirable with the UNA

issuing 152 new annuities for a total of \$2,411,674 in collected premiums. The five-year annuity sold the most with 90 annuities sold for an amount of \$898,574. At year's end, the UNA had a total of 838 annuities in force, Ms. Kozak said.

In years past, the UNA did not acknowledge annuity sales. However, times do change. For this reporting period the UNA had a respectable increase in premium income due to the sale of annuities, the national secretary said.

She went on to acknowledge a job well done by three UNA members and expressed congratulations and thanks to: Steven Woch, who sold 37 annuities for \$669,959.67 in collected premiums; Stephan Welhasch, who sold 13 annuities for \$326,733.08 in collected premiums; and Joseph Chabon, secretary of Branch 242, Shamokin, Pa., district chairman, who sold 22 annuities for \$119,685.16 in collected premiums.

Ms. Kozak also offered a thank you to all UNA secretaries and organizers for their hard work and dedication. It is through their effort and others before you, that we are able to celebrate the UNA's 110th year anniversary, she noted.

Ms. Lisovich reported on the status of Soyuzivka. For the year 2003, occupancy rates increased and there seemed to be a surge of interest in Soyuzivka during the year 2003. Many positive changes had occurred prior to the summer months, she continued. Rooms were painted, new carpets were laid, buildings were power-washed, the main dining room was renovated, hiking paths were cleared, a tiki bar and a roller rink were built. All of these are positive changes that brought the community to the UNA resort, the UNA treasurer said.

The planning of the town homes at Soyuzivka is continuing. A survey regarding the interest of members in purchasing the town homes will be mailed to all UNA members with the privacy notices during the next quarter. Pending positive results, the building of Phase I of the town homes will proceed, Ms. Lisovich said.

The next meeting of the UNA Executive Committee is scheduled for June.

Dr. Robert Conquest...

(Continued from page 13)

Tocqueville Award in 1992. His major scholarly concern has been with the nature of and relations between despotic and consensual cultures.

He is the author of 18 books on Soviet history, politics, and international affairs, including the classic "The Great Terror" (Macmillan, 1968). Translations have appeared in more than 20 languages, including Russian. Other works include the acclaimed "Harvest of Sorrow" (Oxford University Press, 1986), documenting the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine which has appeared in many translations.

Later books are "Stalin and the Kirov Murder" (Oxford University Press, 1988); "Tyrants and Typewriters" (Lexington Books, 1989); "The Great Terror: A Reassessment" (Oxford University Press, 1990); "Stalin: Breaker of Nations" (Viking, 1991), and "Reflections on a Ravaged Century" (W.W. Norton & Company, 1999). His most recent book, "The Dragons of Expectation" (W.W. Norton), will be published later this year.

Dr. Conquest has been literary editor of the London Spectator, brought out six volumes of poetry and one of literary criticism, edited the seminal New Lines anthologies (Macmillan, 1955-1963), and published a verse translation of

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's epic "Prussian Nights" (Harvill Press, 1977). He has also published a science fiction novel and is joint author, with Kingsley Amis, of another novel, "The Egyptologists." He received the American Academy of Arts and Letters 1997 Award for light verse.

He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a fellow of the British Academy, a fellow of the British Interplanetary Society and a member of the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. He has been a research fellow at the London School of Economics, a fellow of the Columbia University Russian Institute, a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a distinguished visiting scholar at the Heritage Foundation and a research associate of Harvard University's Ukrainian Research Institute.

Educated at Winchester College, the University of Grenoble and Magdalen College, Oxford, he was an exhibitioner in modern history and took his B.A. and M.A. degrees in politics, philosophy and economics and his D. Litt. degree in Soviet history.

