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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Olympic torch travels to Kyiv on the way to Athens Games

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Thousands of Ukrainians lined the streets of this city on July 5 to watch runners — including former Olympic champions, but average citizens as well — carry the Olympic flame through the streets as part of the build-up to what is undoubtedly the single largest sports event on the globe. Several days earlier, Ukraine announced the composition of its Olympic squad for the Athens Games set to begin next month.

The Olympic flame, which was lit in Athens in March and is circumventing the globe on its way back, is scheduled to arrive at Olympic Stadium in the Greek capital on August 13 in time for the opening ceremony of the XXVIII Olympic Games.

Since March 25, the torch has visited 34 cities and 27 countries. This is the first time it has traveled through the African and South American continents. For Kyiv, it was the second time the city had hosted the Olympic flame; the first time was in 1980, when the flame passed

through Kyiv, then the capital of the Ukrainian SSR, on its way to the Moscow Olympics.

This time around, the citizens and athletes of independent Ukraine carried the flame atop a sleek, brushed silver torch, partially constructed of olive wood, representative of the wreath of olive branches that is the symbol of the Games.

A day prior to the event, Peter Mooney, representative of Coca-Cola, which along with Samsung Electronics, is the main sponsor of the International Olympic Torch Relay, told the runners that they should hold the torch high and carry it proudly, remembering that the Olympic emblem — a wreath of olive branches encircling the five Olympic rings — symbolizes peace, freedom and hope. He told them that in Kyiv they would be the ambassadors of those ideals.

“Carry it with a lot of pride — you will be representing a lot of people and the highest ideals,” Mr. Mooney exhorted.

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50,000 gather to hear Yushchenko formally announce his candidacy

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Nearly 50,000 people — one of the largest gatherings in Kyiv in recent years — listened on July 4 as Viktor Yushchenko announced his candidacy for the presidency of Ukraine from a hillside overlooking the Pecherska Lavra (Monastery of the Caves), as his supporters waved thousands of orange pennants imprinted with the single word, “Tak” (Yes).

The banners they stood beneath, identifying them as hailing from points all across the country — from Donetsk and Luhansk to Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk — was evidence to some, as the newspaper *Ukraina Moloda* stated, that while the former prime minister's strength is in the western part of the country, he can count on voter support in the east as well.

Utilizing “change” as the theme for his speech, Mr. Yushchenko underscored that not only had the current leadership failed to raise the country from poverty in the post-Soviet era, it was the greatest obstacle to Ukrainians seeing a better day.

“In reality there is only one conflict in Ukraine today, between those in power and the people,” explained Mr. Yushchenko on a bright and mild summer day as the golden domes of the churches of the Pecherska Lavra glistened in the distance. “The government is sowing the seeds of division in society,” he added.

The current front-runner for the presidency and the most popular politician in Ukraine for nearly four years, Mr. Yushchenko promised Ukrainians a program led by a qualified team, which would give them pensions and wages that would “ensure a better life for all,” access to adequate medical care and quality education. He said he would rid the country of corruption and incarcerate the criminals.

The former prime minister noted that the few positive moments in recent Ukrainian history have occurred under his direction, including the introduction and the stabilization of the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia, while he was

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Soyuzivka hosts family weekend for adoptive parents of children from Ukraine

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — A number of American families who had previously adopted Ukrainian children took part in a historic weekend retreat with representatives of the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian National Association at the association's Soyuzivka resort on June 18-20.

Billed by organizers as the Adoptive Families' Weekend, the retreat had several goals, but foremost it was meant to help American parents learn more about the culture and traditions of their Ukrainian children, according to officials from the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, Ukraine's Consulate General in New York and the UNA, who together organized the inaugural event.

“We saw that some American families have no information about Ukraine, but we also saw that they want to know [about the country],” Ukraine's vice consul in New York, Andrii Nadzhos, told *The Weekly*.

Martha Lysko, first vice-president of the UNA, said some 30 families, for a total of 120 people, attended the event. UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj called the event “successful” and said the resort is ready to host similar events in the future.

Many of the parents who attended the retreat and later spoke with *The Weekly* via telephone said they had decided to

adopt a Ukrainian child because doing so was simpler and quicker than if they had tried to adopt an American child.

But such an adoption often means that an English-speaking parent and their newly adopted Ukrainian- or Russian-speaking child will have difficulty understanding one another. The situation is also complicated because of differences in culture.

Children adopted at a relatively young age assimilate into American society with ease, some parents said. However, some parents also said that children adopted in their early teens feel a strong sense of nostalgia for their native country.

Denise Evans, the adoptive parent of three Ukrainian children and the biological mother of a 10-year-old boy named Scott, drove to the weekend retreat at Soyuzivka from her home in New Jersey.

“It was nice that they cared so much to put on a weekend for us, and if they were going to do it and invite us, then I was going to go,” Ms. Evans said.

Her oldest daughter Elena, 14, came from Mariupol, Ukraine, last fall and maintains a strong attachment to her homeland. Her biological sister, 10-year-old Valentyna, was also adopted by Ms. Evans, but at a younger age and “is completely American,” her mother said.

Their interests are very different, Ms. Evans told *The Weekly*. While Elena is

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Lev Khmelkovsky/Svoboda

Children participating in the Adoptive Families' Weekend, held at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort, show off Ukrainian flags they colored during the event.

ANALYSIS

Poland lobbies EU for Ukraineby **Taras Kuzio***Eurasian Daily Monitor*

On June 13, Poland, like the other seven post-Communist states who joined the European Union (EU) in May, will participate for the first time in European Parliament elections. In preparation for the elections, the well-known *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper on June 5 published a list of eight questions posed to eight leading political parties.

The first and second questions were focused on the importance of Poland vis-à-vis Europe and were related to the European Constitution as well as relations between the EU and U.S. The third question asked about Ukraine's European perspectives: Ukraine "is an important partner of Poland, traditionally a buffer against Russia. Should we strive that Ukraine enters the EU?" Preceding the survey, *Gazeta Wyborcza's* Editor Adam Michnik and Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko wrote a joint article titled, "For a United Europe" (*El Pais*, May 4). From this initiative it is clear which Ukrainian political camp former Polish Solidarity activists, such as Mr. Michnik, see as best representing Ukraine's European choice in this year's Ukrainian elections.

None of the eight political parties that represent the entire political spectrum in Poland opposes Ukraine's membership in the EU, although all consider this to be a long process. Most adamantly in favor of EU membership were the ruling Democratic Left Alliance and its offshoot, the opposition Civic Platform. The Polish Peasant Party believes that, if Ukraine is denied admission to the EU, "Ukraine will without doubt choose a future partnership with Russia." The opposition Law and Justice Party believes that Ukraine should be the main focus for the EU's Eastern dimension, rather than presumably Russia, as is the current focus. Freedom Union considers Ukraine as part of "our historical family." The union stated, "The vision of Ukraine within the EU requires the support of Poland. This is our objective from the

viewpoint of history, geopolitics and economics. This is one of the most important objectives of our European policies."

Two populist parties – Self Defense and the League of Polish Families (LPR) – which are both critically disposed towards the EU, also supported Ukraine's membership aspirations. The league stated that, "Ukraine will be our natural ally in the European Union." Two factors were cited by most of the eight political parties.

First, as outlined by Civic Platform, Poland should be at the forefront in lobbying the EU to raise its interest in an eastern dimension to the same level as its southern flank. The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs produced a "non-paper" and a formal paper in support of an eastern dimension for the EU in February and May 2003. Both papers were meant to contribute to discussion of the EU's March 2003 "Wider Europe" communication. The papers called on the EU to differentiate policy toward its eastern and southern neighbors, as only the former lies within Europe and, therefore, should be granted the option of membership.

Second, Ukraine's geographic position should be recognized as a buffer between Poland and Russia. This has traditionally been a Polish objective due to the deeply ingrained historical sense of Russia as a threat. After joining the EU in May, Poland began to more actively lobby in favor of Ukraine's EU (and NATO) membership aspirations. Support for Ukraine has also come from within the Visegrad Group – Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary – and from Lithuania (*Gazeta Wyborcza*, May 13).

Just as Germany saw Poland's membership in NATO and the EU as important to securing its eastern flank, so does Poland similarly look on Ukraine. In the case of Ukraine, there is a sense of urgency because of the fear that if Ukraine is not offered a home inside the EU, it will turn to Russia. As seen from Poland, this threat increased in April when Ukraine joined Russia,

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Russians run censorship of information media in Ukraineby **Taras Kuzio***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

In the best traditions of investigative journalism, the opposition *Ukrainska Pravda* (June 3 and 11) newspaper has uncovered, for the first time, how Ukrainian oligarchs and their Russian advisers censor the Ukrainian media. Censorship operates through the use of secret instructions (*temnyky*) sent to television stations advising them what they should cover and what they should ignore.

Temnyky routinely advise that the opposition should be either ignored or condemned. *Temnyky* appeared only after Viktor Medvedchuk, leader of the Kyiv clan's Social Democratic Party - United (SDPU), was appointed head of the presidential administration in May 2002. They are issued daily to state and

private television stations. Journalists have leaked many *temnyky* and the practice has been severely condemned both in Ukraine and abroad. The U.S.-based NGO Human Rights Watch issued a major study of *temnyky* in March 2003 (<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/ukraine0303/>).

Temnyky grew out of close links developed between the SDPU and Gleb Pavlovsky's Fund for Effective Politics (FEP) since the 1999 Ukrainian elections. Mr. Pavlovsky has been a long-time adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Pavlovsky's co-workers in Ukraine include Russian "political technologists" Marat Gelman and Igor Shuvalov. The FEP assisted in establishing a Ukrainian branch, called Center for Effective Politics (TEP).

The only publicly known work undertaken by TEP was its revamp of President Leonid Kuchma's website in 2002 (www.president.gov.ua). TEP is a private commercial company owned by well-known Kyiv political commentator Mikhail Pogrebynsky, who also heads the non-commercial Kyiv Center for Political and Conflict Studies (KTPK) think-tank. TEP undertakes "political con-

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Taras Kuzio is visiting professor at the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University. The article above, which originally appeared in The Jamestown Foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor, is reprinted here with permission from the foundation (www.jamestown.org).

NEWSBRIEFS**Yushchenko vows to end corruption ...**

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader Yushchenko told an estimated 50,000 people in Kyiv on July 4 that he will make Ukraine a European country and eradicate corruption in the government if he wins this year's presidential election, Ukrainian media reported. "The authorities will work for the people, corruption will be ended, all will be equal before the law, and bandits will go to jail," UNIAN quoted Mr. Yushchenko as telling a crowd of supporters that gathered shortly before he submitted the documents necessary for his registration as a presidential candidate to the Central Election Commission. "I see Ukraine as a state that is respected and valued by its own citizens, as well as treated with respect in both the West and the East," Mr. Yushchenko added. He formally proposed his presidential candidacy as an independent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... signs coalition deal with Tymoshenko

KYIV – Viktor Yushchenko of Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko, the leader of the eponymous opposition bloc, signed a coalition accord in Kyiv on July 2 to pool efforts in the presidential-election campaign in order to promote a Yushchenko victory, Interfax reported. The accord sets up a new parliamentary group, the Power of the People (*Syla Narodu*), which will unite all lawmakers of the pro-Yushchenko coalition. The deal also proposes a program of joint actions, called the "Manifest of People's Victory," in order to "take over power in Ukraine for cleaning [the country] of criminal clans and political banditry" and build a "democratic and just state under the rule of law." The accord stipulates that in the event of Mr. Yushchenko's victory in the 2004 presidential ballot, the distribution of posts in the future government among coalition members will be carried out proportionally to their gains in the 2002 parliamentary election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Prosecutor to probe Gongadze leaks

KYIV – The Ukrainian Procurator General's Office opened a criminal case on July 1 into pre-trial leaks of information from an inquiry into the slaying of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, the UNIAN news service reported. The Procurator General's Office provided no details. A June 22 article in *The Independent* (by an RFE/RL contributor) linking Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to the slaying reportedly sparked the prosecutor's probe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Deputy wants protection for Kravchenko

KYIV – Hryhorii Omelchenko, head of an ad hoc parliamentary committee investigating the Gongadze killing, said on July

1 that former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko should be granted extraordinary security because of the "threat to his life," the UNIAN news service reported. Mr. Kravchenko is believed to have orchestrated the unlawful surveillance of Gongadze and a search of his residence. Mr. Omelchenko also expressed his hope that other witnesses are safe. "I don't know what to do with senior criminals in our state if officers who have given evidence end up being physically liquidated," Mr. Omelchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Government OKs reverse use of pipeline

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich has signed a resolution amending a February decision of the Cabinet on the use of the Odesa-Brody pipeline to pump Caspian oil to Europe, Ukrainian media reported on July 6. The recent resolution effectively allows the use of the pipeline in both directions and is seen by some Ukrainian observers as a concession to Moscow, which has lobbied for the transport of Russian oil through the pipeline to the Black Sea port of Odesa. Mr. Yanukovich commented on July 6 on the resolution by saying that the pipeline will be used "in different modes depending on the situation," Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. encourages Ukraine on economy

KYIV – U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst said on June 30 that the United States will support Ukraine's efforts to become a market economy, the UNIAN news agency reported. Ambassador Herbst said that the country should still take a number of important steps in order to become a market economy and efficiently enter world markets. Ukraine has achieved significant changes in the macroeconomic sphere, but the lack of changes on the microeconomic level is "disturbing," Mr. Herbst added. The main problem of Ukraine's economy, according to the U.S. envoy, is insufficient transparency in the privatization process and flaws in laws regulating business activity. Mr. Herbst praised Ukraine's efforts to join the World Trade Organization but said that the issue of copyright protection still concerns the United States. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine, Uzbekistan for free-trade zone

KYIV – Uzbekistan and Ukraine will create the first free-trade zone in the CIS, the *Ukrainski Novyny* news agency reported on June 25. Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoev signed an

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COMMENTARY: A few pointers on Ukraine's upcoming election

by Roman Kupchinsky

If any early observation can be made about the start of the presidential campaign in Ukraine, it is that this promises to be one large entertaining brawl in which everyone will have a go at it.

