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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Foreign policy advisor to Kerry meets with Ukrainian Americans

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — Richard Holbrooke, who held key foreign policy positions in the Clinton administration and now advises Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry on foreign policy issues, says that it is up to Ukraine itself to decide if its future is within NATO and the European Union. That decision, he stressed, should receive the full support of the United States and should not be subject to any kind of a Russian veto.

Briefing a small group of representatives of Ukrainian American organizations here on July 20, following his brief visit to Ukraine earlier in the month, he stressed that the degree of transparency and fairness demonstrated in the Ukrainian presidential elections in October will be decisive in determining its European future. He called on Ukrainian Americans to help drive that message home in Ukraine and participate as election observers.

Among those participating in the Washington briefing and the discussion that followed were Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and Eugene Iwanciw, second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association, who brought up some of the issues in the U.S.-Ukraine relationship that concern Ukrainian Americans. Among these was the unwillingness of the past two administrations to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relations status to Ukraine, dwindling U.S. aid levels to Ukraine and the continued assignment of Russian-speaking foreign service personnel to the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Ambassador Holbrooke made the point repeatedly that a Kerry administration would serve Ukraine's NATO and EU membership plans better than would a re-elected Bush administration, which, he noted, is losing its influence in Europe and tends to side with Russian interests over those of its neighbors.

The briefing was organized by the UCCA America and McGuireWoods LLP, an international law firm, in whose Washington offices the event was held. The briefing was moderated by Mark Brzezinski of McGuireWoods.

In the administration of President Bill Clinton, Mr. Holbrooke served as assistant secretary of state for European affairs during the first expansion of NATO into Eastern Europe, and later as ambassador to the United Nations. Currently he is on the board of the National Endowment for Democracy and heads the Asia Society and the American Academy in Berlin.

He also serves as president of the Global Business Coalition on HIV-AIDS, and in this capacity he appealed to

Ukrainian Americans to help convince the Ukrainian government that it must act now to counter its AIDS epidemic. Proportionally, the epidemic in Ukraine is 30 times worse than in China, which has been receiving a lot of press coverage recently. (This aspect of the briefing is covered in a separate story on page 8.)

Tracing the history of NATO's expansion, Mr. Holbrooke said that then, as now, the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic required some convincing and pressure on the part of the U.S. administration to get all of the NATO partners to agree. The American foreign policy establishment required some convincing as well, he added.

When Washington first asked Ukraine in the mid-1990s if it wanted to join NATO, the administration of President Leonid Kravchuk declined, saying that it was "a bridge too far" and that it did not want to "rock the boat" in the region. Later, after the Baltic countries joined NATO, President Leonid Kuchma announced in 2002 that Ukraine wanted to join as well, Mr. Holbrooke said.

"Do you think that Poland, the Czech

(Continued on page 8)

## Donetsk Oblast mine accident kills 31; five miners still missing

by Vasyl Pawlowsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — Emergency crews flooded a mine shaft with water and 7,000 cubic meters of nitrogen in order to try to extinguish a raging fire caused by a deadly explosion of methane on July 19 that left at least 31 miners dead at the Krasnolymansk mine near the city of Rodinske in Donetsk Oblast. However, even through these efforts the 54 rescue teams failed to put out the inferno, according to a report from the Ministry of Emergencies.

Forty-eight miners were in the mine at the time of the explosion; 12 managed to escape.

According to an Associated Press report, the attempts to put out the fire were hampered by deadly gases and temperatures, which reached as high as 120 degrees (F).

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who visited the disaster scene, said that "everything possible" would be done to rescue the men and promised government support for the deceased miners' families.

Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Kliuyev, who is heading the State

Commission investigating the disaster, said that 31 bodies had been recovered as of Tuesday, July 20, and five miners were still unaccounted for; and as of Wednesday, July 21, there was little hope that they would be found alive.

Mr. Kliuyev added that the Commission had already met with the victims' families, and that the Cabinet of Ministers has allotted 2.5 million hryv to the survivors of those killed.

Officials stated that it is still too early to say what caused the blast on the night of Monday, July 19, though the investigation's aim was to determine this.

Authorities proclaimed three days of mourning for those killed in the disaster, and flags in the capital and Donetsk were adorned with black ribbons.

In response to the disaster, condolences were sent by a number of world leaders, including the Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin and Pope John Paul II.

On behalf of the pope, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano sent a telegram to Bishop Stepan Meniok, exarch of Donetsk-Kharkiv. It

(Continued on page 9)

## Ruslan Fedotenko brings Stanley Cup to Kyiv

by Vasyl Pawlowsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — The most coveted trophy in professional ice hockey, the Stanley Cup, arrived in Kyiv on July 19 accompanied by Kyiv native Ruslan Fedotenko, who scored both goals for his team, the Tampa Bay Lightning, in the deciding game of the 2004 Stanley Cup Finals.

Tampa Bay had defeated the Calgary Flames 2-1 in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final.

Mr. Fedotenko's first stop with the Stanley Cup was his home rink, the Avangard ice arena in Kyiv, where he first began his career. There the 25-year-old right wing met his former teammates.

At a ceremony at the Hall of Columns in Kyiv's City Hall, Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko offered congratulatory words and then presented Mr. Fedotenko, his wife, Debbie, and his father, Viktor Fedotenko, who both had accompanied the hockey star to the ceremony, with watches. The mayor also bestowed the city's highest honor, the "Znak Poshany," or Award of Reverence, to the Stanley Cup champion.

In addition, Mykola Kostenko, head of the Ukrainian Sports Federation

announced, with obvious pride: "The collegium of the federation came to a unanimous decision and has decided to award you, Ruslan, the title of Merited Sportsman of Ukraine."

When it came time for Mr. Fedotenko to speak, he was clearly at a loss for words in trying to express how it feels to

win such a coveted award, and to have the opportunity to bring the cup to Ukraine. According to tradition, each player on the Stanley Cup-winning team has the opportunity to have the cup for two days.

"Everyone strives for the most presti-

(Continued on page 24)



Ruslan Fedotenko of the Tampa Bay Lightning raises the Stanley Cup in Kyiv. AP/ Sergei Pashchenko



## ANALYSIS

## Will contradictions undermine Yanukovich's election campaign?

by **Taras Kuzio**  
*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

When Viktor Yanukovich was appointed Ukraine's prime minister in November 2002, he immediately became the heir-apparent for the 2004 presidential election. He was duly made the pro-presidential candidate when the campaign season formally opened on July 4. Initially, his inevitability was not considered significant, because presidential advisors believed that the constitutional changes launched by President Leonid Kuchma in August 2003 would be adopted the following year. These changes sought to transfer power from the executive to the prime minister, making it irrelevant who would be elected to the soon-to-be-ceremonial presidency in October 2004.

But this strategy never went off as planned. In April the Verkhovna Rada failed to approve the constitutional changes contained in Bill 3105. The pro-Kuchma camp did not give up, and in June deputies voted in favor of Bill 4180, which is nearly identical to 3105. A second reading, which requires more than 300 votes, will be held in September.

The pending changes would allow President Kuchma to remain in power until the 2006 parliamentary elections by becoming prime minister. Alternatively, they would permit Mr. Yanukovich to continue as prime minister. In either case, the prime minister would possess greater power than the newly elected president.