Dr. Conquest served through World War II in the British infantry and thereafter in His Majesty's Diplomatic Service, being awarded the Order of the British Empire. In 1996 he was named a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

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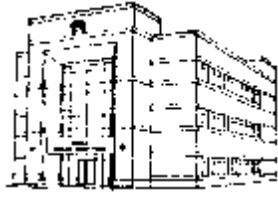
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Socialist Party and the Communist Party blocked the parliamentary rostrum following another abortive vote on a proposal to consider the issue of the Ukrainian contingent in Iraq. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Polls says Yushchenko would be victor

KYIV – According to a survey conducted by the Democratic Initiatives Fund and SOCIS from April 29 to May 6, Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko would beat Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich in this year's presidential election if both were to qualify for the second round. The poll found that Mr. Yushchenko would obtain 36.8 percent of the vote in the second round, while Mr. Yanukovich would garner 31.4 percent. Moreover, 21.1 percent of respondents said they would vote against all candidates, 7 percent would not take part in the vote, and 12.8 percent said they are undecided. Asked about how they would vote if the election were held next week, 25.7 percent of respondents said they would cast their ballots for Mr. Yushchenko, 16.7 percent for Mr. Yanukovich, 10.4 percent for Communist Party head Petro Symonenko, 5.1 percent for Socialist Party head Oleksander Moroz, and 3.6 percent for Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition bloc. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court declines to hear Melnychenko tapes

SAN FRANCISCO – Federal Judge Martin Jenkins of the Northern District Court in San Francisco, which is conducting the trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, on May 19 dismissed the defense's motion that tapes secretly made by former presidential bodyguard Mykola Melnychenko in President Leonid Kuchma's office be submitted as evidence, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. Mr. Melnychenko claims the tapes include information that is essential for the trial. "I am sure that without [listening to] these recordings the court cannot make a just decision in the Lazarenko case," the website quoted him as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Poll: public supports rapprochement

MOSCOW – The All-Russian Center for Studies of Public Opinion (VTsIOM), in cooperation with pollsters in Belarus and Ukraine, has recently conducted a survey in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine regarding

respondents' attitudes toward political and economic integration, Interfax reported on May 24. According to VTsIOM, the overwhelming majority of people in the three countries think that there are reasons – in particular, based on common history, family ties, and commonality of economic interests – for the rapprochement of the three nations; only 6 percent of people in Ukraine and Russia and 10 percent in Belarus think that there are no such reasons whatsoever. The pollster also noted "peculiarities" in integration preferences in the three countries. Fifty-one percent of Russians want to live in their own country and are not enthusiastic about a supranational union, 28 percent of Belarusians would like to live in a "unified Europe," while 23 percent of Ukrainians would be happy living in a "union of Slavic states." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court explains constitutional provision

KYIV – Following a request from President Leonid Kuchma, the Constitutional Court on May 25 announced its ruling on the constitutional provision allowing the president to disband the Verkhovna Rada if the legislature fails to gather for a plenary sitting within 30 days of a regular session (Article 90 and Article 106 of the Ukrainian Constitution), Interfax reported. The court ruled that "30 days" refers to 30 calendar days, including holidays and other recesses in the parliamentary session. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Demonstrators support Silski Visti

KYIV – More than 600 people picketed Kyiv's Court of Appeals on May 25, demanding that it annul the decision of a district court in Kyiv in January to close Silski Visti, the largest opposition newspaper in Ukraine, on charges of anti-Semitism, Interfax reported. Picketers, who reportedly included members of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and several nationalist organizations, held placards reading "Hands off Silski Visti!" and chanted "Shame on you!" Meanwhile, some 500 people, organized by Ukraine's Jewish communities, gathered for a separate rally near the Court of Appeals. "We have come here to let our voice be heard by Ukraine, [to see how] for the first time in history a European newspaper is being closed for anti-Semitism," said Oleksander Shlayen, head of the International Anti-Fascist Committee, which sued Silski Visti. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Two parliamentary groups merge

KYIV – The deputies' groups Democratic Initiatives and People's Power have merged to form a caucus called Democratic Initiatives-People's Power, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on May 14, quoting Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. The newly established caucus has 30 deputies. Mr. Lytvyn also said the pro-government caucus, Ukraine's Regions, expelled three deputies who on May 12 supported the opposition-sponsored resolution on the controversial mayoral election in Mukachiv. (RFE/RL Newsline)