The voters in Ukraine – unlike their class brothers in most democratic countries who, by and large, do not care to participate and sit at home doing whatever people do when they are not voting – will put on their gloves and come out swinging.

The preliminaries leading to the title event were held earlier in the small town of Mukachiv and the large city of Donetsk and were won by former convicts and thugs, supporters of their patron, Viktor Yanukovich.

The upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine have been called a “critical juncture” in the life of this country. This is a severe understatement. If an Oscar ceremony were to be held for “Most Dramatic Elections of the Year,” Ukraine would stand a fine chance to win.

There is no denying that Ukraine, which seems to have been a playground for crooked politicians, criminals and manipulative oligarchs during the 10-year reign of Leonid Kuchma, is on the verge of making an important choice. The winner will not only determine Ukraine's domestic policies but its role internationally.

The country most concerned with the Ukrainian elections is Russia. The upcoming vote has elicited more genuine interest among Russian policy-makers than the recent election of President Vladimir Putin to a second term. In his case there was never any doubt as to the outcome, but in the rough and tough rumble between Viktor Yushchenko and Mr. Yanukovich, anything can happen and the Russian leadership does not want to be caught off guard.

It is no secret that the vast majority of the Russian elite has placed its bets (some say these are quite substantial), on Mr. Yanukovich. The reasons for this are concrete and have little to do with the Nazi-style propaganda being aired on Russian television about Mr. Yushchenko's alleged “nationalism.” The boogeyman of Ukrainian nationalism is meant, above all, to scare a segment of the Russian-speaking Ukrainian electorate, which at times seems more susceptible to such idiotic arguments than anyone else.

The concrete reason has to do with energy. Russian energy related capital has had a very close relationship with Leonid Kuchma and his assorted governments. Very often the results of this nexus have been harmful to Ukrainian national interests but highly profitable for the players involved.

Today Russia's Lukoil controls most of Ukraine's oil refining capacity, while Gazprom, the Russian natural gas monopoly, controls the pipelines from Central Asia that supply natural gas to Ukraine. The Pivdennyi oil terminal outside of Odesa is for all intents and purposes being controlled by an obscure and shady company registered in the British Virgin Islands, Collide Ltd, which is alleged to be owned by a number of high rollers in Moscow. The often dubious activities of the British Petroleum-Tyumen Oil Company (BP-TNK) in Ukraine are handled by its affiliate, BP-TNK Ukraine. The Russian electrical energy monopoly, Unified Energy Systems, led by Anatoly Chubais, who not too long ago proclaimed a goal of “liberal imperialism,” has been maneuvering to get its hands on the Ukrainian electrical grid.

Roman Kupchinsky is a journalist living in Prague. He may be contacted at Kupchinsky@rferl.org

The Russians have not always had a honeymoon with Mr. Kuchma and his energy managers. Naftohaz Ukraine, the Ukrainian state oil and gas monopoly, and the main cash cow for Mr. Kuchma over the years, has never been an easy target for Russian manipulation. It is only in the last two years that Presidents Kuchma and Putin have agreed to end the constant bickering over Ukrainians stealing gas from the pipeline and have institutionalized the seamier aspects of the relationship by agreeing to share and share alike in some of the less transparent schemes they themselves devised.

The likelihood of these schemes continuing under Mr. Yushchenko is minimal, and Mr. Putin and his team know this. The prospect of well-established, highly profitable and highly opaque arrangements being ended by a new Ukrainian president are disturbing for many people in the shady Russian energy business and in the Kremlin.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Russian president or his foreign minister do not call for “free and open” elections in Ukraine. For them, this is the most dreaded scenario. They want to see Mr. Yanukovich elected – democratically or otherwise.

With Mr. Yanukovich as president the Ukrainian oil and gas pipelines to Europe, that bring in the money that keeps Russia afloat, will continue to move closer to being controlled by Russia.

The Russian elite knows full well that a Mr. Yushchenko victory will not result in the closure of pipelines to Europe, but this is not the point. In the eyes of the people who control Mr. Putin, these pipelines have a strategic value for Russia and the goal is to place them under Russian control. Mr. Yushchenko will not allow this to happen as Mr. Putin well knows. Hence the “nationalist” charges.

The logic is simple: if you refuse to hand over your country's assets to the Kremlin you are a raving nationalist. By extension, Mr. Yanukovich is an “internationalist.”

There are, of course, other aspects of Ukrainian-Russian relations that will be affected by this fall's elections. The question of Ukraine-NATO relations is one; the matter of the Single Economic Space is another. But the overriding factor is energy and all that is tied to it.

The other major country that stands to win or lose in the Ukrainian elections is the United States.

Washington, like Moscow, was at first opposed to Ukrainian independence. Once it realized that it could not prevent this from taking place, it began seeing Ukraine as a state.

It was clear even then, in the early 1990s, that nobody wanted to see Ukraine in NATO or in the European Union, but nobody wanted Russia to dominate it either. This left Ukraine with only one option: to be a buffer state.

When Ukrainians were told earlier this year to bugger-off by the EU's capo di capo Romano Prodi, who pointed out to them that there is no room left for them in the EU, the Putin team rubbed its hands with glee. Washington finally saw the anger in Ukraine and mumbled its incoherent apologies through a series of visits to Kyiv by has-been emissaries.

Generally speaking, U.S. policy toward Ukraine has undergone so many modifications and massages over the years that today few in Washington have any vision of what importance, if any, Ukraine has for the United States with the exception that President Kuchma was first a supplier of forbidden radars to Saddam and now of troops to the occupation forces in Iraq.

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CAMPAIGN REPORT: Viktor Yushchenko's announcement of his bid for the presidency

Following is the text of Viktor Yushchenko's address on July 4 in the city center of Kyiv in which he officially announced his bid for the presidency of Ukraine. The text was disseminated by PRNewswire.com, which cited Our Ukraine as its source.

Dear Compatriots and Friends:

We have come to the Dnipro hills from across Ukraine. Today we stand shoulder-to-shoulder. We are citizens of Ukraine and we demand change. We are united in our love for Ukraine and our trepidation for her destiny. Our country stands on the threshold between the past and the future. We have gathered here because it is time to make the choice for a better life. Today, all of Ukraine, from Luhansk to Lviv, from Chernihiv to the Crimea, demands change.

Today, all of Ukraine, from Luhansk to Lviv, from Chernihiv to the Crimea, demands change.

Our mothers and fathers want change. They worked all of their lives, but today live in destitution. They lost their savings, while their pensions resign them to poverty. In their twilight, our parents want respect and tranquility. They earned it.

All of us want change. We, citizens of Ukraine, are dismayed at the constant rise in prices, without any chance for normal housing, without hope for medical care. We want work and we want honest jobs. Our minds and our hands will be our keep.

Our children yearn for change. We are ready to do everything in our power for their benefit. But today they are vulnerable to unfairness, poverty and spiritual deprivation. Many children wait years for their mothers and fathers who are scattered across the globe in search of a living. Just like all of you (and I am the father of five children), I want the young generation to have a future in their own country.

All citizens are demanding change. My heart, as all of yours, breaks when it sees how the government is robbing the country of its riches, how they sell out our national interests. Our country deserves a respectable place in the world and the respect of all capitals.

They try to convince us that Ukraine is experiencing an economic rise, that things have stabilized, and that Euro-integration is under way. But why then are our living standards falling so far behind our neighbors? Why can't we earn an honest wage and build a prosperous life? Do our neighbors have something we don't?

Let us look out across Ukraine from these hills of Kyiv. We see its fertile soil and its rich resources. We see how millions of Ukrainians toil every hour of every day, mining coal, forging steel and growing grain. We see scientists developing modern technologies able to compete in a global market. We have everything we need to be a wealthy, prosperous, European country.

Let us recall our history. The conviction of our Ukrainian nation is embedded

in the pages of its history. After the most trying times – artificial famines, wars, the Auschwitzes, Gulags – our sons and daughters raised Ukraine from ruin. I believe that love for one's country and love for liberty lives in each and all of us. Our nation, its energy, its history and culture, are the greatest treasures of Ukraine!

Today our national wealth is only filling the pockets of the oligarchic clans. Access to social welfare is no longer a right to all, but a privilege for the few. The criminal government is to blame for all of this.

Today citizens are not free in their own country; they are unprotected against the whims of the bureaucrats, tax inspectors, militia and the procurators. Investigation of crimes has become a farce; denigration the norm. People can't find justice in the courts. The corrupt, irresponsible government is to blame for all of this.

Today they try to divide the Ukrainian people into “west” and “east,” divide us by ethnic origin and language, by history and faith. The cynical government is to blame for this.

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FOR THE RECORD: Bush greeting for Shevchenko tribute

Following is the full text of the message sent by President George W. Bush to organizers of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington. The commemoration took place on June 26. The text was sent to The Ukrainian Weekly by the Ukrainian National Information Service on July 1.

I send greetings to those observing the 40th anniversary of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, D.C. The United States appreciates our friendship with a free, democratic, and independent Ukraine as we promote peace and prosperity around the world. We are grateful for Ukrainian American contributions to our nation.

The free flow of ideas is a vital foundation of liberty. And on this special occasion we honor the life and legacy of a Ukrainian national hero, Taras Shevchenko. As an artist and poet, he dedicated himself to a noble purpose and assumed great personal risk in the cause of freedom.

As the United States works with Ukraine to spread freedom, I appreciate your work to assist Ukraine in conducting free and fair elections this October. I commend the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and others for your efforts to foster community pride and contribute to our nation's rich cultural heritage. Americans join you in remembering the courage, vision and strength of Taras Shevchenko.

Best wishes for a memorable event.

Gryshchenko presents Verkhovna Rada awards to Shevchenko Society officers



Verkhovna Rada awards for Shevchenko Scientific Society officers were accepted by (from left): Kathryn Vasilaki (on behalf of her father, Volodymyr Vasilaki), Marta Tarnawsky, Roman Voronka, Olha Kuzmowycz, Orest Popovych, Svitlana and Roman Andrushkiw, Yaroslava Stojko (on behalf of her husband, Volodymyr Stojko), Laryssa Onyshkevych, George Slusarczuk and Tatiana Keis.

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – On June 19, the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York hosted an awards ceremony in which Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko honored members of the governing board of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in America (NTSh) on behalf of Ukraine's Parliament.

Each of the awarded board members received a medal and a certificate from the Verkhovna Rada, signed by Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, with the inscription "for meritorious service to the Ukrainian people."

Serhiy Pohoreltzev, the consul general of Ukraine, opened the ceremony by introducing Foreign Minister Gryshchenko, who was on a working visit to Washington and New York. Mr. Gryshchenko welcomed the opportunity to perform this honorary function on behalf of the Verkhovna Rada, recalling his recent stint as Ukraine's ambassador to Washington and the ties it entailed with the Ukrainian American community.

After the awards were presented individually by Mr. Gryshchenko, Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, president of NTSh, expressed her gratitude to him and to the Verkhovna Rada on behalf of her society. She emphasized that much of the NTSh activity is directed towards promoting Ukrainian studies in Ukraine, which is accomplished by means of joint conferences with Ukrainian scholars and especially through scholarships, as well as grants for research and publications that are financed by NTSh. Since board members work on a voluntary basis, explained Dr. Onyshkevych, their only reward is usually the feeling of satisfaction for having aided Ukraine. Therefore, it is doubly satisfying to receive recognition from Ukraine for this work.

Dr. Onyshkevych presented Mr. Gryshchenko with a copy of "Pereiaslav Council of 1654," a recently published volume of collected works (in Ukrainian) whose publication in Kyiv was sponsored by NTSh. To Mr. Pohoreltzev Dr.

Onyshkevych presented a copy of another NTSh publication, "Taras Shevchenko: A Life" (in English).

In addition to Dr. Onyshkevych, the following NTSh board members were present to receive their awards in person: Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, Svitlana Andrushkiw, Tatiana Keis, Olha Kuzmowycz, Dr. Orest Popovych, Dr. George Slusarczuk, Marta Tarnawsky and Dr. Roman Voronka. The awards for Dr. Volodymyr Stojko were picked up by his wife Yaroslava, and those for Dr. Volodymyr Vasilaki, by his daughter Kathryn.

Several of the awarded NTSh board members were unable to attend, mostly due to a conflict with the conference on Ukrainian Studies, at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. They were: Drs. Daria Dykyj, Paul Dzul, Assya Humesky, Taras Hunczak, Vasyl Markus, Andrij Szul, Swiatoslaw Trofimenko, Myroslava Znayenko and Prof. Martha B. Trofimenko.

The ceremony was attended also by Ukraine's Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations Valeriy Kuchinsky and by Yuriy Klymenko, the director of the Fourth Territorial Directorate (Western Hemisphere) of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A social hour with a buffet brunch concluded the event.



Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko presents award to Marta Tarnawsky.