These last-ditch efforts to amend the Constitution only one month before the elections indicate that the pro-Kuchma camp fears Viktor Yushchenko will win the elections and inherit President Kuchma's powers. Panic now overshadows the pro-Kuchma camp's concerns about Ukraine's possible suspension from the Council of Europe, which advised in January and again in June that Ukraine should not make constitutional changes during an election year.

Continued attempts to railroad through constitutional changes also reflect the pro-presidential camp's lukewarm approach to

Mr. Yanukovich's candidacy. Although on the surface there is unity, underneath there is widespread dismay that Mr. Yanukovich was chosen as their "joint candidate." One strike against the current prime minister is his criminal record: he has been sentenced to prison twice – once for robbery and once for violence. Polls indicate that 69 percent of Ukrainians will not vote for a candidate with a criminal record (*Ukrainska Pravda*, June 3) and 61.8 percent would back a law prohibiting convicted criminals from standing for president (*Zerkalo Nedeli*, June 5-11).

Former Soviet political prisoner Vasyl Ovsienko has called upon his fellow Ukrainians to not allow the election of the "immoral" Mr. Yanukovich (*Ukrainska Pravda*, July 6). Mr. Ovsienko cited Article 5 of the Constitution, which permits Ukrainians to use any means to remove those who take power after having lost the election.

Mr. Ovsienko's emotional remarks reflect the brittle election atmosphere, which is the most explosive in Ukraine's post-Soviet history. The potential threat of instability and violence is higher than in 1994, when the U.S. National Intelligence Council released a highly exaggerated report warning of Ukraine's impending collapse. Ten years later, the authorities now have far more to lose. Now they actually fear an opposition victory.

The main opposition to Messrs. Kuchma and Yanukovich revolves around Viktor Yushchenko. Mr. Yushchenko launched his candidacy on July 4 with a mass rally of 50,000 Ukrainians – one of the largest demonstrations in Kyiv since 1992. The demonstrators ended their vigil at the Central Election Commission. Our Ukraine National Deputy Taras Stetskiw warned that, after voting on election day, Yushchenko supporters would return and stay until the "right result" was announced. Mr. Stetskiw's comments were a tacit threat to repeat the Georgian and Serbian revolutions should Mr. Yushchenko not be

(Continued on page 16)

## Ukraine turns down prospect of early membership in NATO

by **Taras Kuzio**  
*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

President Leonid Kuchma was finally able to meet President George W. Bush at the NATO summit in Istanbul. Over the last three years the Bush administration had rebuffed attempts by Mr. Kuchma to return to the cozy U.S.-Ukraine relationship of the 1990s under President Bill Clinton. Kuchmagate in 2000 and then the Kolchuha radar scandal with Iraq in 2002 had led to a cooling of relations between Ukraine and the United States as well as with other Western governments and international organizations.

During these three years the Council of Europe had twice threatened to suspend Ukraine's membership when Mr. Kuchma

had attempted to railroad through constitutional changes in April 2000 and January 2003. Mr. Kuchma ignored advice to avoid the November 2002 NATO summit in Prague because of displeasure over his authorization of the sale of Kolchuha radar systems to Iraq in July 2000 – only two months after President Clinton's last visit to Kyiv to cement the U.S.-Ukrainian "strategic partnership."

At the Prague summit, the NATO-Ukraine Committee was purposefully downgraded to the level of foreign ministers. The seating arrangement at the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) was even changed from English to French, ensuring that Ukraine would not be next to the United Kingdom or the United States.

This week in Istanbul, NATO and U.S. relations with Ukraine had sufficiently improved to return to regular seating arrangements. The NATO-Ukraine Committee also met at the presidential level. But little else had fundamentally changed since the West's "cold war" with Ukraine in 2000-2003.

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

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Reforms and Order Party changes name

KYIV – A convention of 375 delegates from the opposition Reforms and Order Party, which is a member of the Our Ukraine bloc in the Verkhovna Rada, on July 18 changed the party's name to Our Ukraine, Interfax reported. "Such a move demonstrates our readiness for creating a single, united democratic Our Ukraine party," said Viktor Pynzenyk, the leader of the renamed party. He said this step should encourage other democratic forces to consolidate into a single party. The convention also endorsed Viktor Yushchenko's candidacy in the October 31 presidential election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Inquiry into Gongadze surveillance begins

KYIV – Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry has started an official inquiry into the reasons behind the surveillance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze before his abduction and murder in 2000, Interfax reported on July 19, quoting First Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs Mykhailo Kornienko. The internal investigation, initiated following a recent inquiry from the Procurator General's Office, is expected to last one month. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Administration denies EU summit was failure

KYIV – Vasyl Baziv, deputy head of the Ukrainian presidential administration, on July 16 criticized an article in the Moscow-based newspaper *Izvestiya* suggesting that the Ukraine-EU summit at The Hague on July 8 proved to be a failure of the "European vector" in Ukrainian foreign policy, UNIAN reported. Mr. Baziv described the article as "incompetent" and added that the summit was "the most successful meeting ever. Mr. Baziv also said European and Euro-Atlantic integration remains "Ukraine's strategic political course" regardless of the result of the forthcoming presidential election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine 70th in development ranking

UNITED NATIONS – Belarus ranks 62nd and Ukraine 70th on a list of 177 countries assessed with regard to their Human Development Index in the United Nations "Human Development Report 2004," Belarusian and Ukrainian news agencies reported on July 16. The Human Development Index is a composite indicator that measures a country's achievements in three aspects of human development: longevity, knowledge and standard of living. Longevity is measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge is measured by a combination of the adult literacy rate and education enrollment; and stan-

dard of living is measured by gross domestic product per capita. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Our Ukraine warns of provocation...

KYIV – The Our Ukraine bloc led by presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has demanded that President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and leaders of law enforcement bodies prevent the staging of what they termed a potentially dangerous and provocative action by the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA), an extremist nationalist group, Interfax reported on July 15, quoting Our Ukraine activists Mykola Katerynychuk and Volodymyr Bondarenko. Messrs. Katerynychuk and Bondarenko told journalists that the assembly was planning to hold a congress and a march with flaming torches in Kyiv, during which its activists would shout "anti-Semitic and anti-Russian slogans" and express "pseudo-support for Yushchenko." The Our Ukraine leader recently sent a letter to Mr. Kuchma warning that the presidential campaign has activated "forces that profess fascism and ethnic and racial intolerance." According to Mr. Yushchenko, "central television channels popularize the activities of radical, pro-fascist structures" which, the Our Ukraine leader added, are financed by top-level officials. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### ... as group leader urges pure government

KYIV – Ukrainian National Assembly leader Eduard Kovalenko told Hromadske Radio on July 15 that the UNA congress and march, which was originally planned for July 16 has been rescheduled for July 31, the *Ukrainska Pravda* website reported. "After the conclusion of the congress, we will march with flaming torches to the Castle Hill," Mr. Kovalenko said. "There we will set on fire [a symbol] of wealth as a sign of the beginning of the UNA's national-patriotic fight for honest and pure government, for establishing Ukrainians in power," he added. Mr. Kovalenko did not say whether this action would be connected to Viktor Yushchenko's presidential bid. "[The assembly action] is necessary to nourish the media image of Yushchenko as a man supported by fascists," Our Ukraine activist Volodymyr Bondarenko commented on July 15. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Unprofitable companies decline in number

KYIV – The State Statistics Committee made known on July 15 that the share of loss-making companies in January-May 2004 was 36.8 percent, with their losses totaling 6.6 billion hryv (\$1.2 billion), Interfax reported. The share of unprofitable

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News analysis**The Gongadze cover-up**

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch

**PART II****Destroying the evidence**

As the new, more vigorous, investigation in the summer of 2003 was well under way, on July 16, 2003, the Procurator General's Office officially requested that the MVS send over a set of files pertaining to the Gongadze investigation. The files that had been requested included the official work assignments in 2000. These were important for they would collaborate the testimony of those officers who admitted taking part in the Gongadze surveillance during the summer and fall of 2000. Also requested were the reports of the surveillance which were signed by members of the surveillance teams.