7.5 million use mobile phones

KYIV – The number of users of cellular phones in Ukraine increased by 4 percent in April and exceeded 7.5 million, Interfax reported on May 6, quoting official data from the country's mobile-communications operators. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Minister cites religious statistics for 2003

KYIV – Oleksander Lavrynovych, minister of justice of Ukraine, has released some religious statistics in Ukraine for the year 2003, which were posted on the rupor.org site. According to the justice minister, almost 12,000 foreign missionaries and religious activists visited Ukraine in 2003. He also reported that the religious

(Continued on page 21)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 20)

network of Ukraine in 2003 increased by 1,200 religious organizations. The greatest number of communities in Ukraine belong to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC- MP), which is home to 10,310 communities. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) have 3,186 and 1,107 communities, respectively. The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) is home to 3,328 communities and the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) in Ukraine has 854 communities. In 2003 the number of UOC-MP parishes grew by 360 new parishes, UOC-KP by 167 parishes, UAOC by 21 parishes, UGCC by 31 parishes and the RCC by 14 parishes. As of early 2004, Ukraine is home to more than 27,500 religious communities of traditional and new religions. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Yanukovich becomes academician

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich has become a member of the Presidium of Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences, Interfax reported on May 13, quoting the government press service. Academy head Borys Paton reportedly wrote in a letter to Mr. Yanukovich that the Academy of Sciences made him a presidium member in order to "strengthen cooperation with state-authority bodies." (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM's spokesperson reprimands media

KYIV – Hanna Herman, newly appointed spokeswoman of the prime minister, told journalists on May 13 that recent reports by some media recalling Viktor Yanukovich's two convictions are intended to discredit

him as a presidential candidate, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. "Someone is very eager to discredit the leading aspirant to the top post in our state," Ms. Herman said. She revealed that Mr. Yanukovich in 1967 was sentenced to three years in a colony for juveniles – where he served only a part of his term – and in 1970 to two years in prison. Ms. Herman noted that in 1978 the Donetsk Oblast Court annulled both convictions. "Thus, Viktor Yanukovich was unfoundedly called to criminal responsibility on two occasions – in 1967 and 1970 – and unlawfully convicted for the crimes in which he was not involved," she said, without naming those crimes. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia watches Ukraine's election

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin told Ukrainian presidential administration head Viktor Medvedchuk at the Kremlin on April 16 that Russia is watching developments in Ukraine closely and hopes that the programs initiated by the country's pro-presidential majority in Parliament are realized, strana.ru reported. Speaking about the possible outcomes of Ukraine's presidential elections in October, Mr. Putin said Russia "will accept the will of the Ukrainian people and will work with any Ukrainian government," but would prefer to preserve continuity in its relations with Ukraine. Mr. Putin noted the good relations he has with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and said they remain in close contact. Some analysts have commented that Ukraine's presidential election is not much less important to President Putin than his own re-election in March, because the results of Russia's recent assertiveness toward the CIS states is dependent on its outcome. (RFE/RL Newsline)

The Northern New Jersey District Committee
of the Ukrainian National Association

invites the Ukrainian community
to participate in celebrating

FATHER'S DAY

on June 20, 2004

at

SOYUZIVKA

For this occasion the District Committee
is sponsoring a bus trip to Soyuzivka
Fare: \$20.00 per person

Departing from:

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UNA Home office in Parsippany: 8:00 AM

For reservations to the luncheon call Soyuzivka:
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For further information call:

Walter Honcharyk, Parsippany, NJ: 973 292-9800 X 3041

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Former President...

(Continued from page 1)

in 1988-1992, and told the Ukrainian students that volunteerism offers rewards far richer than financial benefit.

"At 80, I still work with charities, not through the government, but with charities. It just feels so good," explained Mr. Bush. "It is just so selfishly satisfying that without government intervention, without government money you can help somebody else."