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Amount	Name	City		
\$100.00	Martha and Ihor Voyevodka	Reno, Nev.	\$5.00	M. Tataryn Warren, Mich.
\$55.00	Bohdan Birakowsky	College Point, N.Y.		Nadija Chojnacka Oak Forest, Ill.
\$50.00	Tom Krop	Virginia Beach, Va.		Jaroslav Chypak Wayne, N.J.
	Jaroslav and Maria Tomorug	Cranford, N.J.		Tillie Decyk Sun City, Ariz.
	Wolodymyr Wolowodiuk	Chatham Township, N.J.		Stefan Golub Minneapolis, Minn.
\$30.00	Taras and Lubow Shegedyn	South Orange, N.J.		Motria Holowinsky East Greenwich, R.I.
\$25.00	John Kytasty	Livonia, Mich.		Merle and Bonnie Jurkiewicz Toledo, Ohio
	George Lewycky	Milltown, N.J.		Maria Klos Diamond Point, N.Y.
	T. Schmotoloha	Livingston, N.J.		Elizabeth Knox New York, N.Y.
	Yuri Shymko	Toronto, Ontario		Ksenia Kowal Fort Wayne, Ind.
	Ulana Baransky-Bendixion	Chicago, Ill.		Mykola Kril Las Vegas, Nev.
	S. Wusowych-Lule	Glen Ellyn, Ill.		Petro Kulynych Yonkers, N.Y.
\$20.00	Andrew Czuczuk	East Windsor, N.J.		Leonid Mostowycz Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
	Lubomyr Wynar	Ravenna, Ohio		Maria Odezynskyj Colorado Springs, Colo.
\$15.00	John R. and Natalie Lopic	Elverson, Pa.		Michael Scyocurka Laguna Woods, Calif.
	Ada Osinchuk	Fort Wayne, Ind.		Zenon Wasylkevych Warren, Mich.
	Oksana Sydorak	Hillsborough, Calif.		Neonillia and Lafayette, Ind.
\$10.00	Roman Ferencevych	Alexandria, Va.		Wolodymyr Lechman North Haven, Conn.
	Alice Gural	Lakehurst, N.J.		
	Areta Halibey	Westchester, Ill.		
	I. Horodyskyj	Melbourne, Fla.		
	Olga Luck	Takoma Park, Md.		
	R. Sluzar	Mississauga, Ontario		
	Stephanie Sywyj	Parma, Ohio		

TOTAL: \$735.00

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The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the sole fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.

International Federation of Journalists announces inquiry into Gongadze case

BRUSSELS, Belgium – The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) announced that it is establishing an inquiry commission "to examine the apparent failure of legal and judicial processes in the Gongadze case and the reaction of institutions and civil society to the case."

The IFJ – the world's largest organization of journalists, as it represents more than 500,000 journalists in over 100 countries – also stated that it needs "the support of international civil society to complete our investigation" and explained that it is establishing "an oversight committee of individuals and organizations to support the inquiry."

Earlier, on June 22, the federation had noted in a press release that the government of Ukraine "must face the truth and take responsibility" over the brutal killing of opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze (1969-2000).

"The time is right to clear the air," said Aidan White, IFJ general secretary. "We need to know the truth, pure and simple. Only a fresh investigation that is independent, transparent and stripped of self-interest and political intrigue will deliver justice."

In a letter sent out earlier this week, the IFJ secretary-general wrote: "International bodies including the EU [European Union], Amnesty International and our own fed-

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Young UNA'ers



Katherine Anne Czernyk, daughter of Natalia and Ihor Czernyk of New York City, is a new member of UNA Branch 172. She was enrolled by her grandparents Rostyslaw and Helen Ratycz.



Reagan Annelise Wilson, daughter of Susan Ayers and Timothy Wilson of Sebring, Ohio, is a new member of UNA Branch 120. She was enrolled by her great-grandmother Ann Matiash.



Kaylee Jean Refice, daughter of Steve and Saprina Refice of Monaca, Pa., is a new member of UNA Branch 120. She was enrolled by her great-grandmother Ann Matiash.

Special program marks 20th annual Father's Day at UNA resort Soyuzivka

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Close to 300 people traveled to Soyuzivka on Sunday, June 20, to celebrate Father's Day at the upstate New York resort.

Fathers, grandfathers and fathers-in-law were joined by their families and friends for a day that honored all fathers in the Ukrainian community. It was the 20th annual such celebration of the holiday organized by the Ukrainian National Association.

A special Father's Day liturgy was celebrated at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church located across Foordmoore Road from the UNA resort. Afterwards, there was a festive luncheon and an entertainment program featuring Cheres, the Carpathian folk ensemble directed by Andriy Milavsky.

The audience was welcomed by UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, who offered special greetings to all the fathers present.

Among the groups traveling to Soyuzivka for Father's Day was the

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To subscribe: Send \$55 (\$45 if you are a member of the UNA) to The Ukrainian Weekly, Subscription Department, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Український Народний Союз **Ukrainian National Association**

ГРАМОТА ЧЛЕНЬСКА **Membership Certificate**

Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

A special yearlong feature focusing on the history of the Ukrainian National Association.

One of the most impressive conventions in the Ukrainian National Association's history was the 23rd convention held in Washington on May 31-June 5, 1954.

Present were 437 delegates with a total of 920 votes, in addition to 19 supreme officers of the organization, each of whom had one vote.

During the course of the convention, UNA supreme executive officers, Svoboda editors and the chairman and vice-chairman of the convention

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Gongadze case resurfaces

The resurgence of international interest in the Gongadze affair sparked by the publication of several stories in the British newspaper *The Independent* only makes more credible the long-held suspicions that leading figures in Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs were complicit in the abduction and death of the young Ukrainian journalist and that the Procurator General's Office has been involved in a cover-up rather than in a criminal investigation of the matter. While nothing can be proven until an independent judicial inquiry of some sort takes place, there can now be no doubt that something is seriously amiss.

Mr. Gongadze, 31, was the founder of one of the Internet publication *Ukrainska Pravda*, who disappeared in September 2000. His beheaded corpse was found two months later. The affair has involved mysterious digital recordings made by a former security officer that implicate the current president, who maintains that they are conversations pasted together by experts hired by his enemies to form incriminating dialogue. Two international analyses of the recordings have shown them to be authentic.

In three recent stories *The Independent* asserted that it had received a treasure trove of startling new evidence that the top prosecutor's office was involved in a cover-up to protect Internal Affairs officials at the highest echelons. *The Independent* wrote that Ihor Honcharov, a self-admitted leader of a band of assassins with ties to both the state militia and criminal groups who claimed his gang participated in the Gongadze murder, died in prison from a fatal injection of a drug with no medicinal value. The newspaper also asserted that it had received separate documentation on how Gongadze died and has the names of those who took part in the murder.

While it is encouraging that *The Independent* has supportive evidence, most of this information is not new as it has been leaked or generally written about for months and years. Far from discounting the value of the information provided by *The Independent*, however, we are concerned with the more immediate role the stories could play in stimulating a case that has lain dormant over the last months.

It seems pretty clear now that the current authorities have no interest in solving the case – but only in shrouding the facts in more fog. The best chance for the truth to come out might exist along two routes: either wait for a new presidential administration to take office after the October 31 elections in the hope that the proper investigative and judicial processes will take place; or have international human rights groups do all they can to pressure Western countries to force Ukraine and its uncooperative leadership to come clean.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said recently that it remains skeptical that Ukrainian officials are serious about solving the case. Now the International Federation of Journalists is preparing to launch an inquiry into the Gongadze murder, calling it "a pivotal case for media freedom in Europe." We agree with the IFJ, even as we acknowledge that Ukraine's image has taken quite a bashing over the years. Unfortunately, the way the gruesome death of this journalist has been treated by Ukraine's authorities requires the international community to organize an extensive investigation at some level, even if it should turn out that state leaders were not complicit in either the disappearance or the death of Gongadze.

It is also time that the Gongadze family be allowed closure and for the Ukrainian nation to put this sorry chapter in its recent history behind it.

July
17
1994

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on July 17, 1994, *The Ukrainian Weekly* carried a news story about the election of Ukraine's second president. Marta Kolomayets, then of our Kyiv Press Bureau, wrote: "... In an upset victory, Leonid Danylovych Kuchma

was elected Ukraine's second president on Sunday, July 10, beginning a new era – for better or worse – in this country of 52 million people. Mr. Kuchma, 55, who is the former director of the world's largest rocket factory and the ex-prime minister of Ukraine, is scheduled to be inaugurated on Tuesday, July 19, in Ukraine's Parliament."

On July 13, during his first press conference, the president-elect said: "As president of Ukraine, I will always work in the interests of Ukraine as a whole, not in the interests of separate regions" – this in an effort to quell fears of a split between Ukraine's eastern and western regions. "The first thing I want is national reconciliation. ...To say there is confrontation between the west and east is a political game."

Voter turnout in the election was high – more than 71 percent. And it was a close race to the end. Over 14 million, or 52 percent, of Ukraine's citizens cast their ballots for Mr. Kuchma; his opponent, incumbent Leonid Kravchuk got 45 percent of the vote, or a little over 12 million votes. About 644,000 voters, or 2.4 percent, crossed out both candidates on the ballot.

Most of western Ukraine voted for President Kravchuk, where he received between 94 and 95 percent in the Galician oblasts of Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv, because western Ukrainians perceived him as the guarantor of Ukraine's independence, even though he once was the ideology secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

In the eastern oblasts of Luhansk and Donetsk, Mr. Kuchma received 88 and 79 percent of the vote, respectively, while in Crimea, he got close to 90 percent of the vote.

Mr. Kuchma attributed his victory to Mr. Kravchuk's failure to tackle Ukraine's economic decline since independence was declared from the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Mr. Kravchuk sent Mr. Kuchma a congratulatory telegram on Tuesday, July 12. Mr. Kravchuk noted that he hoped Mr. Kuchma would help promote Ukraine's democratization, economic reforms and international prestige.

On Thursday morning, July 14, Mr. Kuchma received his certificate from the Central Election Commission, confirming his victory in the July 10 election. Obviously moved,

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NEWS AND VIEWS

On the amalgamation and closing of parishes in Philadelphia Archeparchy

Following is the text of Metropolitan Stefan Soroka's "Sharing on the Amalgamation and Closing of Parishes in the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia." The text was e-mailed on June 18.

My Brother Clergy, Reverend Religious, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Praise Be Jesus Christ!

In recent months, we have all heard of the planned closing of parishes within various dioceses of the Latin Church. The most often reasons cited are the shortage of priests and the decreasing number of parishioners in the affected parishes. Our Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia is not exempt from the same pressures on some of our own parishes and on the archeparchy. Declining numbers of parishioners in some parishes have made it difficult for these parishes to financially meet the costs of operation, and has left few qualified and able parishioners to assist in the management and upkeep of the parish. The shortage of priests has necessitated some priests to serve two, or even three parishes, placing these priests under stress detrimental to their spiritual and physical well-being, and unable to properly serve all the respective parish's needs. The parishes are not able to benefit from the fullness of the gifts of the priesthood.

During the month of May 2004, two of our Ukrainian Catholic parishes have been permanently closed. It is anticipated that additional parishes will be closed. St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church on Pine Street in Philadelphia and the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in South Philadelphia were both closed. Attendance at both parishes averaged below 10 to 15 people, and the costs of operation were necessarily subsidized from parish savings. Neighboring priests provided services for the parishes with much dedication, yet depriving time from their attention to their main parishes.

Understandably, worshipping in a small church with fellow parishioners whom you have come to know personally, is a special gift. The closing of these parishes brought sadness to the parishioners, who have since joined neighboring Ukrainian Catholic parishes. Parishioners of the South Philadelphia parish were already welcomed for all major feasts by the pastor of a neighboring parish for the past year. I have personally met with the parishioners of both parishes at or prior to their closing and appreciate their admirable understanding and cooperation.

The need to close these parishes and others raises some important questions and thoughts for all in the archeparchy. Among them are the following thoughts.

Priests often speed from one parish to another, to meet desired time of the faithful for services, leaving little time for the very important but often neglected time for personal contact with parishioners after the Sunday divine liturgy. How invaluable, needed and appreciated it is when the priest can greet his parishioners personally at the door of the church following the liturgy. It is also common for faithful to pass by one or more of our Ukrainian Catholic churches to attend a parish where they have become accustomed to worshipping. Sometimes, parishes are within a short driving distance of one another, or even within blocks of one another in some communities. Yet, we have come to expect a service in our own parish, even when attendance has radically declined and it is necessary for a priest to travel to meet our needs.

What about the priest's spiritual and physical well-being? The running between parishes takes a toll on the priest's psychological and physical health. His spiritual well-being is also challenged when he arrives at a parish, excited to offer a well-prepared homily, and is greeted with but a small handful of steadfast parishioners. Let's not fool ourselves that this does not have its own demoralizing impact. Yet, the parishioners desire that their parish be vibrant and have a future.

A positive and hopeful future for our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia lies in our being able to devote ourselves to building a sense of community among ourselves as a Church. This necessarily means the uniting of some of our parishes into stronger worshipping communities of faith, where a priest may devote himself full-time to providing for the spiritual needs of that one community of faith and its parishioners. Some parishes will have to realistically and painfully accept the sacrifice of amalgamating into one main parish in the interests of our being a strong and vibrant Church. How can we realistically expect a priest to lead a community of faithful to be vibrant and alive, if we expect of him to divide his energies and giftedness among several parishes?

An attitude of proper stewardship among our faithful has not developed. Our faithful are very generous for the financial support of major projects and needs of their parish; yet, weekly upkeep support of the parish is relatively poor in all but a few of our parishes. The weekly donation of many parishioners has not kept up with the costs of maintaining a parish today.

This raises the question as to proper use of our financial and material resources. Uniting into stronger and more vibrant communities allows for the better use of limited financial resources. Not only is it easier to meet necessary expenses, excess resources can be utilized to offer increased Church programs and activities for children, youth and adults within our parishes. Most of our parishes are stretched financially to pay for necessary secretarial, financial and maintenance help. We are so desperately in need of offering spiritual and cultural programs for the development of our sense of community and of family.

There are the fortunate few parishes which have exceptional financial savings and rely on these resources to ensure their continued survival. The decision to close a parish, however, is primarily based on the vibrancy of that parish, and the number of active parishioners attending and supporting the life of the parish. In some situations, a parish may deservedly need financial help from the archeparchy as it struggles to develop itself among a potential membership in its community.