Sensing that the information contained in those files could discredit them or point a finger directly at the persons suspected of ordering Heorhii Gongadze's murder, a decision was made by Gen. Oleksii Pukach's superiors to deliberately destroy the requested files.

Anatolii Osypenko, an officer in the Criminal Investigation Department of the MVS, on October 28, 2003, confirmed what he had told investigators on October 13 that same year.

Mr. Osypenko claimed that on July 16, 2003, he was told to prepare a set of files requested by the Procurator General's Office pertaining to the Gongadze case. He began pulling these files, but could not complete this task due to a lack of personnel having the needed security clearance to gain access to them. He was not allowed to use employees of his section since the PGU investigator insisted that nobody working for Gen. Pukach's unit be allowed to perform this task.

The following day, July 17, Mr. Osypenko and the PGU investigator went to see Gen. Pukach about the files. Gen. Pukach told the investigator that he had orders "from above" not to give him the requested files.

Shortly after July 20, 2003, these same files were the topic of a conversation in Gen. Pukach's office.

Ludmilla Levchenko, who worked for Gen. Pukach as an assistant, was interrogated on October 10, 2003, and told PGU investigator Yurii Hryshchenko: "During a meeting in the office of Lt. Gen. Oleksii Pukach we had a conversation in which he stated that it was imperative to bring him the work assignments of employees of the Criminal Investigation Division from 2000. He studied them and said that they were to be destroyed since the dates on the documents indicated that they no longer needed to be stored.

"I replied that their term for safekeeping had not yet expired and they were to be stored until January 2004 when they could be legally destroyed ... Mr. Pukach insisted that all the documents be destroyed."

Question: "Were there any questions about the fact that these files had been requested by the PGU and were vital. If there were, who understood this and what was Mr. Pukach's reaction to this?"

Answer: "When I was in Mr. Pukach's and he was giving the order to destroy these documents, I asked him if this would create a problem since the documents had been requested by the PGU. He did not give a direct answer and only said that their term for safekeeping had expired and that they were to be destroyed."

The files (case No. 23, inventory Nos. 3598, 3599 and 3600) were destroyed soon afterward in the special facility maintained for this purpose in the town of Obukhov.

After the interrogations of Messrs. Levchenko and Osypenko, the PGU arrested Gen. Pukach on October 23, 2003, on charges of destroying evidence.

A week later, the president's commission on corruption met and angrily stated that Procurator Gen. Piskun was guilty of "large-scale corruption." The commission, however, never asked that he be investigated by the PGU; instead, they unanimously recommended to the president that he be fired from his position, which he was the following day.

A week after Mr. Piskun was fired, MVS Lt. Gen. Pukach was released from prison after signing a pledge not to leave the country. According to press reports, he was picked up at the entrance to the jail by a limo with parliamentary license plates.

After a few months, in a move apparently designed to show that forgiveness runs deep in his administration, Mr. Kuchma appointed Mr. Piskun to become the deputy chair of the National Security and Defense Council.

**Ihor Honcharov**

Among the documents obtained by Mr. Krushelnicky is the autopsy report of Ihor Honcharov. Mr. Honcharov, a former MVS officer with a checkered past, had been arrested on criminal charges by the MVS in May 2002.

After his arrest, Mr. Honcharov's lawyer managed to smuggle out of prison letters by his client which were published on the *Ukrainska Pravda* website on August 6, 2003. Mr. Honcharov wrote that he was ordered not to testify against other MVS officers, and that he had been tortured and beaten in prison. He died on August 1, 2003, and his body was cremated very soon after. The cause of death was officially announced as "illness."

According to *The Independent* of June 19, "the autopsy and tests performed for the government by six experts shows Mr. Honcharov was injected with Thiopental, which the experts say probably led to his death. Doctors have told *The Independent* that there would have been no legitimate medical reason to use the drug."

But the most damaging information about what Mr. Honcharov allegedly knew was learned during the interrogation of one Valerii Melnikov on April 14, 2003. Mr. Melnikov was interviewed by PGU investigator Stolyarchuk.

Melnikov: "Honcharov told me that People's Deputy Volkov O.M. had contracted the murder of Gongadze because he had written a very unfavorable article about Mr. Volkov and the president. On his own initiative he (Volkov) turned to Mr. Kysil with whom he was a longtime friend.

"Gongadze was killed by members of the 'Kysil' brigade, there were three of them along with Mr. Honcharov's informant, a driver that they used.

"From Mr. Honcharov I learned that two of them soon left for the Czech Republic and the third was murdered under suspicious circumstances in Kyiv."

The identity and the whereabouts of the driver are still unknown.

**Kysil and Volkov**

A great deal has been written in the Ukrainian press about the activities of Volodymyr Kysil, the head of an organized crime gang in Kyiv.

The article "Everything About Alexander Mr. Volkov" written by Mr. Gongadze and published on the *Ukrainska Pravda* website on September 5, 2000, 11 days before his disappearance, is considered the exposé that most upset Mr. Kuchma and his close friend

(Continued on page 23)

**ELECTION WATCH****Yanukovych to take part in election debates**

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych will take part in open television debates as a candidate in the presidential election, UNIAN reported on July 16, quoting his election staff head Serhii Tyhypko. According to Mr. Tyhypko, Mr. Yanukovych is prepared to discuss election issues with all other presidential candidates, including Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko. The prime minister was formally proposed as a presidential candidate by a congress of the Party of Regions held in Zaporizhia on July 4. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**PM pooh-poohs fair election accord**

KYIV – Answering a journalist's question about his attitude to the signing of an agreement on a fair election by presidential candidates, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych said on July 13 that such an accord would be a "conventionality," *Interfax* reported. "If a man is honest, he is honest in his soul," Mr. Yanukovych added. Last week Our Ukraine leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko proposed to other presidential candidates that they sign a Declaration for a Fair Election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Kuchma: no need for fair election accord**

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has said he is skeptical about the need for presidential candidates to sign a declaration agreeing to a fair election proposed by Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, *Interfax* reported. "[The Yushchenko-signed] text mostly speaks about the need to obey the law, write the truth about oneself, and so on," Mr. Kuchma told the newspaper *Den* on July 20. "How can this be understood?... What about those not signing this declaration? Do they have the right not to obey the law?" Mr. Kuchma stressed that compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the law on presidential elections is sufficient to hold a fair presidential ballot in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Kinakh nominated as candidate**

KYIV – A congress of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs in Kyiv on July 10 proposed the party's leader, Anatolii Kinakh, as a candidate in the presidential election, *Interfax* reported. "I was in power and know how to change it," Mr. Kinakh said at the congress. "I know all about politics, therefore, I refuse to play politics and choose to do what can be done with clean hands. I know all about the economy and, first of all, about how to stimulate it." Mr. Kinakh headed the Ukrainian government from March 2001 through November 2002. The Central Election Commission on July 15 registered Mr. Kinakh, prime minister from May 2001 to November 2002, as the 10th candidate for the October 31 presidential election.