Mr. Bush visited the historic "Red Corpus" of Kyiv State University - where U.S. President Bill Clinton, the man who won the 1992 election, denying Mr. Bush a second term in office, addressed the Ukrainian public in 1995 during the first visit by a U.S. president to independent Ukraine. He used the visit to recount the events of 1991 and perhaps dust off his place in history. He offered several anecdotal insights on the days that marked the last chapter of the Soviet era.

In one, he recalled that a week after Ukraine affirmed independence via a nation-

al referendum and elected Mr. Kravchuk its first president, he met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to discuss the future of the Soviet Union. As Mr. Bush noted, while officially the Soviet Union leadership was maintaining the political line that the Soviet empire would continue to exist, Mr. Yeltsin told him that the vote for independence by Ukraine meant the dissolution of the empire.

"He read a prepared statement that the three sides had formed a Commonwealth of Independent States, but he had just told me in private that he and the presidents of Ukraine and Belarus had decided to dissolve the Soviet Union."

Mr. Bush told the audience of mostly college-age young adults that, in retrospect, it seemed that the new world order of which there had been so much talk - first during the fall of the Berlin Wall and then with the collapse of the Soviet Union, actually occurred during his visit to Moscow and Kyiv in August 1991.

He said that he had always supported those "who pushed the frontiers of freedom."

He said that Ukraine today has much opportunity and many prospects. However, as he explained to the audience, the current Ukrainian leadership must adhere to democratic principles and not fear losing positions of power and authority. As an example, he gave his own failed effort at re-election and the frustrations he felt with the U.S. mass media, which he said he felt was opposed to a second term for him.

"I strongly disagreed with almost all the news reporting. I felt in 1992 that the U.S. news media was strongly biased against me," noted Mr. Bush with no real hint of bitterness in his remark.

The point, as he made clear, was that he understood that in a democracy personas are far less important than ideas and that respect for the process is the overriding priority.

Mr. Bush also offered his opinions on several international issues affecting Ukraine. He lauded Ukraine's participation in the Iraq Stabilization Force and mentioned that the country is poised to enter the World Trade Organization.

He mentioned Ukraine's sizzling economy, which grew by 9.4 percent in 2003 and said that, if that type of growth continues, Ukraine would become a country that Europe would be forced to contend with. However, as have several high-profile U.S. political figures who have recently visited Ukraine, including Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, current U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and financier-philanthropist George Soros, Mr. Bush warned that for Ukraine to become a true player on the world scene, it needed to assure free and fair presidential elections in October.

He noted that the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of

Europe, the European Parliament and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe had all strongly criticized the way in which local elections in Ukraine had occurred. He held out hope, however, that these were aberrations and the problems would be corrected.

"If Ukraine continues its democratic path and its economic transformation, it will be considered a true leader - and not only in the region, but throughout Europe and in the U.S. If Ukraine can continue on its path and come out of the shadow of its Soviet past, it will be a truly historic change for the world," explained Mr. Bush.

The former U.S. president, who was also a U.S. congressman, ambassador to China, CIA director and vice-president during his four decades of public service, said that now that he is out of politics he can be far more straightforward with people, and can be frank in acknowledging when he doesn't have the answer to a question. He used the remark to emphasize that he had no idea when NATO might be ready to accept Ukraine as a member.

Nor could he say whether his son, the current U.S. president, has any plans to visit Ukraine in the near future. However, he pointed to his wife, Barbara, as someone who might know more inasmuch as she had much more influence over their son. "I don't have any influence over him, but his mother sure does," explained Mr. Bush.

During his two-day visit to Kyiv, Mr. Bush met with President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. His visit came after an invitation from National Deputy Viktor Pinchuk, one of Ukraine's wealthiest businesspersons and President Kuchma's son-in-law.

Mr. Pinchuk recently became a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an international organization that counts President Bush as a member as well.

Highlights...