You and I face such challenges in our day-to-day lives. We are confronted with choices. Choosing to do nothing and continue to move along our present path is also a choice. In my humble opinion, such a choice would be most selfish and detrimental to the well-being and hope of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. We must, together, choose to develop our sense of community amidst our parishes. The development of stronger and vibrant parish communities where possible, including the amalgamation of some of our parishes, is essential for our survival and for our well-being as a Church. There simply will not be enough priests to serve every parish that exists today. Some parishes cannot support

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COMMENTARY

Today and yesterday: the statue of Shevchenko in Washington

by Natalia Gawdiak

WASHINGTON – Washington in the summer is not usually a place you want to be. Forty years ago, when thousands of Ukrainian Americans converged on Washington to witness the unveiling of the statue of the bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, we were proud to be there and suffered the oppressive heat. Finally, we thought, Americans will know “who we are.”

Forty years later, Shevchenko’s statue looks the same, but everything else has changed.

Americans and the world now know “who we are” – unfortunately not because of this statue – but because of a place called Chernobyl. (Most Americans still know it as “Chernobyl,” but that’s another story.) Americans now know that in 1991 Ukraine emerged from its Soviet chrysalis, not exactly as a butterfly, but at least as a separate entity, eventually adopting its own, non-Soviet Constitution to prove it. And most recently, they may remember Ukraine has contributed troops to the greater good of protecting Iraq (or is it Iraqi oil, I forget).

Natalia Gawdiak identifies herself as a Ukrainianized Irish American. An occasional contributor to The Weekly, she is a retired research and information analyst at the Law Library of the Library of Congress.

Another thing that changed from 40 years ago was the weather. Saturday, June 26, marked Ukraine’s Constitution Day and oddly enough, in Washington, the weather was “balmy,” not a word usually found in summer weather reports here. Still the “heat” was on. This being a political town, the heat was actually the pressure exerted by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on other Ukrainian American organizations to prove that we have a “unified” community. The idea is that having a unified community makes us stronger – as in let’s all unite and cooperate, we’ll do it my way.

Some brilliant soul came up with the idea that celebrating the day a statue was unveiled was a good way to show this unity. If you did not cooperate, then it was like trying to answer the question “When did you stop beating your wife, Mr. Jones?” If you are not with us, you must be against us. Tellingly, this call for unity elicited only about 400 participants (50 of whom were there as performing choral members), and quite a number of these seemed more content to stand under the shade trees in the rear and chat during much of the proceedings.

Of course, the problem with the kind of “unity” preached by certain elements in the community is that it contradicts the democratic value of diversity of opinion. The community’s second coming to the bard was supposed to have been a feel-good day

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A response to Mr. Halkowych

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to respond to Zenon Halkowych’s letter of May 30. As one of the founding members of 1st Security and a longtime employee and former member of the board of directors, I found his letter to be quite amusing. Those people to whom he refers as “false prophets” are longtime members of the Ukrainian community in Chicago who were involved in starting and developing youth organizations, building community centers, organizing fund drives, organizing protest activities, organizing sports teams, organizing political events, organizing cultural events, purchasing the Osela in Baraboo, Wis., and creating the now sold 1st Security Federal Savings Bank.

The bank was created from the investment of 120 Ukrainians and built from the ground up by tireless and non-compensated work from many “false prophets” who wanted to build an institution to help people of Ukrainian descent and to have a financial institution to call our own.

The bank prospered from the community whose members eventually believed in investing and doing business with a Ukrainian-managed savings and loan. More importantly, the bank would foster opportunities for the next generation of Ukrainians and Ukrainian Americans. Sadly, this is not to be.

Julian Kulas promised the members when going public was first being discussed that he would never sell the bank, and people believed him. When an

opposing opinion was offered as to the reasons for selling a very profitable and solid bank these “false prophets” were threatened with letters from lawyers and eventually funds being cut off from Ukrainian programming (reminds us of similar tactics elsewhere).

True Ukrainian patriots fought and gave up their lives for Ukrainian independence and freedom of speech. A patriot does not sell out and profit ridiculously from an institution that was not created for the financial enrichment of several individuals and board members, but was created to build a financial base for present and future generations.

Mr. Halkowycz, come to Chicago and listen to the talk on the street, and you will find that a majority of Ukrainians condemn the sale of our financial institution. There are approximately 30,000+ new immigrants and they would appreciate banking at our own institution. These individuals are well-educated and hard-working, and would have appreciated the chance to work and develop 1st Security. (Mr. Kulas and the board of directors were given this chance.) Mr. Kulas said he could not find any employees to run the bank after his retirement and I find his reasoning to be just another excuse for selling out.

Note: During the conversion process a prospectus indicated that financial awards would be given to several individuals who were instrumental in the development and growth of 1st Security. Mr. Kulas gave his word that he would honor their commitment but after the sale of the bank was completed these options were transferred, apparently to MB Financial.

Myron Luszcak
Palatine, Ill.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Delusions and denials

Meeting and debating with academics from Ukraine about the state of higher education over there has recently deteriorated from a meaningful dialogue into a game of one-upmanship.

The forum, the arena as it were, in which the game is played is the annual summer Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. This year’s conference, organized as always by the legendary Prof. Dmytro Shtohryn, was the 23rd such event. The theme was a barn burner: “Contemporary Ukraine and Its Diaspora as Seen by Scholars in Ukraine and Abroad.”

During the halcyon days of the late Gorbachev and early Kravchuk eras in Ukraine, academics there appeared anxious to rid themselves of the stifling and debilitating Soviet past in which research in the humanities was narrowly constructed around a constrained and limited Marxist/Leninist model. As early as 1990, for example, Prof. Volodymyr Serhilchuk of the Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, invited me to deliver lectures on the history of Ukrainians in America. When I elaborated on the goals and aspirations of our anti-Soviet community, no one blinked.

In the early ‘90s, a number of fresh and exciting charter schools emerged in Ukraine: academies, lycees, gymnasiums. The Mohyla and Ostroh academies were re-established with high standards, machine-scored anonymous entrance exams and a new liberal arts curriculum. There was even hope that Ukraine’s schools of higher education would eventually offer degrees similar to those in the West. That didn’t happen.

Today, little has changed, especially within the old-line Soviet era universities. Many of these schools still have entrance requirements that include bribes. Libraries are still woefully inadequate for those who wish to pursue serious research in the humanities. Higher academic degrees such as the candidates degree and the doctorate are granted in Kyiv, not, as in the U.S., by the university itself.

To receive a master’s degree at most American universities, one needs to hold a bachelor’s degree, complete an additional year of classroom study (30 hours), successfully pass a comprehensive exam, and write and defend a thesis which demonstrates that one can perform quality research. To receive a doctorate, one usually has to hold a master’s degree, complete an additional two years of graduate study (60 hours), pass a comprehensive exam, receive a high pass in a foreign language (or low pass in two languages), and write and defend a dissertation that contributes new knowledge to one’s field of study. Professors intimately familiar with the field of research serve on master’s and doctoral committees.

As I understand it, the system in Ukraine is quite different. Once one completes a bachelor’s degree, further classroom study is rarely required. The candidate’s degree denotes the ability to do serious research. The doctorate is awarded only after one has worked in one’s field for many years, has successfully written and defended a dissertation, and has produced many scholarly publications. Receiving a doctorate legally before one is at least 40 years of age is a rare occurrence.

Ukraine’s Ministry of Education does not recognize American degrees such as the master’s and the doctorate. I have been told, for example, that the Lviv Theological Academy, a Catholic institution, has not been accredited by the ministry because the Rev. Borys Gudziak, the rector, only has a Ph.D. in Slavic and Byzantine cultural and ecclesiastical history from Harvard University, an American institution.

Earning a candidate’s degree in Ukraine is a convoluted and byzantine process involving some 24 steps. Step 10 is the publication of three journal articles approved by the Higher Attestation Committee (VAK). Step 12 is the approval of a thesis by one’s university department. Step 14 is the appointment of a Council of Approval by the VAK. Step 16 is the appointment of “opponents” and the designation of the defense date. Step 17 requires the mailing of numerous copies of the thesis summary to institutions designated by the VAK. Following a successful defense (Step 20), the thesis, minutes of the defense and all related documents are presented by the VAK to an expert panel for final review (Step 22). The degree is finally conferred by the VAK in the final step. Academics there argue that the candidate’s degree is equivalent to our Ph.D.

Such a system of check and multi-check was understandable during Soviet times when everyone feared stepping across dogmatic Marxist/Leninist boundaries. Today, it is an anachronism.

Earning a doctorate in Ukraine takes longer but follows a similar circuitous route. I chaired a master’s thesis committee at NIU for a professor from Ukraine who wrote on the topic “Moral Values Education in American and Ukrainian Schools, 1970-1998.” It was a solid piece of work. The professor returned to Ukraine, expanded the thesis by adding a number of foreign and Soviet sources, and, after four additional years of toil and trouble, completed the dissertation, published it and received his doctorate. When I asked him if any of the academics who judged his work were familiar with education in the United States, his sheepish reply was “no.”

I presented my views on all of this at the University of Illinois last year and this year. Last year, it was the rectors from Ukraine who objected, vociferously arguing that Ukraine’s system is superior and that bribes are common in the United States as well. This year, it was the younger generation from Ukraine who defended the system, denying that bribes are part of the system.

Some academics in Ukraine recently tried to Westernize the system as was recently done in the Baltic countries, but ran into a brick wall. A few months ago Ukraine’s minister of education declared that higher education in Ukraine is the best in the world, that the West has nothing to teach Ukraine, and that their institutions of higher learning are not training their graduates to teach at Harvard but at Ukrainian institutions. Right.

Questions arise. If Ukraine doesn’t recognize American university degrees, why should U.S. foundations fund study grants for Ukrainian students here? And why would Ukrainians who earn an American degree want to return to Ukraine?

Myron Kuropas’s e-mail address is: kuropas@comcast.net.

Credit union association holds spring conference and annual meeting



UNCUA officers (from left) Stephen Kerda, Jaroslav Skrypnyk and Wolodymyr Pylyshenko proclaim Dmytro Hryhorczuk as honorary president of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives.

YONKERS, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) held its spring conference and annual meeting here on May 20-22.

Sixty-three delegates represented 18 Ukrainian American credit unions in the United States with a total membership near 100,000 and combined assets approaching \$2 billion.

The participants attended sessions on investments, remote lending, new check processing procedures and administrative issues.

The annual meeting of the association was held May 22 at the SUMA Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers.

Board officers were elected as follows: chair – Stephen Kerda (Washington); vice-chair – Dr. Bohdan Kekish (New York); secretary – Ihor Rudko (Hartford).

Executive Committee members include: Vsevolod Salenko (New York), Bohdan Watral (Chicago), Myron Babiuk (Rochester) and Olga Jakubowska

(Philadelphia).

The board of directors pledged their continued support of the credit union movement in Ukraine.

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the seventh congress of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives held in Kyiv last summer, the council's chair, Yaroslav Skrypnyk from Canada, proclaimed the dedicated and long-serving president of UNCUA, Dmytro Hryhorczuk, honorary president of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives.

The SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union's 40th anniversary celebration was the culmination of the weekend's events. Walter Kozicky, president of the SUMA Federal Credit Union and host of the conference, provided the delegates with a tour of "Ukrainian Yonkers," highlighted by the credit union's impressive newly constructed main offices.

UCCA leader tours Ukrainian communities in southern states

by Tamara Gallo-Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – In response to the growing Ukrainian community in the United States, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) recently visited the Ukrainian communities in Georgia and Florida.

The Atlanta community invited the UCCA to assist in reorganizing its local branch, while the Ukrainian community in North Port, Fla., held its annual meeting with elections of its branch officers and a report on its activities in the past year.

UCCA President Michael Sawkiw Jr. visited the greater Atlanta metropolitan region in mid-spring and was given a tour of local attractions by the Ukrainian community: the Carter Presidential Library; CNN studios; Centennial Park (site of the 1996 Olympic Games); the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); Emory College. The Ukrainian community boasts of a Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Church, a Ukrainian Saturday school system, as well as a large influx of new immigrants from Ukraine.

Later that weekend, the UCCA presi-

dent addressed the Ukrainian community at a meeting convened to rejuvenate the local UCCA branch. On the initiative of Dr. Ulana Bodnar and other local activists, Mr. Sawkiw presided over the proceedings. Much credit was given to Larissa Barabash-Temple for her many years of active work in organizing the Ukrainian community in the greater Atlanta area.

During the meeting, Mr. Sawkiw spoke about the changing dynamics of the Ukrainian community in the United States. "Based on the 2000 U.S. Census figures, Ukrainians in the United States have grown by over 100,000 within the last decade and have settled in new regions throughout the country," he stated. Such an increase in the number of Ukrainians, he said, enhances the community's political influence and the reach of its cultural events. Local Ukrainians in Atlanta related their experiences in organizing events such as Ukrainian festivals or commemorations of Taras Shevchenko.

Unlike other Ukrainian communities living in a more compact area, Atlanta's Ukrainians are fairly widespread throughout the greater metropolitan area.

"We look forward to activities that a rejuvenated UCCA branch will organize within our community to promote our concerns before the greater American society," stated one participant at the meeting. "It is necessary, and we will work together for the benefit of all Ukrainian Americans."

Plans for the newly reorganized state of Georgia UCCA branch include: commemorating Ukrainian Independence Day with mayoral and gubernatorial proclamations; promoting Ukrainian culture through various international festivals and events; as well as, assessing the needs of the newest Ukrainian immigrants to the state.

The newly elected Georgia UCCA Branch officers are: Dr. Bodnar, chairperson; Halyna Seredyuk, vice-chair; Oksana Foltyn, secretary; Roksolana Goshko, treasurer; Roslia Derkach, cultural affairs; Ms. Barabash-Temple, member-at-large; Zenon Franko, Halyna Nickolyshyn, Taras Stadnitski, Auditing Committee.