Mr. Kinakh is the second former prime minister running for the post of president, along with Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, who was prime minister from December 1999 to April 2001. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Still more candidates are registered**

KYIV – The Central Election Commission on July 13 registered Oleksander Yakovenko, leader of the Communist Party of Workers and Peasants, and Bohdan Boiko, leader of the Popular Rukh for Unity, as candidates for the presidential ballot. The number of registered candidates has risen to nine. The registration of presidential candidates will last through August 6. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Labor Ukraine Party backs PM**

KYIV – A congress of the Labor Ukraine Party in Kyiv on July 16 unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych as a candidate in the October 31 presidential election, UNIAN reported. Party leader Serhii Tyhypko, who is also head of Mr. Yanukovych's election staff, said that the prime minister is a "good specialist" who is "rigorous, but just, and is loved by everyone." Mr. Tyhypko called on party colleagues "to work for Yanukovych as they would work for Tyhypko or any other Labor Ukraine Party candidate." (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Rally in Kharkiv backs Yanukovych**

KHARKIV – A mass rally in support of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych's presidential candidacy took place in the evening of July 14 in Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine, *Interfax* reported. According to police estimates, some 100,000 people attended the gathering. According to representatives of the opposition Our Ukraine bloc, the crowd numbered no more than 50,000. Our Ukraine also charged that the local administration resorted to press-ganging people into attending the pro-Yanukovych demonstration. "It isn't the first time that Kharkiv residents have been herded together to a rally," the agency quoted a local Our Ukraine activist as saying. "Many are threatened with the loss of their jobs [for non-attendance]." (RFE/RL Newsline)

**OSCE to send election monitors**

KYIV – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will dispatch 650 people to observe the fall presidential election in Ukraine, *Interfax* reported on July 16, quoting David Nicholas, the OSCE's project coordinator in Ukraine. Mr. Nicholas said the overwhelming majority of monitors will arrive in Ukraine on the eve of election day, while 50 observers will work in Ukraine during the entire election campaign. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Quotable notes**

"I believe. Look in Yushchenko's eyes. Is there any doubt that he believes?! He believes in God, in his parents, in Ukraine. I know. This is the man who led the National Bank and the government. And you know what a prime minister he was. We can! Everything depends on us. On October 31 we will witness an event that in modern history can be compared only with the winning of [Ukrainian] independence in 1991."

– Oleksander Zinchenko, campaign manager for Viktor Yushchenko, explaining the Our Ukraine leader's campaign slogan "I Believe. I Know. We Can" during a rally in Kyiv on July 4, as quoted on the *Ukrainska Pravda* website and cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.



## OBITUARY

# William J. Pastuszek, UNA leader, Pennsylvania civic activist, 78



William J. Pastuszek

SWARTHMORE, Pa. – William J. Pastuszek, a leading activist in the Ukrainian National Association and a prominent leader in local communities throughout Delaware County, Pennsylvania, died on July 14, at the age of 78.

Mr. Pastuszek served over 20 years as an advisor and auditor of the Ukrainian National Association, was an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly and served as president of UNA Branch 231 for 24 years.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, he sponsored over 200 displaced Ukrainians who immigrated to the United States, helping them with housing and employment. During the last decade he gave similar assistance to the next wave of Ukrainian immigrants.

For 35 years, he led the Ukrainian Independence Day ceremonies on January 22 of each year in Chester's historic courthouse. He was a 57-year member and past director of the Ukrainian American National Home in Chester and president of Delaware County's Ukrainian Congress Committee of America for 25 years.

Mr. Pastuszek was a 24-year member of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Wilmington, Del., and served on its board as auditor and trustee. This past February he was elected a lifetime honorary trustee. Earlier he served as president of the council of St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Chester, Pa., during which time he joined in building the rectory.

In addition, he served for 20 years as a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. He is a recipient of a certificate of blessing from Archbishop (later Patriarch) Mstyslav of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in recognition of his outstanding service to the Church.

Born in Chester, Pa., on January 19, 1926, Mr. Pastuszek graduated from Juniata College with a B.A. and attended classes at Elizabethtown College, Pennsylvania Military College and University of Pennsylvania Law School. After graduation from Pennsylvania Military Prep School and service in the U.S. Army during World War II, Mr. Pastuszek held a teaching certificate in secondary education and briefly taught at Chester High School and Smedley Junior High School.

He married Theodozia Kiziuk in 1948.

At the age of 26, he became one of the youngest members of the board of directors of Chester School District. He served as director, vice-president and president from 1954 to 1963.

A Swarthmore, Pa., resident for 41 years, Mr. Pastuszek established his real estate office in Chester, Pa., in 1947 and later relocated his business to Swarthmore in 1963. During his 57 years in the Delaware County Real Estate industry, Mr. Pastuszek developed more than 1,000 commercial, industrial, self storage garages, apartments and residential units in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Among his many accomplishments were the redevelopment of a major portion of the Swarthmore Business District, and the establishment of Theodozia Gardens. He developed new residential apartments and initiated other new business opportunities in the borough.

In 1991 Mr. Pastuszek was awarded the Distinguished Community Achievement Award by the Community of Lower Chichester Township's Board of Commissioners. Subsequent contributions to improve housing were recognized by the Pennsylvania municipalities of Marcus Hook, Chester, Trainer, Swarthmore, Morton and Lower Chichester. The Lower Chichester Township Board of Commissioners on February 21, 2000, renamed Ormond Street as Pastuszek Boulevard. Similarly, the Township of Chester renamed West 10th Street as Pastuszek Court.

In 1985 the Delaware County Council presented Mr. Pastuszek with the Distinguished Business Achievement Award for his contributions to the overall economic vitality of Delaware County.

An honorary senior member and one of the original charter founders of the Delaware County Real Estate Appraisers, Mr. Pastuszek completed 7,000 appraisals. In 1999 he was elected realtor emeritus for 50 years of service. He was a past vice-president of the Chester Real Estate Board, past director of the Housing Cooperation of Chester and a past director of the Delaware County Board of Realtors. Mr. Pastuszek also was a past president of the People Savings and Loan Association of the Delaware Valley, since merged with First Keystone Federal Savings Bank.

Mr. Pastuszek was honored as Man of the Year by the Delaware County Real Estate Appraisers and the Swarthmore Business Association. In 1990 Mr. Pastuszek was presented with the Gold Rose Award from the Rose Tree Festival Committee of Delaware County for contributions to the Ukrainian America Celebration and Rose Tree, Delaware County, Pa.

Mr. Pastuszek's civic and community activity included membership in the Swarthmore Rotary Club beginning in 1971. Recently he became a senior excused member. He served as club president in 1976, and is a Paul Harris Fellow. Mr. Pastuszek is a former member of the Union League of Philadelphia and an honorary member of the Swarthmore Centennial Foundation.

Since 1953 he was a member of Chester Lodge 236 of Free and Accepted Masons, and was awarded his 50 years of Masonic Service Emblem in 2003.