(Continued from page 5)

Jersey City, N.J., as 81-83 Grand St., to house both the UNA and the Svoboda editorial offices.

Nicholas Murashko was voted the 10th supreme president of the UNA.

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.

Klufas wins...

(Continued from page 17)

al communities and I believe that most of us have the same philosophical and family values; the same practical work ethic. I am determined to reach out and engage these communities so that this riding grows in the prosperity, unity and visibility it deserves," Mr. Klufas stated.

Volunteers are encouraged to contact the Jurij Klufas Campaign at (416) 234-2002 or campaign@klufas.ca. For more information on Mr. Klufas or the Conservative Party of Canada in Parkdale-High Park, readers may log on to <http://phpcconservativeparty.tripod.com>.

The Washington Group 2004 Leadership Conference

TWG at 20: Reflection, Renewal and Celebration

Conference Schedule

June 11 - 13 at the Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, VA

Friday, June 11

7:00 - 10:00 Reception at the Embassy of Ukraine

Saturday, June 12

8:00 - 9:00 Registration

9:00 - 9:15 Introductory remarks

George Masiuk, Conference Chairman
Ihor Kotliarchuk, TWG President

9:30 - 11:45 Ambassadors' Forum

Amb. Oleh Bilorus
Amb. William G. Miller
Amb. Steven Pifer

12:00 - 2:00 Lunch

Address by Hon. Mykhailo Reznik
Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States

2:15 - 4:15 Ukraine on the Eve of Elections

Dr. Nadia Diuk, National Endowment for Democracy
Eugene Fishel, U.S. Department of State
Marla Kolomayets, Partnership for a Transparent Society
Dr. Taras Kuzio, George Washington University
Amb. Nelson Lodsky, National Democratic Institute
Orest Deychakiwsky, moderator, CSCF

6:00 - 7:00 Reception

7:00 - 9:00 Banquet

"TWG Through the Years - a Retro Look"
Presentation by Natalie Sluzar, TWG's First President

9:00 - 1:00 Dance: to the music of TEMPO

Sunday, June 13

9:30 - 11:15 Improving Our Professionals' Organizations

Irena Kurovyycky, UNWLA ("Soyuz Ukrainok")
Andrii Wowk, UESA (Engineering Society)
Dr. George Hryciak, UMANA (Medical Society)
Nancy Medwid, UADA (Legal Society)
George Masiuk, moderator, TWG

11:30 - 1:00 Brunch

Address by Kostyantyn Morozov,
Former Ukrainian Minister of Defense

1:00 - 2:00 Traditional East European Folk Music

Beata Hegeniova, vocals; Alexander Fedonouk,
cimbalom; Jozef Janis, violin

Conference Registration Form

Name _____ Profession _____
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Saturday Luncheon _____ x \$55 _____
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Dance only _____ x \$35 _____
Dance only (student rate) _____ x \$20 _____
Brunch and Cultural event _____ x \$50 _____

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Congressional hearing...

(Continued from page 3)

European Subcommittee was Dr. Diuk, who focused "on the main event that looms in Ukraine's immediate future, and which the international community will be watching – the election for the post of President of Ukraine scheduled for October 2004."

Dr. Diuk outlined the trends in Ukraine's political reform, media freedoms and the major candidates for president, and provided an overview of its civil society. "The elections are the tip of the iceberg, which represents a huge systemic problem: Ukraine's ruling elite is still largely made up of the same people

who ran Ukraine under the Communist system," Dr. Diuk explained. It is this group she said that claims does not want to have a free and open electoral process for Ukraine's citizens to cast their ballot.

Brief questions by the two members of Congress were addressed to the panelists regarding assistance to opposition parties and the rule of law and direct foreign investment in Ukraine.

In conclusion, Chairman Bereuter also thanked Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), and Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, for their written testimony regarding "Ukraine's Future and U.S. Interests."

At Yalta summit...