While in the South, the UCCA president also had an opportunity to attend the annual UCCA branch meeting in North Port. Well-known for its active and robust community composed mostly of retired individuals, the branch's dynamic work was evident in the report delivered by its branch chairperson, Daria Tomashosky.

"The branch was very active in efforts to commemorate the 70th anniversary of

the Ukrainian Genocide on the national scale, working to revoke Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize, as well as on a local level," stated Ms. Tomashosky. "Contacts with our local political representatives also were a major facet in our work throughout the 2003-year," she added.

In a brief overview of the UCCA's activities, Mr. Sawkiw thanked the North Port community for their activism and mentioned the role that individual communities had played in the successful commemoration of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933. "Though not successful in specifically revoking Duranty's Pulitzer Prize," Mr. Sawkiw said, "we were successful in informing the greater American public – through articles in major newspapers and journals, television, and radio – that the Ukrainian Genocide must be recognized by the world as a true crime against humanity."

An overriding theme of the UCCA president's address was the need for unity within the Ukrainian American community.

After a brief question and answer session, the local Ukrainian community elected their branch officers: Ms. Tomashosky, chair; Clara Shpichka, vice-chair; Yaroslav Horbachevsky, secretary; Halyna Lisychny, treasurer; Mykola Tsiko, Oksana Miz, Andriy Koverko, Auditing Committee.

To The Weekly Contributors:

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- ✦ News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date the information is to be published.
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During a UCCA meeting in Atlanta (seated from left) are: Larissa Barabash-Temple, former UCCA Atlanta Branch chairperson; Michael Sawkiw Jr., UCCA president; and Dr. Ulana Bodnar, chair of the UCCA Georgia Branch; standing in the back are Georgia Branch officers.

Olympic torch...

(Continued from page 1)

Viacheslav Oliinyk, who achieved the first gold medal ever won by an athlete representing independent Ukraine when he took first place in wrestling at the Atlanta Games in 1996, led a group of 120 runners given the honor. Each of them was allowed to carry the torch for 400 meters along the 40-kilometer winding route the Olympic flame took through the city on its four-hour journey here.

The other participants were Ukrainian citizens who won various competitions the Kyiv city administration and the two sponsors had held separately in the days leading to the event. They were interspersed with former Olympic champions and local media stars, among them heavyweight boxing contender Volodymyr Klitschko; legendary pole vaulter Serhii Bubka; former gymnast Lilia Podkopayeva, winner of five medals in Atlanta; Olympic gold medalist in rhythmic gymnastics in Atlanta Kateryna Serebrianska; former soccer great Oleh Blokhin; and entertainer Ani Lorak.

Mr. Bubka, who carried the flag for the Ukrainian Olympic teams during opening ceremonies in the last two Summer Olympics, received the honor of running the last leg of the event, which took the Olympic flame up the Khreschatyk, Kyiv's main thoroughfare, to Independence Square. There Mr. Bubka handed the torch to Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko as Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, president of the National Olympic Committee, and Valerii Borzov, former Olympic great and Ukraine's representative to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), looked on.

President Leonid Kuchma, who had been scheduled to be present, sent greetings, which were read out to the crowd of some 100,000 that had filled the city's downtown area.

"I am sure that the ideals of the Olympic movement, the principles of humanism, peace and concord held by the people of the world will find further development on different continents," read the statement by Mr. Kuchma.

Ukraine's Olympians

More than 230 Ukrainians – representing all the country's oblasts except for Zhytomyr – are expected to participate in the Athens Olympic Games in 27 events beginning on August 13. With them will be 181 trainers and support personnel. Heading the group will be Oleksander Artemiev, Ukraine's chief of mission.

Mr. Borzov, Ukraine's representative to the IOC, who also heads the Track and Field Federation, told The Ukrainian Weekly that Ukraine's National Olympic Committee would like to see the 2004 squad equal the medal output of the Sydney Games, at a minimum. Ideally, however, he would like to see Ukraine approach the medal count it achieved in Atlanta in 1996.

"If we achieve the results of Atlanta we will consider our participation in these Games a success," explained Mr. Borzov.

In Sydney the Ukrainian squad combined for 23 medals, three of them gold, good for 21st place among all the participating countries, while in Atlanta it came away with 23 medals as well, but nine of them were gold, good enough for a ninth-place finish.

Mr. Borzov was reluctant to predict which of the Ukrainian athletes might shine at the Athens Games this year, noting that they had enough pressure to



Wrestler Viacheslav Oliinyk prepares to begin the Olympic torch relay at Kyiv's city limits on the Boryspil highway.

withstand without the added weight of predictions by team officials.

He was able to assert, however, that Ukraine would be competitive in 17 events. He admitted also that much hope rested on the broad shoulders of Yana Klochkova, the tall, muscular star of the Ukrainian swim team and holder of world championship medals in freestyle and medley. Yet, Mr. Borzov was quick to add that should she be injured or become ill expectations would change.

Mr. Artemiev, the chief of mission of the Ukrainian squad, was more forthcoming in naming the favorites on the Ukrainian squad. He agreed that Klochkova is at the top, but said that much hope also lies with synchronized divers Roman Volodkov and Anton Zakharov, who will compete in the high dive event.

"In general, many of our expectations [for gold] are in the water events," explained Mr. Artemiev.

He noted that Ukraine also placed much hope on Oleh Lysohor, current world champion and record-holder in the 100-meter breaststroke. The team also includes Denys Sylantiev, who has intermittently come up with surprising performances at world meets and has been a member of the last two Olympic teams.

In track and field, Mr. Artemiev pointed out that former world champion Zhanna Pintusevych Block should be competitive in the 100-meter sprint, although he noted she is not the youngest of the runners and may be past her prime. There is also hope that one of Ukraine's three world-class high jumpers, Inga Babakova, Iryna Melnychenko or Vita Palamar, might have a breakthrough moment and win a medal. Babakova was a bronze medalist in Atlanta.

Hammer throw is a strength of the Ukrainian squad in the field events. Athletes to watch include Oleksander Krykun, a bronze winner in Atlanta, along with newcomers Vladyslav Piskunov and Artem Rubanov.

Gymnastics has been a perennial strong suit for Ukraine and this year should be no different. Ukrainians who will be among the favorites to medal in individual competitions include Alina Kozych, 2003 overall champion in gymnastics in Europe and Oleksander Svitlychnyi.

Mr. Artemiev noted that the men's team experienced a terrible loss when their most talented gymnast, Oleksander Beresh, died

(Continued on page 11)

Ukrainians in New York cheer Olympic torch in Kyiv

NEW YORK – Members of New York City's Ukrainian community gathered in Times Square on July 5 to celebrate the arrival of the 2004 Athens Olympic Torch in Kyiv. The Olympic Flame is on a worldwide journey that will culminate in its arrival at the Olympic Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Leaders of various Ukrainian groups based in New York gathered in Times Square to view New York's salute to Kyiv on the Samsung electronic screen. The message said: "New York City salutes Kiev [sic] as it receives the Olympic Flame 39 days until the Athens Olympic Games."

New York City Sports Commissioner Ken Podziba said: "On behalf of Mayor [Michael] Bloomberg and the more than 8 million residents of New York City, it is my pleasure to welcome some very special people and organizations who have gathered here this morning to celebrate the arrival of the 2004 Olympic Torch in Kyiv."

The Olympic flame was lit in ancient Olympia, Greece, on March 25 signaling the countdown to the 2004 Olympic Games. It began its global journey in Sydney, Australia, and it will eventually visit 34 cities worldwide, including all Olympic Games host cities. For the last few weeks of the global torch relay, it will travel to local communities before lighting the cauldron at the opening ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games on August 13. The flame will travel an average of 30 miles in each city. For the first time, the torch relay will travel across all five land masses represented by the Olympic rings.

The New York City portion of the Torch Relay took place on Saturday, June 19, and traveled 34 miles through all five boroughs cheered on by hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers and visitors from around the world. This portion of the relay culminated in an Olympic Truce Ceremony at the United Nations and a celebration in Times Square.



Samsung's electronic screen in Times Square announces the arrival of the Olympic torch in Kyiv as local Ukrainians – Helen, Oliana and Adriana Ros, and Lyuda and Vasyl Lopukh – bearing a Ukrainian flag celebrate.

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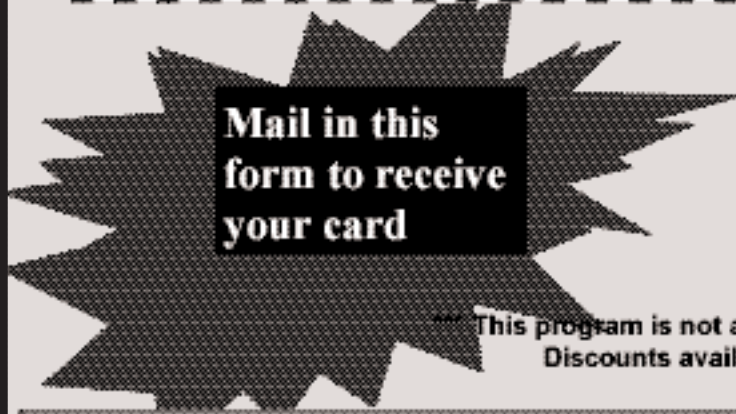


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50,000 gather...

(Continued from page 1)

chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine and the repayment of a good portion of back wages and pensions begun when he was prime minister.

"In a year you will bear witness that Ukraine has been transformed," explained a restrained Mr. Yushchenko as thousands cheered. (For the full text of the speech, see page 3.)

The previous day Mr. Yushchenko, along with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, took advantage of the beginning of the registration process for candidates in the October 31 presidential election and submitted his registration papers. By Sunday night various political congresses and conventions had placed five other names in nomination, including the Communist Party, which announced that party chief Petro Symonenko was its choice for president; the Progressive Socialist Party, which picked its leader, Natalia Vitrenko; the Yedyna Rodyna political association, which threw the name of its head, Oleksander Rzhavskiy, into the ring; the Slavic Party, whose choice was its leader,

Oleksander Bazyliuk; and the Liberal-Democratic Party, which nominated Ihor Dushyn, its chairman.

Ukraine's election law states that registered candidates must pay a 500,000 hrv fee when filing their registration and then collect 500,000 signatures from all the oblasts of Ukraine by September 20. The country's registered political parties have until July 27 to nominate their candidates for the office of president. Candidate registrations must be received no later than August 6.

While Mr. Yushchenko used a traditional "grand opening" approach to herald the beginning of his campaign, Mr. Yanukovich decided on a much more subdued, business-like approach. However, he did have the media at his heels to get his message out in several public appearances – an opportunity not available to Mr. Yushchenko, inasmuch as there is a virtual blackout of his image on most national television networks, which are tightly controlled by forces close to the prime minister. In fact, three of the six networks showed only brief footage of Mr. Yushchenko's campaign launch. None cared to note the size of the crowd, much less show the huge audience that had gathered to hear him speak.

Soyuzivka hosts...

(Continued from page 1)

already thinking about a career that would involve Ukraine, perhaps working at the United Nations, Valentyna has nearly forgotten her native language and is uninterested in the country.

Though children like Valentyna may have little interest in a weekend dedicated to learning about their homeland, Ms. Evans called the retreat "absolutely a success" nonetheless.

For her children, the weekend was still an opportunity to play games, listen to stories, swim in the resort's pool and meet other kids. On the other hand, for the adults it was an opportunity to learn more about Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States.

"The weekend gave us a much broader perspective of what it meant to be Ukrainian in this country," said Ms. Evans, who was previously unaware of Soyuzivka but said she is now considering membership in the UNA. Guests were shown around the resort and informed about a number of Ukrainian organizations that might be of help to American parents.

Additionally, Ukrainian officials also wanted to convey an important message to the parents of adopted Ukrainian children during the weekend retreat, which was sponsored by the Selfreliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union.

"We wanted to inform the participants that there are a number of legislative changes in the adoption process," Mr.

Nadzhos said.

Some 5,000 Ukrainian children who have been adopted by American parents now live in the United States, according to Olena Kitsiuk, a consul at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington. Ukrainian law now requires that the parents of those children annually inform the Ukrainian government of their children's condition. According to Ms. Kitsiuk, the adopted children hold dual citizenship until the age of 18 and the Ukrainian government continues to look after their well-being until that point.

"We are very pleased that the Consulate and the Embassy are interested in seeing how the adopted children are doing," said Norma Brinkley-Staley, a parent of four biological sons and two adopted daughters.

While parents attended the seminar in the resort's library, their children swam, played games, listened to stories and drew Ukrainian flags with Stephanie Hawryluk, a long-time Soyuzivka and UNA activist.

Dinner that night in the resort's Main House included a presentation of traditional Ukrainian food prepared by Soyuzivka's staff. The evening also saw a concert with tenor Roman Tymbala, bandurist Alla Kutsevych, and duets by four younger singers Lida and Gabriela Oros and Nadia and Natalia Pavlyshyn.

"We had a Ukrainian meal, which was fantastic," said Robert Anderson, the parent of a 7-year-old adopted son. The weekend was "a chance for the children to reacquaint themselves with Ukraine," he said.

Olympic torch...

(Continued from page 9)

after being hit by a car outside the Olympic gymnasts' training center in Koncha Zaspa in the spring. However, he said he believes the squad still is capable of winning medals in individual competitions.

In rhythmic gymnastics, an event in which Ukraine is considered the world leader, much hope has been placed on Anna Bezsonova for a gold medal. Another rhythmic gymnast, Tamara Yerofeeva, is also considered a medal hopeful.

Ukraine is also extremely strong in weightlifting and should come away with a couple of medals here. Among those to

watch for: Denys Gotfrid, current world champion at 105 kg and Ihor Razorionov, who preceded Gotfrid as world champion. In the women's category, watch for Natalia Skakun, current world champion in the 63 kg category.