Mr. Pastuszek is predeceased by his father, Michael Pastuszek, and mother, Mary Pastuszek, and six brothers. He is survived by his beloved wife of 56 years, Theodozia; sons, William J. Pastuszek Jr., with his wife, Ellen Smith, of Newton, Mass.; Alexander R. Pastuszek and wife, Katie Newsom Pastuszek, of Swarthmore; daughter, Lydia M. Pastuszek, and husband, Brian Monahan, of Sudbury, Mass.; six grandchildren, Danya, Jonathan, Jenna, Derek, Lesia and Daniel; and two brothers, Harry Pastuszek of Glen Mills, Pa., and Michael Pastuszek of West Chester, Pa.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to The Building Fund of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 1406 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE 19809.

A panakhyda service was offered at the James M. Brower Funeral Home in Wallingford, Pa., on July 19. The funeral service was held on July 20 at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, followed by burial at Lawncroft Cemetery.

## The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: June

Amount	Name	City		City
\$100.00	Andrei Kushnir	Bethesda, Md.		Wayne, Pa.
	Oksana Zakydalsky	Toronto, Ontario		New York, N.Y.
	(Kyiv Press Bureau)			Ridgewood, N.Y.
\$60.00	Inia Yevich-Tunstall	Annandale, Va.		Durham, N.C.
\$55.00	George Babchuk	Crown Point, Ind.		Lehigh, Pa.
	Michael Komichak	McKees Rocks, Pa.		Richfield, Ohio
	Lesia Poniatyszyn-Cady	Phoenix, Ariz.		Silver Spring, Md.
\$50.00	Andrey and Maritza Harmaty	Stewart Manor, N.Y.		
	Stephen Olynyk	Washington, D.C.		Arlington, Va.
\$45.00	Maryna Chowhan	Minnetonka, Minn.	\$5.00	Milwaukee, Wisc.
	Andrei Harasymiak	New York, N.Y.	William Adamshick	Perth Amboy, N.J.
	Ihor Zalucky	Wilton, Conn.	Jaroslaw Bilyj	Grand Island, N.Y.
\$30.00	Mark Dushnyck	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Julian Chornij	Palatine, Ill.
	Roman Kuropas	Warren, Mich.	D. Maksymowich-Waskiewicz	Cooper City, Fla.
\$25.00	Stefania Bryant	Raleigh, N.C.	Stephen Daisak	Freehold, N.J.
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	George Jaskiw	S. Euclid, Ohio	Stefan Hrycyszyn	Carteret, N.J.
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	Jaroslaw Rozankowsky	Jamaica Plain, Mass.	Merle and Bonnie Jurkiewicz	Toledo, Ohio
	Olga Solovey	Dearborn Heights, Mich.	O. Kowenko	Chicago, Ill.
	UNA Branch 452 Ukrainian Club	Chicago, Ill.	Michael Krywulych	Amsterdam, N.Y.
	Vilma Woznik	Canton, Mich.	Bohdan Kuropas	Hickory, N.C.
	B. and O. Yaremko	Livingston, N.J.	Iwan Mokriwskyj	Rego Park, N.Y.
\$20.00	Michael Cham	Palm Desert, Calif.	Nick Mykolenko	Warren, Mich.
	Walt Czepizak	Oakhurst, N.J.	Eugene Nykyforiak	Warren, Mich.
	Nestor and Olya Popowych	Park Ridge, Ill.	Renata Ockerby	Arlington, Mass.
	Nestor Rychtyckyj	Warren, Mich.	Boris Onufreiczuk	Watchung, N.J.
	Matthew Stremba	Baltimore, Md.	Mary Pelechaty	Toledo, Ohio
	Natalie Trojan	New York, N.Y.	Rose Pitula	Bergenfield, N.J.
\$15.00	Katria Hadzewycz	Toronto, Ontario	Harry Praschky	West Easton, Pa.
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	Roman Nestorowicz	Warren, Mich.	Natalie Sorce	Hillsdale, Mich.
	Larissa Sawka	Des Plaines, Ill.	Maria Szczebetnik	Allentown, Pa.
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	Orest and Chris Walchuk	Pittstown, N.J.	Edward Zetick	Rockledge, Pa.
\$10.00	Roxana Wolosenko	Walnut Creek, Calif.		
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	Joseph Jackson	New Providence, N.J.		
	Taras Kolcio	Arlington, Va.		
	Boyd Kowal	Washington, D.C.		
	Roman and Stacy	Farmington, Conn.		

**TOTAL: \$1,505.00**

*Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.*

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

## Corrections

In the "Faces and Places" column by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas dated July 4, the address for ordering the book "Not Worthy" was incorrect. The correct address is: Kashtan Press, 22 (not 23) Gretna Green, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7M 3J2

In the obituary of Danylo Shumuk (July 4), the year Mr. Shumuk left for Ukraine was given as 2003. In fact, it was 2002. Also, the photo should have been credited to Oksana Zakydalsky.





# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Young UNA'ers



Dmytro Tsubasa Kachmar, son of Taras and Tomami Kachmar of Sacramento, Calif., is a new member of UNA Branch 486. He was enrolled by his grandparents Alex and Joanne C. Kachmar. Dmytro is seen above in the arms of his grandfather, as his proud dad looks on.



Dania A. Hrynewycz, daughter of Ihor and Kathy Hrynewycz of Chicago, is a new member of UNA Branch 777. She was enrolled by her grandparents Orest and Maria Hrynewycz.

## IN MEMORIAM

### William J. Pastuszek

January 19, 1926 – July 14, 2004

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to the members of the General Assembly, members of Branch 231 and to the UNA membership at large that William J. Pastuszek, honorary member of the General Assembly, former advisor and auditor of the Ukrainian National Association Inc., and president of Branch 231 for 24 years, died on Wednesday, July 14.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their sincerest sympathy to his wife, Theodozia; sons, William J. Pastuszek Jr. and wife Ellen; Alexander R. Pastuszek and wife Katie; daughter Lydia M. Pastuszek and husband Brian; brothers Harry Pastuszek and Michael Pastuszek and their families. A panakhyda was held on July 19, followed by the funeral service held at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Mr. Pastuszek will be laid to rest at Lawncroft Cemetery in Delaware.

Mr. Pastuszek will be remembered for his years of unwavering support, dedication, loyalty and service to the Ukrainian National Association.

*Vichna Yomu Pamiat!*

## SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY.

Send contributions to: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund,  
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

**Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history**

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

The 25th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, a jubilee gathering, was held in New York from May 21-26, 1962, with 422 delegates and 21 supreme officers attending (representing a total of 856 votes). The convention was notable for the fact that it was greeted by prominent leaders such as U.S. President John F. Kennedy and Prime Minister John F. Diefenbaker of Canada, as well as Metropolitan Ambrose Senyshyn of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States and

(Continued on page 20)



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Two countries, two elections

This year is marked by an intriguing confluence of events: both the United States and Ukraine have presidential elections in the fall (that's despite the fact that U.S. elections are once every four years, while Ukraine's are once every five years) that are seen as potential watersheds for their nations. And we, Ukrainian Americans, are intensely interested in the outcomes of races in both countries.

There's no doubt that the campaigns in both countries have begun in earnest. Just take a quick look at the last two issues of this newspaper, where news about the campaign in Ukraine was our top story. We've even begun a new news section called "Election Watch" to better present brief items about the presidential election campaign in Ukraine. Last week's issue featured a page-one story filed by one of our colleagues from Parma, Ohio, about a campaign stop by Vice-President Dick Cheney at the astrodome of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. This week's front page carries a story by our Washington correspondent about a meeting of Ukrainian American community representatives with a foreign policy adviser for John F. Kerry.