(Continued from page 1)

Mykola Azarov reminded journalists that Russia had yet to cancel its value-added tax on oil exports as it had said it would.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he expected that around 60 agreements would form the basis for the SES structure, which would be signed by the end of 2005. He remained silent on his country's plans for the free-trade zone, but expressed conviction that the four member-states would not find their path to the World Trade Organization hindered by their common market.

It will not stop any country from taking part in global or European integration processes," explained Mr. Putin, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

The presidents of Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan signed a declaration of intent on September 19, 2003, to form an economic union, which would initially consist of a free-trade zone for the region. The declaration called for the eventual development of a customs union

and ultimately for open borders and a common currency.

Before the agreement was signed, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers found it difficult to recommend approval of the accord, which was developed at the initiative of Presidents Kuchma and Putin the previous February. The reason for the internal government dispute was whether the agreement in identifying a supranational regulatory body to oversee the work of the SES violated the Constitution of Ukraine.

There was disagreement also over whether the accord would benefit Ukraine when Russia, with by far the largest economy among the four countries, would retain most of the voting weight within the regulatory body.

Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada also saw vociferous objections from the national democratic opposition, which called the document the first step toward the surrender of the country's sovereignty. The parliaments of all four countries ratified the document on April 20-21, with the Verkhovna Rada supporting it with 265 votes.

Art works by Motyl to be exhibited

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Institute of America, in association with The Tori Collection, presents "Presence," featuring the latest works of artist Alexander Motyl.

"Presence" begins at the Ukrainian Institute of America on Thursday, May 27, with an opening reception at 6-8:30 p.m. The following Saturday, June 5, will be a Meet the Artist Afternoon Tea at 3-4:30 p.m.

The exhibition, which also features guest artist Ina Belous, will be on view through June 13.

Born in New York City in 1953 to parents who came to the U.S. directly from Ukraine, Dr. Motyl has a strong Ukrainian background. Currently a professor of political science at Rutgers University and a professor at Columbia University, the artist studied painting with Leon Goldin at Columbia University. He is the author of numerous books and articles, and is widely regarded as an expert on the subject of nationalism in Eastern Europe.

Dr. Motyl's work, inspired by his reverence for the ordinary, hovers between cityscape, still life, and figures. His most representational paintings, personalized by the artist through a pictorial and symbolic focus, project the prosaic features of urban architecture. In Dr. Motyl's most recent work he presents a series of angular, elongated nudes braced against

starkly simplified landscapes, extending the mood of solitude and introspection of his earlier work. The artist has shown his paintings throughout New York City, as well as Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Connecticut.

Guest artist Ina Belous was born in Ukraine in 1960. Having graduated from the Academy of Art in Dnipropetrovske, Ms. Belous' work received increasing attention in the USSR. Her career took on a new dimension after she moved to Israel in 1990. Exhibited at fine and exquisite venues around the globe, Ms. Belous has received much worldwide attention.

Ms. Belous' work utilizes spontaneous, yet composed brushstrokes to convey her experience with reality. Acclaimed for its strength, harmony and explosive color, her technique is extremely unique and innovative. The artist's distinctive style, though highly versatile, is particularly displayed in her floral depictions. The artist elicits the explosive potential that is latent in all that is alive with her boundless freshness and dynamism, as her works pulsate with life and color.

For more information about the exhibit readers may contact the Ukrainian Institute of America at (212) 288-8660 or e-mail programs@ukrainianinstitute.org. They may also contact The Tori Collection at (610) 408-011 or e-mail info@toricollection.com.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