Other sports in which Ukraine has high hopes include women's freestyle wrestling, where world champion Iryna Melnyk-Merleni should come out at or near the top and judo, where Ukrainian Valentyn Hrekov, the current European champion, will compete.

Finally, keep your eye on the cycle track and on the sailing events, as Ukrainians should be competitive in these events as well.

In stark contrast, on July 7 in various television news broadcasts, Mr. Yanukovich explained the approach he would take in his campaign, which would be markedly different from the style the Yushchenko forces hoped to utilize. Mr. Yanukovich said he would not so much run a campaign as simply continue his work as prime minister, which he said would be "the best way to show the Ukrainian people what to expect with me as president."

On July 6 Ukraine's Central Election Committee announced it had officially registered Messrs. Yushchenko, Yanukovich, Moroz and Rzhavskiy. A day later it rejected the application of the Slavic Party candidate, Mr. Bazyliuk.

That same day Mr. Yushchenko signed a document in which he vowed to run a fair and transparent campaign and called on Prime Minister Yanukovich to make the same vow.

Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich, who lead all opinion polls in that order – with Mr. Yushchenko at about 26 percent and Mr. Yanukovich at about 18 percent – have spent most of their energy in the last few weeks trying to paste together broad coalitions to strengthen their national organizations.

On July 2, the day before the start of the campaign season, Mr. Yushchenko signed an election coalition agreement with Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous rightist-oriented political bloc, to form the Sylva Narodu (Power of the People) political coalition.

The two political leaders, who have had strong political ties since Ms. Tymoshenko was the first vice prime minister in the Yushchenko government

in 2000, said they would also join their forces to form a single Sylva Narodu parliamentary faction. In addition, they said they had agreed on how state and government posts would be divvied up should Mr. Yushchenko win the October presidential election, explaining that they would be apportioned among the numerous political parties that make up each bloc based on the percentage of the vote each received in the March 2002 parliamentary elections.

The two political leaders also announced a "Manifest for Victory of the People" in which they called for joint programs to "cleanse the country of criminal clans and political banditry," according to various news releases.

Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko said at the time that they still hoped that Mr. Moroz, whom the Socialist Party would name as its candidate two days later, would join them to further broaden the coalition.

Mr. Yanukovich announced on July 8 that he, too, was developing coalition partners, which he said could reach 50 political parties and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Yanukovich made his remarks after signing an election coalition agreement with the National Democratic Party and its leader, Valerii Pustovoitenko. Mr. Pustovoitenko was prime minister of Ukraine in 1997-1999 and has been a staunch supporter of President Leonid Kuchma over the years. The document is to be the foundation for a political platform that Mr. Yanukovich is preparing, which would define the coalition's stand on foreign, domestic and social policy issues.

Viktor Yushchenko's...

(Continued from page 3)

In reality, there is only one conflict in Ukraine today – between those in power and the people. The government is sowing the seeds of division in society. Those in power want us to struggle with one another, but not against them. To lead Ukraine in the right direction, all we need is one thing: fair, responsible and effective government.

Time and time again I had to show how the government should act. The National Bank, which I governed, gave Ukraine the hryvnia. The government, which I led, paid the people what they were owed; in a single year we increased the minimum wage and pensions one and a half times. We cleared the path for the economy, and it started to grow. We created new jobs and kept prices under control. We introduced order into budget policy; widespread power shutdowns were stopped. And, most importantly: we didn't borrow a single cent in doing all this.

They didn't let me finish what I started. But then I said "I shall return." Three years I've traveled throughout Ukraine. I met with hundreds of thousands of people and I know – my mission has the broadest base possible. At the toughest times I recalled how the children and the elderly looked at me with trustful eyes. Your faith has given me strength.

I have a program for Ukraine, which will let us attain what we seek. I have a team qualified to carry it out. I remember everything that my father taught me, everything my mother told me, everything I talked about with my friends, everything I heard at meetings and read in letters. Not in an office, but in a dialogue with the whole country I discovered ideas that will define Ukraine's new future.

In a year you will bear witness that Ukraine has been transformed. We will

build a country in which everyone can lend a hand and an idea. No one will have to seek a better life abroad.

Pensions and wages will ensure a better life for all. Every citizen will have access to adequate medical care, every child a quality education. The government will work for the people. Corruption will be eliminated. All will be equal before the law. The criminals will be incarcerated.

The Ukrainian village, the cradle of our people, will be renewed. I see Ukraine as a country revered and respected by its own citizens and a country, which has the respect of the East and West. I see a Ukraine, as Oleksander Dovzhenko wrote, where people "live according to laws of the Creator and the people."

I know that the road to victory will be arduous. The regime tried to steal your right to choose. We defended your constitutional right. The regime wanted to steal billions from the budget. We forced them to account for the money. The regime is afraid of fair and transparent elections because they will bring about its end. Huge sums of money, administrative manipulation, have all been mustered to prevent the people from expressing their voice.

But we are not afraid of those in power; they are afraid of us. They are afraid of their own people, afraid of truth and liberty, which all of us hold so dear. I have no television stations, no procurators and no tax police. I rely on the strength of the people. I believe in your strength. I ask God to help the people of Ukraine.

I have made a decision. I am running for the presidency. Here is my declaration. I will win the elections. My victory is everyone's victory. Tell all when you return to your homes – I believe in Ukraine, I know my responsibility, and we will win together. Glory to you and glory to Ukraine!

Ukrainian American Youth Association holds 45th annual Zlet

by Orest Kozicky

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) sponsored its 45th consecutive annual Zlet on May 29-30 at the Oselia-SUM in Ellenville, N.Y.

Zlet is the annual spring festival for SUM members that presents an opportunity to engage in academic and athletic competitions and poetry recitations that demonstrate the youths' knowledge about various aspects of Ukrainian history and cultural traditions, and their use of the

Ukrainian language, plus an the opportunity to perform with their dance, choral and drama ensembles within a talent contest type forum.

The athletic competitions include individual and team sports competitions that include 40-, 60-, 100-, 440- and 880-yard sprints and mile runs, relay races, broad jump, shot put and discus, as well as a volleyball tournament. The youths also had an opportunity to socialize at a dance and barbecue on Saturday night.

(Continued on page 13)



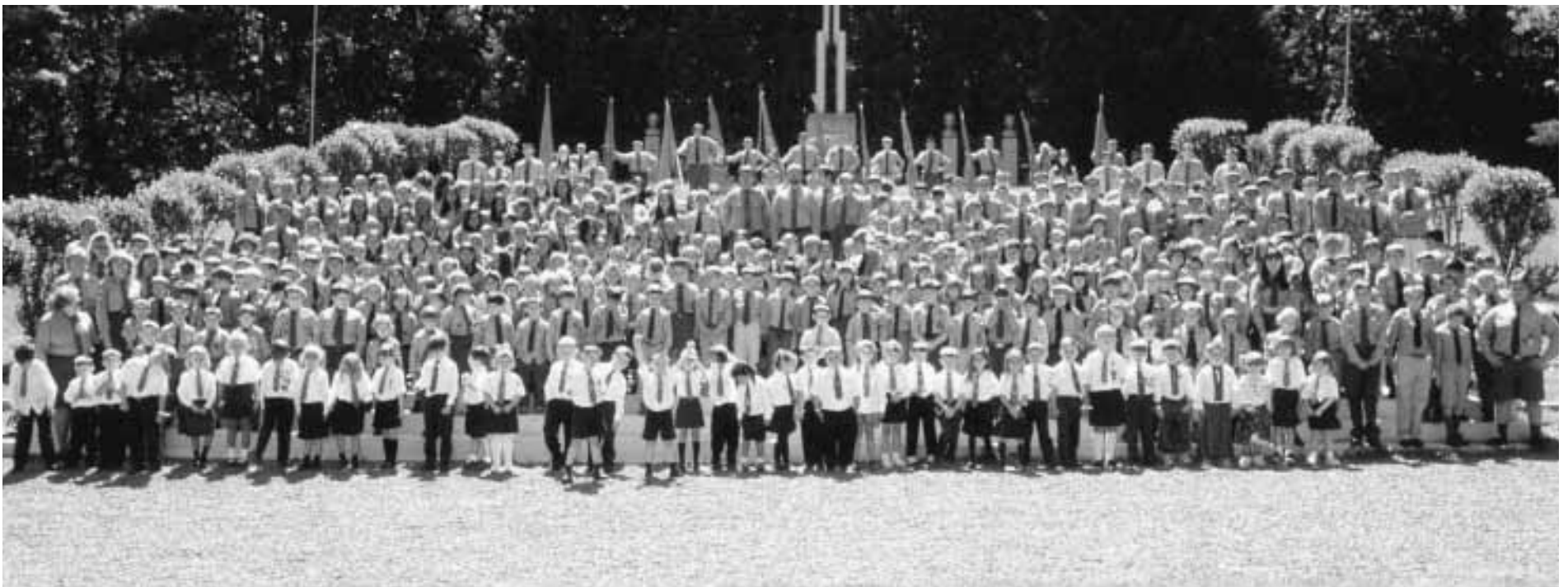
A view of the competition in the broad jump event.



One of the groups participating in the artistic performance segment of Zlet.



Andrea Vasylyk, the individual winner in the 6-12 age group is congratulated by the head of the SUM national executive board, Bohdan Harhaj.



Participants of the 2004 Zlet in Ellenville, N.Y., pose for a group photograph.

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 12)

On Sunday morning the participants took part in a liturgy celebrated by a Father Bohdan Danylo, who immediately thereafter blessed the site for construction of a new chapel dedicated to the victims of the Akcja Wisla tragedy. This project was initiated and funds collected under the auspices of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna.

A formal review of the SUM ranks arranged as individual branches was also conducted, with scoring based on adherence to the uniform code.

This year's Zlet included participants from the following 11 SUM branches located on the Eastn Seaboard: Baltimore, Md., New York, Binghamton, Goshen and Yonkers, N.Y., Hartford, Conn., Irvington, Jersey City, Passaic and Whippany, N.J., and Philadelphia. There were 380 participants ranging from age 4 through 17.

The continued growth of the organization is reflected by the participation of a continually growing number of "sumenata," children age 3-5.

This year the responsibility for the



SUM youths race toward the finish line during the sports competition.



The leaders of the winning SUM branches: New York, first place; Irvington, N.J., second place; and Yonkers, N.Y., third place; accept their trophies.



Members in formation during the review of SUM ranks.



The Rev. Bohdan Danylo blesses the site of the chapel that will be constructed in memory of the victims of Akcja Wisla.

colossal task of coordinating the various Zlet events was undertaken by members of the Passaic and Goshen branches of SUM. The "komandant" was Stefan Kaczurak, who together with "bunchuznyi" Volodymyr Rojowsky and the rest of the New York and Goshen contingents, successfully ran the complex activities of Zlet.

The New York branch took first place for overall points achieved. Irvington, took second, and Yonkers took third place.

Yurij Symchyk of Irvington and Ihor Yachuk of New York tied for the "pershun" (first place winner) trophy for most points in the age 13-17 group. Andrea Vasylyk of Hartford won the "pershun" trophy for the 6-12 age group.

Bohdan Harhaj, the head of the national executive board of SUM, closed the awards ceremonies by expressing his gratitude to Stefan Kaczurak and his New York/Goshen Komanda contingent, as well as to all of the sumivtsi for their participation in another successful Zlet.

*All photos in this series
by Taras Hnatyshyn.*

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Poland lobbies...

(Continued from page 2)

Belarus and Kazakstan in ratifying the Single Economic Space within the CIS. In Poland's view, Ukraine's decision to support CIS integration was a response to being discounted by the EU (Gazeta Wyborcza, May 26).

Poland has been critically disposed toward the EU leadership for refusing to give Ukraine a positive signal on future membership, as Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has repeatedly urged. A Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "Ukraine needs a European vision that will permit it to build a modern country oriented towards the West. Otherwise it will turn in the opposite direction" (Polish News Bulletin, May 25). Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka has appealed to the EU to provide a clear-cut signal to Ukraine that it could become a future member. This signal is an urgent necessity, he believes (Ukrainska Pravda, May 26).

Poland has been especially critical of the EU for refusing to grant Ukraine market economy status. There is a practical side to this position. This year's agreements allow the EU to only import 185,000 tons of steel from Ukraine. Prior to joining the EU, Poland alone purchased 400,000 tons annually from Ukraine and now may be forced to purchase more expensive Russian steel (Rzeczpospolita, May 13). Russia was granted market economy status in 2002.

Poland wants the EU to become more like NATO in having an "open door" policy. In addition, Post-communist states seek to promote to EU decision-makers the importance of geopolitical factors, which have largely been ignored until now. During the Kuchma era, the EU and Ukraine have initiated "virtual policies" involving each other. Confusing signals sent by the EU have eroded these virtual policies. European Commission President Romani Prodi told the Financial Times on May 4 that Ukraine would never become a member of the EU. After considerable criticism, Mr. Prodi backtracked, claiming that he has been "misquoted" and that the EU, "welcomes Ukraine's European choice" (Den, May 27).

The article above, which originally appeared in The Jamestown Foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor, is reprinted here with permission from the foundation (www.jamestown.org).

International Federation...

(Continued from page 4)

eration, as well as commissions of the Ukrainian Parliament that have followed the case, have repeatedly criticized the serious shortcomings of the investigation: for example, a key witness died last year in police custody, and last month a key suspect, a senior intelligence officer indicted for destroying essential documents, was released without charge. We are concerned that the Council of Europe has compounded the difficulties surrounding the case by conducting a superficial and inconclusive investigation that failed to deal with the central concerns raised by international bodies."

The federation went on to note: "We believe this is a pivotal case for media freedom in Europe and internationally. If the case is not properly investigated, it will encourage dictators and bullies everywhere to use violence against journalists, believing that they can do so with impunity. The IFJ is committed to preventing such impunity. For this reason we have set up an inquiry commission to examine the apparent failure of legal and judicial processes in the Gongadze case and the reaction of institutions and civil society to the case."