While the vice-president brought the Bush-Cheney message to a Ukrainian venue, he could have delivered his campaign speech anywhere. Frankly, it was a canned speech – the usual generalities about American values and the war on terror. Not a word about where he was speaking, whom he was addressing, who had welcomed him, or the country to which many of his listeners trace their roots. Did Mr. Cheney even know he was among Ukrainians?

The Kerry-Edwards message, on the other hand, was delivered by a surrogate but to a specific audience on the specific topic of U.S.-Ukraine relations. Richard Holbrooke, formerly with the administration of President Bill Clinton, serves as an adviser to the Democratic hopeful. Unfortunately, the main point of his presentation seemed to be that Mr. Kerry is not George W. Bush – hardly an effective way to define the candidate's views on Ukraine.

Thus, the campaign for our votes has just begun. It's time also for us to do our homework. As Americans we must consider each candidate's platform on domestic issues – we can read about those in our local and national newspapers. But we also need to take a good look at what foreign policies each one supports. And in that mix is a candidate's position on Ukraine. Do we now know enough about Sen. Kerry's, or President Bush's, or Ralph Nader's stances in that regard? Certainly not. In the coming weeks we hope to learn more about where each candidate stands on the issues that are of particular concern to our community.

We hasten to point out that Ukrainian Americans are more than just a minority constituency in this country. We also happen to reside in some of the most important states – the so-called battleground states – that may win or lose the election. Thus, it behooves the candidates to make their message to us count.

As well, it is important to remember that, while Ukrainian Americans can't vote for the next president of Ukraine, we can cast our ballots for the next president of the United States. Who we choose will make a difference both for us in this country, and for our fellow Ukrainians and others in Ukraine. In a way, then, our votes count here, and there.

July  
29  
1996

### Turning the pages back...

Since July 29, 1996, was a day when Ukraine was winning Olympic medals in bunches, it was only proper that gymnast Liliya Podkopyayeva, Ukraine's brightly shining star, won herself two more in the women's individual events.

On July 29, the 4-foot-9-inch phenom first won a silver on the balance beam, her second medal of the Olympics, and then triumphed in the floor exercise, outperforming a strong group for her second gold medal and third over all. She was the gold medalist in the individual all-around competition on July 23.

Not to be outdone, Rustam Sharipov won his first gold medal here on the parallel bars. He was the best performer among the Ukrainian men, who won a bronze medal in the team event on July 29.

Podkopyayeva and Sharipov joined weightlifter Timor Taimazov, who broke the world record in his gold-medal winning performance, and Oleksander Bahach, bronze medalist in the shot put, to give Ukraine a total of five medals on July 29 alone.

But it was Podkopyayeva, who kept frustrating her opposition by raising her performance a notch when needed, who fittingly ended Ukraine's "golden Monday" with a stunning performance in the floor exercise.

Her exercise, a combination of delicate balletic movement, sprightly stepping and strong tumbling, left no doubt that this world champion was the best. The judges gave her a 9.887, which lifted her above a tightly packed field of 9.8 scores. It was the highest score handed out by the judges during those Olympics, Podkopyayeva receiving the only two scores of 9.887 the judges awarded. Earlier the 17-year-old had won a silver medal on the balance beam, losing the gold by .037 points to Shannon Miller of the United States.

Sharipov, the men's gymnast, surprised everyone with his stunning victory on the parallel bars. He completed a series of double reverse somersaults and had a strong landing off the bar that wowed the crowd and the judges, who gave him a score of 9.837. He broke down in tears after the score for Jair Lynch of the United States was announced as 9.825, which gave Sharipov the gold and the American the silver. Sharipov explained afterwards that he had found a focus he had not had in earlier competitions. "I realized that I was not just representing myself, but my country as well."

The three medals won by Sharipov and Podkopyayeva gave the gymnastics squad a total of five medals, three gold, one silver and one bronze, which was second only to Russia's harvest of three golds, two silver and three bronze.

Source: "Podkopyayeva, Sharipov shine during winning day for Ukraine," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 4, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 31.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Skovoroda, philosopher, poet, theologian, musician and teacher

by Eugene Melnitchenko  
and Helena Lysyj Melnitchenko

Although he had a profound effect on Ukrainian society and was one of the first existential philosophers, little is known in the West about Hryhorii Skovoroda, (1722-1794), the Ukrainian philosopher or the "Ukrainian Socrates" as he is sometimes called. In Ukraine, however, many schools bear his name and statues of this wandering scholar have been erected in several cities.

His works, compiled from various sources, were published after his death and have influenced almost every prominent Ukrainian poet and writer, including Ivan Kotliarevskyi, Hryhorii Kvitka, Taras Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka, Mykola Hohol (Nicholas Gogol), Vasyl Stus and recently Vasyl Barka. In his day, Skovoroda was one of the most original thinkers and one of the greatest minds in Eastern Europe. He truly reflects the Ukrainian psyche: love of nature, intense introspection, generous heart, keen aesthetic sense, love of freedom, profound humanism and a genuine religious spirit.

A man of contradictions, one of the most educated people in Eastern Europe at the time, he gave up formal teaching and became a peripatetic scholar and private teacher. While a strong believer in God, he refused to join an organized Church. He was also not a man of his time, a mystic when rationalism was the emerging philosophy.

He shed a revealing light on his own character when, sensing his approaching death, he dug his own grave the night

*Eugene Melnitchenko has a master's degree in philosophy from New York University and Helena Lysyj Melnitchenko, a master's degree in education from the University of Hawaii.*

before he died. He wrote his own epitaph, "The world wanted to capture me, but did not succeed."

Skovoroda was born on November 22, 1722, to a Kozak family in the village of Chornukhy, Poltava province, the heartland of Ukraine. For many reasons, some say including the beauty of its landscape, the Poltava province produced many other prominent Ukrainians, including the world famous writer Hohol, the 19th century philosopher Pamfil Yurkevych, the poet Vasyl Barka and the political and military leader Symon Petliura, to name just a few. Skovoroda enrolled at the Mohyla Academy in Kyiv at age 16. His exceptional musical talent was recognized early and he was sent to sing in Tsarina Catherine's court choir in St. Petersburg. He later returned to the Academy where he studied for almost 10 years.

With a natural sensitivity to languages, he mastered Latin, the language of instruction at the academy. He also knew Greek, German and some Hebrew, which allowed him to go to original sources in those languages. He traveled extensively and studied in Russia, Germany, Austria, Poland and Hungary. In Ukraine, he lectured at several schools, including the seminary in Pereiaslav and the Kharkiv Collegium. However, in the late 1760s, he gave up formal teaching, renounced worldly pursuits and dedicated his life to reflection, moderation, purity, humility, patience, good nature and simple habits. He spent the rest of his life wandering in peasants' clothes, mostly travelling on foot, teaching and writing, finding lodging with his friends and in monasteries. His life was something of a mystery and captured the imagination of the people.

He began as a poet, experimenting with words, symbols, genre and rhymes to reveal aspects of his philosophy. In prose he was no less a poet, frequently rhyming his prose. Some of the poems from his "Garden of Divine Songs" became folk songs. They promote his view of the world and the correct moral conduct. Because he communicated his views as they evolved, some early scholars criticized him for offering a haphazard commentary on life without a philosophical system. One needs to read most of his works to comprehend the system.