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| <p>May 28-31, 2004
Memorial Day Weekend
Friday pub night with band,
Saturday with Fata Morgana, and
Sunday with Askold Buk Trio</p> <p>June 3, 2004
Ellenville Teachers School
Related Association Banquet</p> <p>June 5, 2004
Wedding – Kukuruza/Peter
and Szaruga/Anna Marie</p> <p>June 7-10, 2004
Clergy Days</p> <p>June 13, 2004
80th Birthday Party, Tony Percoco</p> <p>June 14-18, 2004
UNA Seniors' Week</p> <p>June 18-20, 2004
Adoptive Parents' Weekend,
sponsored by the Embassy
of Ukraine and the UNA</p> <p>June 20, 2004
Father's Day Program</p> <p>June 20-July 2, 2004
Tennis Camp</p> <p>June 27-July 4, 2004
Plast Camp – Tabir Ptashat,
Session One</p> <p>July 2-4, 2004
Fourth of July Festival with zabavas</p> | <p>July 4-11, 2004
Plast Camp – Tabir Ptashat,
Session Two</p> <p>July 10-17, 2004
Discovery Camp, Session One</p> <p>July 17-24, 2004
Adventure Camp, Session One
Discovery Camp Session Two</p> <p>July 18-23, 2004
Chemney Youth Camp, Session One</p> <p>July 24-31, 2004
Discovery Camp, Session Three
Adventure Camp, Session Two</p> <p>July 25-30, 2004
Chemney Youth Camp, Session Two
Scuba Diving Course (revised dates)</p> <p>August 1-6, 2004
Soyuzivka Golf Week</p> <p>August 6-8, 2004
2nd Annual Sports Jamboree (see ad)</p> <p>August 8-21, 2004
Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky
Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp</p> <p>August 14, 2004
Miss Soyuzivka Weekend</p> <p>August 14-22, 2004
Club Suzy-Q Week</p> <p>August 21, 2004
Roma Pryma Bohachevsky
Dance Camp Concert</p> |
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, June 18

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The parish of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church invites the public to its second annual golf outing, with proceeds to benefit the capital building Campaign of the proposed new church and cultural center. The outing will be held at the Black Bear Golf Club in Hamburg, N.J. Check-in is at noon; putting contest, 1 p.m.; shotgun start, 2 p.m.; dinner/awards, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$125 (includes green fees, cart, giveaways and barbecue dinner). Raffles/contests include: 50/50 putting contest, hole in one for a Lexus ES330, Wilson Deep Red Irons and Soyuzivka lodging. For player registration contact Bo Turynsky, (973) 222-6088; sponsors may contact Ihor Zwarycz, (908) 625-9690. For additional information or registration via the Internet access www.uccnj.org.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday-Sunday, October 2-3

HARTFORD, Conn.: St. Michael Ukrainian Parochial School is currently planning its 50th anniversary celebration, to be held at the school this coming fall, beginning on October 2. The planning committee invites all current and former students, teachers and principals, as well as the general public to take part in the gala celebration. Festivities will include an open house at the school as well as a banquet and dance. Liturgy will be celebrated on the following day, Sunday, October 3. Please reserve these dates; additional information will be provided at a later date. The planning committee may be contacted by calling (860) 547-0858 or e-mailing ukrschool_hartford@hotmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please send payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

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EASTERN UKRAINE

June 4-15 — 12 days — LVIV-Bukhachiv-TERNOPIL-YALTA-KYIV-Kaniy... \$2300

PYSANKA

June 15-25 — 11 days — LVIV-Ky. Frankivsk-Jaremche-Kolomyja-CHERNIVTSEI-Khotyn-Kam. Podilnyi-KYIV \$2950

KALYNA

July 1-15 — 15 days — LVIV-Ponhiv-TERNOPIL-YALTA-Synderopil-Bakhchisaraj-KYIV-POLTAVA... \$2850

SOKOLY

July 14-25 — 10 days — KYIV-LVIV-Yaremche-Kolomyja-Khotyn-Kam. Podilskij-YALTA-KYIV... \$1890

POLONYNIA

July 25-Aug. 5 — 12 days — ODESA-Kherson-YALTA-Bakhchisaraj-Synderopil-KYIV... \$2150

INDEPENDENCE TOUR I

Aug. 13-27 — 15 days — LVIV-Ponhiv-TERNOPIL-YALTA-Synderopil-Bakhchisaraj-KYIV-POLTAVA... \$2850

INDEPENDENCE TOUR II

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SMEREKY

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