Further details about the inquiry's work may be found on the federation's website at <http://www.ifjgongadze.org/>.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

agreement on June 25 in Tashkent removing all exceptions and restrictions to free trade between the two countries, the RBC reported. Ukraine's Ambassador to Uzbekistan Anatolii Kasianenko hailed the initiative as the first of its kind in the CIS, ITAR-TASS reported. Mr. Yanukovich also met with Uzbek President Islam Karimov to discuss bilateral cooperation and regional security issues. ITAR-TASS quoted the Uzbek leader as saying, "We are interested in establishing a free-trade regime without any exceptions between our countries for the long term." According to Ukrainski Novyny, trade volume between Uzbekistan and Ukraine in 2003 totaled \$250 million, as compared to \$140 million in 2002. (RFE/RL Newline)

Romania, Ukraine discuss canal project

BUCHAREST – Romanian Foreign Ministry State Secretary Bogdan Aurescu on June 23 spoke with Ukraine's Ambassador to Romania Teofil Bauer about the planned Bystraya Canal, accord-

ing to an official communiqué released the same day. Mr. Aurescu repeated the Romanian side's request that Ukraine stop working on the Danube delta project until an impact study requested by international conventions on wildlife preservation is completed. Mr. Aurescu said Kyiv should also send Bucharest detailed technical information on the project. In related news, the head of the Council of Europe's Natural Heritage and Biological Diversity Division, Eladio Fernandez-Galiano, is to visit the construction site in July to assess the situation. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine cuts army by 70,000

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada voted 238-1 on June 22 to pass a bill providing for the reduction of the armed forces by 70,000 troops in 2004, Interfax reported. The Communist Party, Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Center caucuses were not present at the vote. Under the bill, the Ukrainian army will be reduced to 285,000 troops by the end of the year. Ukraine currently has the largest army in Europe and the 13th largest in the world. (RFE/RL Newline)



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Russians run...

(Continued from page 2)

sultancy," but refuses to disclose the identities of clients. Unlike other think-tanks and NGOs the KTPK has refused to disclose the source of its funding. Meanwhile, Mr. Pogrebysky has supported denunciations by the Communists and the pro-presidential camp of Western assistance to Ukrainian NGOs, a step indicating that the source of his funds is non-Western.

Mr. Pogrebysky denied any involvement in temnyky by either TEP or KTPK (Ukrainska Pravda, June 9). But, in its two in-depth reports, Ukrainska Pravda

(June 3 and 11) has demonstrated otherwise, based on a large collection of temnyky leaked by journalists. On many of the electronic versions of temnyky in the possession of Ukrainska Pravda, files contain "cep.ua" with different author names. Individuals whose e-mail addresses include "@cep.org.ua" also send the temnyky. The domain name "cep.ua" refers to Pogrebysky's TEP, based at the same Kyiv address. Technical staff at TEP also service Mr. Kuchma's website.

A particular area of TEP's work is the section within www.president.gov.ua devoted to constitutional reform (www.reform.org.ua). In 2003-2004, during debates on constitutional reform,

reform.org.ua included numerous bogus Soviet-style letters of support that could have been written by Mr. Pogrebysky's organizations. Information from the presidential administration's press department is utilized in temnyky. Another place this information is re-written is on the rabidly anti-opposition temnyk.com.ua, which shares the same IP address as Mr. Pogrebysky's KTPK.

Evidence of the Russian link comes through Messrs. Pavlovsky, Gelman and Shuvalov, who have never denied their close cooperation with the SDPU (Zerkalo Nedeli, November 22-28, 2003). Mr. Shuvalov works in Ukraine and is reputed to be one of the main authors of temnyky (www.telekritka.kiev.ua, March 23), a factor that could explain why they are issued only in Russian. Russian media sources describe Mr. Shuvalov as a Russian expert employed in the Ukrainian presidential administration. Mr. Shuvalov has a "@cep.org.ua" e-mail address.

Mr. Shuvalov's ties to the pro-Kuchma camp date back to the 1999 elections, when he assisted in President Kuchma's successful re-election and in the unsuccessful election bid as Kyiv mayor of SDPU leading oligarch Hryhorii Surkis. In the 2002 elections, Mr. Shuvalov assisted in launching the unsuccessful Winter Crop Generation (KOP) party, modeled on Russia's Union of Right Forces, which obtained a paltry 2.02 percent.

Mr. Shuvalov's name is not to be found in those officially declared as employed by the presidential administration. This is not surprising as the SDPU and the presidential administration overlap, and Mr. Shuvalov could be employed directly by the former while, at the same time, working indirectly for the latter. The investigative reports by Ukrainska Pravda and other media outlets indicate that Mr. Pogrebysky's think-tank (KTPK) and commercial political consultancy (TEP) are both controlled by the SDPU. The SDPU press service often

sends releases through KTPK (Ukrainska Pravda, June 15). TEP also sends out temnyky written by "Oleksandr," "Masha" and "Olena" whose e-mail addresses include "@cep.org.ua." Some of these authors also write for the SDPU funded anti-opposition www.temnyk.com.ua. Mr. Medvedchuk, who heads both it and the SDPU, shows the link with the presidential administration. Some of the temnyky are addressed to "Dear Serhii Leonidovych, which refers to Serhii Vasylev, head of the information policy department of the presidential administration (Ukrainska Pravda, June 11).

The presidential administration has delegated the production of temnyky to TEP, which uses its own analysts and Russian citizens, such as Mr. Shuvalov. These temnyky are sent to television stations and are re-written for use by anti-opposition media outlets. Either the SDPU or the presidential administration – or both – fund TEP and KTPK. President Kuchma publicly denied that temnyky existed in talks with philanthropist George Soros during his April visit to Ukraine. Mr. Vasylev also denied that he was behind temnyky or that they even existed. These denials are no longer convincing as temnyky clearly do exist in Ukraine. The daily manufacture of temnyky reveals a high degree of legal nihilism and deception in Ukraine in three areas.

First, as a Russian citizen, Mr. Shuvalov cannot officially work for the Ukrainian presidential administration. Yet, Russian citizens with close ties to President Putin's administration are at the center of censorship of Ukraine's media through temnyky. Second, by allowing Russia to directly interfere in Ukraine's media through censorship instructions, President Kuchma is violating the Constitution's 2003 law on national security and a host of other laws. Third, although censorship is illegal in the Ukrainian Constitution and legal system, this is ignored, as temnyky are clear examples of censorship.

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Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Mr. Kuchma solemnly promised to build one "united, sovereign democratic state of Ukraine."

Although he had been perceived as a pro-Russian politician, in his first days after being elected Mr. Kuchma gave no such signs; he spoke only in Ukrainian and only of working for the good of the Ukrainian nation.

On Wednesday, July 13, Mr. Kuchma was visited by U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, who con-

gratulated him and underscored that the United States hopes for a productive relationship with Ukraine. Ambassador Miller was the first foreign diplomat to meet with the president-elect.

Source: "Ukraine elects Leonid Kuchma president; Eastern industrialist is second president of post-Soviet Ukraine," by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, July 17, 1994. Also in "Ukraine Lives!" - published on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence (Parsippany, N.J.: *The Ukrainian Weekly*, 2002).

On the amalgamation...

(Continued from page 6)

a priest because of their small size, and will be asked to look to amalgamation with one or more other parishes. This will minimize the all-to-easy tendency to require priests to attempt to serve a number of parishes, to the detriment of the priest's well-being and that of the well-being of the parishes involved.

For example, in Philadelphia, an area where over 800 families reside has no Ukrainian Catholic Church located in the immediate area. This has also become evident in some areas of New Jersey. This begs the question as to the need for our archeparchy to develop new parishes in some areas so as to ensure that the children and young people of these families develop a sense of community, a sense of belonging to a Ukrainian Catholic parish. This requires careful thought and planning as to the allocation of already stretched resources of priests. Choosing to continue to serve smaller diminishing parishes does not allow for reaching out in areas of new needs.

The quick pace of modern life and enhancement in technologies have presented their own demands for Church teaching and advising on moral and ethical issues faced by all of us in today's society. We need to be able to release priests for advanced study in

such areas as canon law, morality, ethics, liturgy, etc. Our shortage of priests cannot perpetually justify our not facilitating opportunity for advanced education of our clergy. All of us need to appreciate the need for advanced education of our priests, and to be prepared to sacrifice our own best intentions and preferences in our parishes to enable it.

In summary, it is time for us to become a Church with a much stronger sense of developed community, able to reach out to its faithful in changing circumstances. The talents and gifts of the clergy can be manifest best when the priest's energies and time are not divided among several communities. The understanding and sacrifice of all of the faithful and clergy of our archeparchy is needed in this journey of developing our future. Our future can be hopeful and vibrant, if we together choose to dedicate ourselves to develop a sense of community and family within stronger parish communities, accessible to parishioners of a larger area.

I am confident that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our love and care for our holy Church, for its faithful and for all those who endeavor to serve. God bless you richly for your anticipated understanding and cooperation.

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A few pointers...

(Continued from page 3)

Hopefully, these troops have not been tasked with finding the elusive radars.

Since Ukraine's independence, U.S.-Ukraine relations have never been clearly defined. Policy-makers have by and large remained fixated on Russia (Ukraine got only a few less-than-positive mentions in former Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's memoirs "Russia Hand") and left Ukraine to the Europeans; this, as many people saw in Bosnia and Kosovo, is to invite disaster.

Despite its preoccupation with other matters, the United States is still the only democratic country that could, theoretically, have some leverage on events in Ukraine. There is still a residual instinct in Washington that Ukraine should not be swallowed up by Russia. But how this can be done is anyone's guess.

Some U.S. diplomats have stated that if the Ukrainian elections are not free then the new president (presumably Mr. Yanukovich, the victor in un-free elections) would be isolated and welcome only in Moscow and Minsk. This is not much of a threat, considering that President Putin is waiting to embrace his candidate of choice and does not really wish to see the new Ukrainian president hobnobbing with George W. Bush (or even worse, John F. Kerry) and Tony Blair.

There are some in the U.S. government who argue that Mr. Yushchenko is a weak and ineffective manager. This perception comes from his past visits as prime minister to Washington, where he did not make the best impression. He and his team were big on promises, but failed to deliver. He seemed unprepared to

answer questions and, when he did, the answers did not always make sense.

But, in comparison with President Kuchma or his ex-con prime minister, even the harshest critics agree that Mr. Yushchenko is heads above them in his honesty and dedication to democracy and economic reform.

Thus, the United States has adopted an instinctive policy to push for democratic elections in Ukraine by warning Ukrainians to play by the rules. Mr. Kuchma amiably agreed to this demand in June during the NATO meeting in Istanbul and, posing as a Ukrainian Thomas Jefferson, promised to hold the freest elections ever held anywhere. But many people have learned by now that any promise made by Mr. Kuchma should immediately elicit warning signals.

It might be more realistic for Washington to warn the Russians to keep their cash out of Mr. Yanukovich's election piggy bank, but any criticism of Russia today is a sore and unpopular topic in Washington and best left alone.

The question that nobody wants to answer is: what if President Kuchma, Viktor Medvedchuk and their goon squads disregard Washington's pleas and fix the election? Cruise missiles will not descend on Kharkiv or Lviv, nor will the U.S. recall its ambassador.

It will be seen privately as yet another "setback" and various spokesmen for U.S. government organizations will no doubt answer questions about the Ukrainian elections by saying something akin to "We highly value the role that Ukrainian troops play in the democratization of Iraq."

Champagne will no doubt flow in the Kremlin to celebrate the TKO of democracy in Ukraine. The bottles are being chilled right now.

Special program...

(Continued from page 5)