#### Skovoroda's philosophy, briefly stated

Skovoroda viewed the world in terms of the pre-Socratic and Platonic opposites: good-evil, war-peace, life-death and night-day, water-fire, winter-summer. That is how God created the world, he believed. These opposites exist in a constant conflict, attacking each other in time, moving in a circle. "That which is down, draws that which is up, and up which is down." Thus, the world changes perpetually, converting something into something else. In night there is also the



Helena Lysyj Melnitchenko at the foot of a monument to Hryhorii Skovoroda.

(Continued on page 25)



## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### Genocide is genocide is genocide

Ever since the early days of the Bush administration, a former U.S. attorney and U.N. War Crimes prosecutor has been working out of a suite of offices down the hall from Secretary of State Colin Powell preparing a case against Saddam Hussein. Now with the Iraqi dictator firmly in U.S. custody, scores of investigators and attorneys are in Iraq preparing a "command responsibility case" involving war crimes and crimes against humanity, including genocide.

That shouldn't be that hard to do. Saddam's rule was murderous and brutal. According to Human Rights Watch, more than 100,000 Kurds were killed in a 1987-1988 rebellion, including some 5,000 gassed in the city of Halabja. The government also poisoned wells and blew up homes, schools and mosques. Later in 1991 after the first Gulf war, Shiites and Kurds rose up against Saddam, only to be put down with blood-curdling ruthlessness; as many as 100,000 were killed. Add, countless victims of arrests, assassinations and executions during Hussein's 30 years in power and there's no doubt that this is a first-class criminal. No wonder many compare him to Joseph Stalin, a byword for Ukrainians and many others for terror and mass murder.

Like today's Kurds, Ukrainians in the 1920s asserted their cultural identity and aspired to economic and political autonomy within the context of a larger state. After 10 years of so-called "Ukrainianization," Joseph Stalin was alarmed: "It seems that in some regions of Ukraine, Soviet power has ceased to exist," he wrote. Resolving to assert Moscow's rule, Stalin mandated the collectivization of agriculture, ordering people to turn over their land and livestock to the state and join giant collective farms where they would work like laborers in a factory.

Collectivization had economic and ideological objectives to be sure, but there was also an imperialist one. For Stalin, free farmers owning their own land formed the social base for Ukrainian nationalism: "The nationality problem is in its very essence, a problem of the peasantry." They were to be destroyed – "liquidated as a class."

Not surprisingly, most refused to give up their land. Many resisted, arming themselves with pitchforks, axes, shotguns and hunting rifles. Some conducted large-scale rebellions not unlike the great peasant revolts during tsarist rule. With vastly superior resources, Stalin lashed out with troops and militias who conducted mass arrests, deportations and executions. It all culminated in 1932-1933 with the state-imposed Great Famine.

Ukraine's cultural, spiritual and political leaders were also victims. According to cultural historian Yurii Lavrynenko, 80 percent of Ukraine's creative sector – poets, teachers, journalists, scientists, clergy, etc. – were killed in the 1930s. Even the language was put on the chopping block. Stalin's favorite linguist, Nikolai Marr, projected that all languages, with the exception of Russian, would eventually disappear. Coercion was applied to make that happen – hence the mass murder of Ukraine's intelligentsia and political leadership. The loss of life was unfathomable.

Winston Churchill, who met with Stalin during and after World War II, quoted him as saying that the war over collectivization was harder even than the effort against Hitler: "[It was] a terrible struggle in which [we] had to destroy 10 million. It was fearful. Four years it last-

ed." Privately, Stalin apologist Walter Duranty cited the same number of victims; so does historian Robert Conquest.

So there it is: two genocidal dictators, Joseph Stalin and Saddam Hussein. Only not everyone agrees. As *The Ukrainian Weekly* and others have pointed out, the Bush administration is blocking S. Res. 202 "expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the genocidal Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933" because of objections to the term "genocide" in describing Stalin's policies in Ukraine. Apparently, it's doing so in deference to Russia and Turkey.

So in a bizarre twist, the same administration that's building a case for genocide against Saddam is sheltering Stalin from the same charge. To put this in perspective, imagine a president blocking a congressional Holocaust resolution because Germany or Pakistan didn't approve of the word "genocide"? He would look worse than absurd, and the political damage would be devastating.

Looking at Stalin's rule in Ukraine without a political filter, it's hard to argue it wasn't genocide, particularly compared to Saddam's record in Iraq. Just consider: 5,000 Kurds were killed in Halabja. On average, that many Ukrainians and more died every day during Stalin's collectivization campaign. And that went on for four years.

After decades of cover-up and denial, the Senate resolution on the Famine is not exactly a fringe issue. Thirty-two of 100 senators are co-sponsors, including 10 of the 11 Jewish senators. Yet the Bush administration still insists on blocking it. Why? No doubt, the president has been advised to defer to Russia because of its nuclear status, its veto in the U.N. Security Council, and of course the insights the country has on Iraq after a long and close relationship with Saddam. Turkey, a NATO ally, has its own objections related to the Armenian Genocide. It might be distasteful, but blocking S. Res. 202 is politically necessary. Domestic political repercussions will likely be minimal: states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois and Florida could be well decided by a handful of votes, but Ukrainian Americans are likely to be accommodating, so not to worry.

Is that the thinking? I don't know. The Bush administration hasn't explained. But from where I sit, the president is ill-served by those advising him on this issue. Pursuing a genocide case against Saddam, while bowing to other countries' flawed thinking on Stalin's far more egregious crimes, turns the Baghdad trial into something politically expedient, rather than one with a moral basis. Ultimately, it undermines the case against Saddam. Just as ominously, absolving Stalin of genocide because that's what the Kremlin wants, emboldens hard-liners steering Russia back to the days of the commissars.

When President Bill Clinton was in Kyiv, he didn't need Russia's permission to place a wreath at the Famine Memorial; nor did President George H. W. Bush ask Germany if it was okay to place one at Babyn Yar. George W. Bush should not be looking to Moscow or Ankara for permission to state the obvious: Stalin's Famine policy in Ukraine was genocide. End of discussion. Now what about Saddam Hussein? Why he's a regular Joseph Stalin.

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

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### "Genghis Khan with a telephone"

Who were Stalin's comrades? Who were Stalin's victims? According to Simon Montefiore's "Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar," they were usually one and the same.

Being Stalin's closest confidante, an old Bolshevik, a fellow revolutionary, a personal secretary, a close family or social friend, even a son or a wife, meant nothing. All were expendable. No one was safe. All were suspect. One could break bread with Stalin one day and disappear the next.

A charming cruelty devised by Stalin was to arrest a family member of one of his close colleagues and expect that co-worker to remain loyal and to continue working as if nothing had happened. Thus it was that Viacheslav Molotov's Jewish wife was sent to the gulag and Lazar Kaganovich was forced to turn against his innocent brother, who committed suicide as a result.

Most of us know that Stalin was an unpredictable sadist who loved to play with his victims as a cat will sometimes play with a mouse it has caught. "What greater superiority and control over another person is there?" asked psychoanalyst Erich Fromm in his classic study "The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness."