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PYSANKA	INDEPENDENCE TOUR 2
June 15-26 -- 11 days -- LVIV-Ky. Fian-kivsk-Laremsho-Kolomyja-CHERNIVTSEI-Khobot-Kam. Pochajnyj-KYIV \$2350	Aug. 17-31 -- 15 days -- YALTA-Symferopol-Bakhchisaraj-KYIV-POLTAVA-CHEER-KASSY/Chyhyryn-Subotiv-UKRAIN-Marynsi-Kyryvka-ODESA \$3050
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July 1-15 -- 15 days -- LVIV-Pechav-TERNOPIL-YALTA-Symferopol-Bakhchisaraj-KYIV-POLTAVA \$2850	Aug. 17-29 -- 12 days -- YALTA-Symferopol-Bakhchisaraj-KYIV-POLTAVA-Cheerkassy-Chyhyryn-Subotiv-UKRAIN-Marynsi-Kyryvka \$2750
SOKOLY	BEREHYNIA
July 14-25 -- 10 days -- KYIV-LVIV-Yaremsho-Kolomyja-Khobot-Kam. Pochajnyj-YALTA-KYIV \$1890	Sep. 5-16 -- 12 days -- KYIV-Kaniv-POLTAVA-ZAPORIZHZHIA-Khobotyia-Kherson-ODESA \$2400
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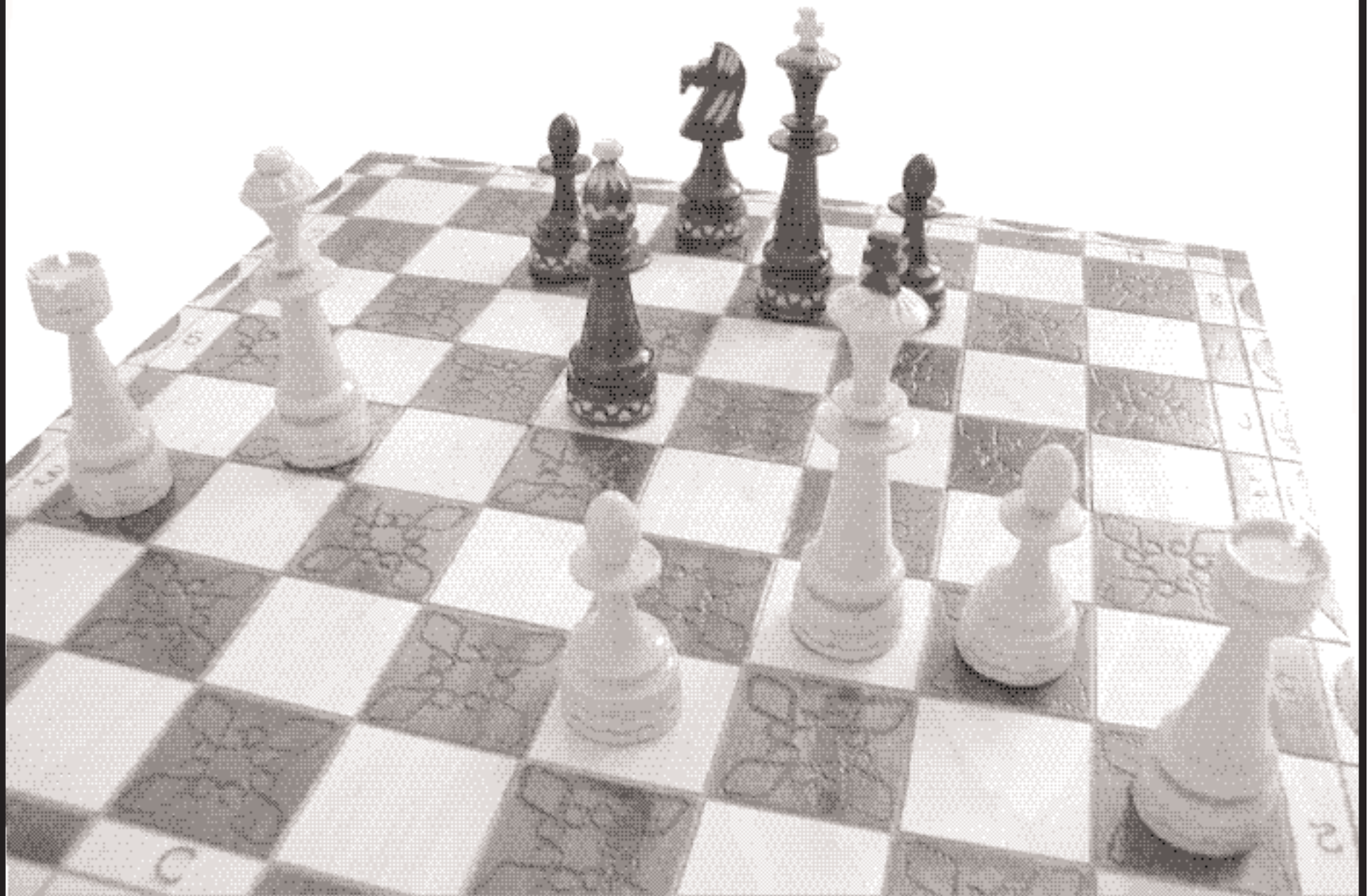
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Today and yesterday...

(Continued from page 7)

(why there was a panakhyda was a big mystery), so it was with obvious non-delight that the wise and measured words of Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia were received by certain highly placed persons in attendance. The plain fact of the matter is that today's Ukraine is not the Ukraine that Shevchenko had in mind, a place whose many problems were catalogued by the metropolitan.

And, for those who keep dragging out that hackneyed metaphor that one should not criticize poor little Ukraine because it is only a "teenager," they should remember that 1) the criticism is not aimed at Ukraine per se but at the country's criminal elements, many of whom are in the administration, and 2) that teenagers don't generally behead people or arrange fatal automobile-truck "accidents" with such alarming regularity (witness the heartbreaking existence of that other statue to a dead hero - Vyacheslav Chornovil in Lviv).

Instead of wasting money on this rather meaningless outdoor event, the community could have put its resources towards any number of important concrete goals: supporting the struggle against media repression and corruption in Ukraine, contributing to the needs of Ukraine's many orphans; working towards the goal of incorporating accurate information about Ukraine's history in the textbooks used in secondary schools and college curricula, both here and in Ukraine; to name but a very few.

The goal of the original statue was to raise consciousness about Ukraine. The purpose of Saturday's event should have been the start-up of a new campaign to raise money for some of the above-mentioned important causes, instead of the end goal being merely a 15-more-minutes-of-fame photo-op for certain egos.

Highlights...

(Continued from page 5)

visited the U.S. State Department and held a conference with the head of the East European Desk to discuss U.S. policy toward Ukraine and its struggle for liberation. A memorandum was sent to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Representing the U.S. government at the conference were Attorney General William P. Rodgers and 17 members of Congress, including Sen. John F. Kennedy and Speaker of the House of Representatives Joseph P. Martin.

Reports presented to the convention by executive officers indicated that the UNA's membership had increased by 27,257 members - approximately 21,000 of them newly arrived Ukrainian immigrants to the United States - during the four-year period since the previous convention and now stood at 70,221. Assets grew by over \$4 million to a total of \$15,258,377.64.

The convention approved donations totaling \$27,691.65 to various cultural and charitable causes in the United States and Europe, approved the Supreme Executive Committee's purchase of an estate that came to be known as Soyuzivka, and directed that a children's publication called Veselka should appear as a supplement to Svoboda, but should the situation warrant it, should be published separately as a magazine.

Dmytro Halychyn was re-elected to his second term as UNA supreme president.

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

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The Ukrainian National Association exists:

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

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

UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Students compete as team Ukraine in school's "Olympics"



Grade 6 students at Valley Presbyterian School who represented Ukraine in the school's "Olympics."

by Ania Shalauta

NORTH HILLS, Calif. – The blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flag waved once again at the "2004 Olympic Games" at a San Fernando Valley elementary school. Ms. Shirley Deedon's sixth grade students at Valley Presbyterian School in North Hills represented Ukraine in the school's traditional Olympics held every four years.

This is Ukraine's fourth time to

be represented; the first being in 1992 shortly after Ukraine declared its independence.

Each class represented a different country and studied its culture. The studies culminated with an Olympic Day held on June 4, which began with a Parade of Nations, Opening Ceremonies, an international program, and competitive games. Wearing tryzub-adorned t-shirts, with girls wearing "vinky," the students marched behind a

Ukrainian banner and followed leaders dressed in authentic costumes carrying a traditional Ukrainian welcoming bread.

During the school year, Tina Osadca Zacharczuk, a parent of former students, taught the students about Ukraine's culture, history, costumes, geography, music, dance and traditions. The students made pysanky, which they will cherish for years.

In preparation for the international program on Olympic Day, the

25 students enthusiastically learned and diligently practiced a Ukrainian dance. They performed a traditional "Pryvit," welcoming their audience with bread and salt, followed by a fast-paced finale in which the audience instinctively clapped their hands to the music, inspiring the young boys and girls as they performed many of the steps that are loved and appreciated by audiences around the globe. In the competitive portion of the Olympic Day, the crowds cheered as Ukraine won medals in the various events.

The biggest challenge Mrs. Zacharczuk had was to explain why Ukrainians feel so passionately about freedom and their ethnic identity. This lay in the fact that these sixth graders were born well after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's declared independence, and do not have an understanding of what it meant to live under Communist rule.

The students reported that learning about Ukraine will be one of their fondest memories, and they will be looking for the Ukrainian athletes at the upcoming Olympic Games in Greece.

Other nations represented in the school's Olympics were Ireland, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Germany, Israel, Spain, Mexico, Japan, Kenya and the U.S.A.



Dancers ready for 2004 festival

GLEN SPEY, N.Y. – Dancers – students and their instructors – pause for a group picture (seen on the left) at the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop being held in Glen Spey, N.Y. , at the Verkhovyna resort. Three weeks of intensive study in ballet, character and Ukrainian dance will culminate with the dancers' performances at the ever-popular Verkhovyna Ukrainian Festival on July 16-18. Students from all over the United States, as well as Canada and Australia, have come to continue the legacy begun by Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, and supported by the newly established Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation.

New Jersey Devils mascot visits with SUM youths in Whippany, N.J.



SUM kids get autographs from the mascot of the New Jersey Devils hockey team.

by Andrew Rago

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Whippany Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) had its “zakryttia,” or the last meeting before summer, on June 7.

In order to ease the “sumivtsi’s” disappointment over no longer attending skhodyny, the New Jersey Devils mascot came to visit. Everyone was not only surprised, but also excited at the appearance of this well-known figure.

The Devil took pictures with us and personally autographed photos of himself for every child.



Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association branch in Whippany, N.J., with their special guest.

After everyone had their fill of pictures and autographs, the mascot left and we had a ceremonial gathering. All the SUM members who had won medals at Zlet during Memorial Day weekend were congratulated. After this, all the “sumivtsi” that had passed their “ispyty” (exams) were awarded their patches and pledged their loyalty to God, Ukraine and SUM on the

SUM flag.

Two teenagers, Katia Kleban and Christopher Rizzo, received their first-level counselor patch and Andrew Rago received his second level counselor patch for their work with the younger “sumivtsi.”

Once the official ceremonies were over, everyone ate pizza and subs. It was a great end to another terrific year in SUM.

OUR NAME: UKELODEON: it rhymes with nickelodeon. Yes, that’s a kids’ network (spelled with a capital “N”), but the original word referred to an early movie theater that charged a nickel for admission. According to The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, the root of the word, “odeon,” is from the Greek “oideion,” a small building used for public performances of music and poetry. Our UKELODEON is envisioned as a public space where our youth, from kindergartners to teens, can come to learn, to share information, to relate their experiences, and to keep in touch with each other. Its contents will be shaped by the young readers of the next generation.

OUR NEXT ISSUE: UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated August 8, please send in your materials by July 30.

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

Please drop us a line:
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 The Ukrainian Weekly,
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 Parsippany, NJ 07054
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 e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com.

(We ask all contributors to please include a daytime phone number.)

CHECK IT OUT: In the centerfold of this issue read about the Ukrainian American Youth Association’s annual Zlet gathering for its youths at the organization’s oselia (resort) in Ellenville, N.Y.

And, by the way, did you see the spread about Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization’s 2004 Sviato Yuriya in our June 20 issue?

Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the words on the list below – all things you might take on a summertime camping trip – in the Mishanyna grid.

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| backpack | binoculars | blanket |
| canteen | compass | flashlight |
| hat | hiking boots | insect repellent |
| map | matches | mess kit |
| poncho | rope | sleeping bag |
| sunscreen | tent | windbreaker |

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|--|---|
| July 10-17, 2004
Discovery Camp, Session One | August 7, 2004
Barabolya concert - 2 p.m.
Veselka Patio
Kozak Exhibit - artwork by the
Kozak Family - library
Zabava - Burya - 10 p.m. |
| July 17, 2004
Zabava - to be announced | August 8-21, 2004
Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky
Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp |
| July 17-24, 2004
Adventure Camp, Session One
Discovery Camp, Session Two | August 13, 2004
Special Pub Night with LUNA |
| July 18-23, 2004
Chemney Youth Camp, Session One | August 14, 2004
Miss Soyuzivka Weekend
Zabava - Luna - 10 p.m. |
| July 21, 2004
Hutsul Night Dinner -
special appearance by
Olya Chudoba Fryz and
Andrij Milavsky | August 14-22, 2004
Club Suzy-Q Week |
| July 24, 2004
Zabava - Halychany - 10 p.m. | August 15, 2004
Ivano-Frankivsk festival celebration;
more details to follow |
| July 24-31, 2004
Discovery Camp, Session Three
Adventure Camp, Session Two | August 21, 2004
Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky
Dance Camp Recital with
intermission performance by
Olya Chudoba Fryz - 8 p.m.
Zabava - Fata Morgana - 10 p.m. |
| July 25-30, 2004
Chemney Youth Camp, Session Two
Scuba Diving Course (revised dates) | August 22, 2004
Ternopil - festival celebration; more
details to follow |
| July 31, 2004
Exhibit - Daria "Dycia" Hanushevka -
library - ceramics
Zabava - Cheres - 10 p.m. | August 28, 2004
Zabava - to be announced |
| August 1, 2004
Special Golf Tournament opening
with Askold Buk Trio - Time to be
announced | August 28-29, 2004
Lviv - festival celebration; more
details to follow |
| August 1-6, 2004
Soyuzivka Golf Week | September 3, 2004
Zabava - Luna - 10 p.m. |
| August 6, 2004
Cabaret performance by Ron Cahute
& Ihor Bachynsky - 10 p.m.,
adults only | September 4, 2004
Zabava - Fata Morgana & Tempo |
| August 6-8, 2004
2nd Annual Sports Jamboree (see ad) | September 5, 2004
Zabava - Tempo & Vorony |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, July 16-18

GLEN SPEY, N.Y.: The 29th annual Verkhovyna Ukrainian Festival will take place here at the Verkhovyna-MountainView resort. Stage shows are scheduled for Friday at 7:15 p.m., Saturday at 2:15 and 7:15 p.m., and Sunday at 2:15 p.m. Among the performers will be the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Dance Workshop, the Vohnetz Dance

Ensemble from Edmonton, as well as Volodymyr Grishko, Lesia Hrabova, Skryabin and Ani Lorak. The festival also features dances with Fata Morgana, Vidlunnia, Svitanok and Oberehy, as well as exhibits, vendors, food, drinks and a carnival for children. Camping is available. For information call (845) 856-1323, log on to www.verkhovyna.org, or e-mail info@verkhovyna.org.

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. Payment must be received prior to publication.

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. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

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 include 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.

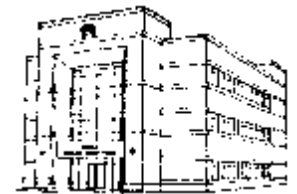
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