Having thoroughly researched Stalin's personal papers and interviewed the children and grandchildren of his closest associates, Mr. Montefiore provides more details about the man than we really wanted to know. We learn, for example, that Stalin was bright, had a phenomenal memory, was an intellectual of sorts, was a voracious reader of Western literature whose favorite book was James Fenimore Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans," was charming, warm and cuddly on occasion, had a fine singing voice, hated to change clothes, and remained a lifestyle Georgian all of his life. He regularly checked his daughter's homework; his favorite painting was Repin's "The Zaporozhian's Letter to the Sultan"; his favorite flower was the mimosa; he suffered from tonsillitis; and he kept Lenin's death mask on a wall in his living quarters, "where it was illuminated like an icon with a burning lamp." He could be kind to his subordinates, rewarding them with Buicks for their private use and sending them to Europe for medical treatment if necessary. He also enjoyed listening to Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, as well as American jazz.

Just about the time the reader begins to warm to Stalin, Mr. Montefiore reminds us of the evil that Stalin created, sustained and enjoyed. Tsar Ivan the Terrible was Stalin's heroic model. "The Terror was not just a consequence of Stalin's monstrosity," writes the author, "but it was formed, expanded and accelerated by his uniquely overpowering character, reflecting his malice and vindictiveness. ... The greatest delight," he told Lev Kamenev, "is to mark one's enemy, prepare everything, avenge oneself thoroughly and then go to sleep." Stalin, the terrorist apparition, the man Leon Trotsky once described as "Genghis Khan with a telephone," prowls every page of the Montefiore book.

The chapter titled "Trains Full of Corpses: Love, Death and Hysteria" is devoted to Stalin's man-made famine in Ukraine. During the summer of 1932, as millions were suffering an agonizing death

in Ukraine, food was plentiful in Sochi, where Stalin and his family were vacationing. On June 6, 1932, he demanded that deadlines for grain deliveries should be met with no deviations. He ignored Ukrainian Soviet leaders' pleas for relief. Ukraine, he said, "has been given more than it should get." Kaganovich, patrolling Ukraine, "was unmoved," writes Montefiore. "He was more outraged by the sissy leaders there." Revolts in Ukraine frightened Stalin and he demanded that Ukraine be brought to heel.

Nadya Alliyeva, 22 years younger than Stalin, and mother of his two children, Vasily and Svetlana, was horrified by Stalin's brutality and begged him to help the starving of Ukraine. Stalin was outraged by her interference, but Nadya persisted. It all came to a head at a festive banquet on November 8, 1932. Stalin raised his glass to toast the destruction of the "enemies of the state" and noticed that Nadya had not raised her glass. "Why aren't you drinking?" he called over truculently, aware that she and Bukharin shared a disapproval of his starvation of the peasants," writes Mr. Montefiore. Nadya ignored him. Enraged, Stalin tossed an orange peel at her and flicked a cigarette in her direction. "Hey you," he shouted, "Have a drink!"

"My name isn't 'hey!'" she screamed as she stormed out of the room. A few hours later Nadya committed suicide.

Stalin's gruesome grandees – Molotov, Kaganovich, Khrushchev, Voroshilov, Malenkov, Beria, Bulganin, Mikoyan and countless others who made cameo appearances in his court (Kamenev, Zinoviev, Bukharin, Kirov, Yagoda, Yezhov) only to be eliminated by the exalted exterminator himself – were shoulder deep in innocent blood. They turned on their compatriots, signed their death warrants and approved death quotas for millions throughout the USSR, all to gain Stalin's approval. They were very busy. In one day alone, November 12, 1938, Stalin and Molotov signed 3,167 execution orders. "The responsibility," Mr. Montefiore writes, "lies with the hundreds of thousands of officials who ordered or perpetrated the murders. Stalin and his magnates enthusiastically, recklessly, almost joyfully, killed, and they usually killed more than they were asked to kill. None were ever tried for these crimes."

Stalin knew that he and his murdering magnates would never be called to account for their genocide. "Who's going to remember all of this ruffraff in 20 years' time?" he asked.

"No one," Molotov agreed. "The people understand you, Joseph Vissarionovich, they understand and they support you," he replied.

The lives of Stalin's gangster circle are chronicled throughout the book. With the exception of Beria, they stood around the death bed of the "supreme pontiff of their international creed" and wept. "Perhaps 20 million had been killed," writes Mr. Montefiore, "28 million deported, of whom 18 million had slaved in the gulags. Yet after so much slaughter, they were still believers."

The USSR was the devil's workshop and if ever evil personified walked the earth, it was Stalin.

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



## Congressional resolution on elections in Ukraine gains five co-sponsors

WASHINGTON – Five new co-sponsors have signed on to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell's resolution urging the government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent and fair election process for the presidential election on October 31. They are Sens. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.), Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), Russell Feingold (D-Wis.), Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.).

They join Sens. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), Chris Dodd (D-Conn.), Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), John Sununu (R-N.H.) and Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.).

Sen. Campbell (R-Colo.), who is co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, on July 7 wrote a "Dear Colleague" letter to all members of the Senate to seek their co-sponsorship of the measure.

"Your co-sponsorship of S. Con. Res. 106, urging the government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the upcoming presidential election will send a strong and timely message of bipartisan disappointment with the pace and level of democratic reform in Ukraine. The resolution outlines measures the Ukrainian authorities need to take – consistent with their own law and international agreements – for a free, fair, open and transparent election process," wrote Sen. Campbell.

He continued: "Ukraine – a country of 48 million people – remains at a crossroads. Unfortunately, Ukraine's pre-election environment has already been decidedly problematic and of increasing concern to the United States and the international community. During the course of this year I have shared specific concerns with Senate colleagues, particularly in terms of the media. S. Con. Res. 106 focuses squarely on key problem areas, including increasing control and manipulation of the media and attempts by national authorities to limit access to international broadcasting, including

Radio Liberty and Voice of America. Among other concerns are the blatant obstacles to free assembly and a free and fair political campaign, as well as substantial irregularities in several recent elections."

The senator added: "Ukraine's October presidential elections should be a watershed for the future direction of that country of great potential. Ukrainian authorities need to radically improve the election environment if there is to be hope for these elections to meet OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] standards. Having restored the independence of their proud land, the Ukrainian people deserve an opportunity to overcome the legacy of the past, and consolidate democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

S. Con. Res. 106 was introduced by Sen. Campbell on May 5.

An identical resolution on the Ukrainian elections was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.). H. Con. Res. 415 currently has 25 co-sponsors: Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and Tom Lantos (D-Calif.): Doug Bereuter (R-Neb.), Howard Berman (D-Calif.), Mark Udall (D-Colo.), Thaddeus McCotter (R-Mich.), Karen McCarthy (D-Mo.), Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), Diane Watson (D-Calif.), Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Cass Ballenger (R-N.C.), James Leach (R-Iowa), Dana Rohrabacher (R-Colo.), Edward Royce (R-Calif.), Jo Ann Davis (R-Va.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Dan Burton (R-Ind.), Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.), Steve Chabot (R-Ohio), Chris Bell (D-Texas), Peter King (R-N.Y.).

It has cleared the House International Relations Committee and is in the process of being scheduled for a vote by the full House.

## S. Res. 202: an update

Below is a list of the current co-sponsors of Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell's Senate Resolution 202, the resolution on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine that unequivocally calls the Famine a genocide, which was introduced by the Colorado Republican on July 28, 2003. The senators are listed in the order in which they signed on as co-sponsors; new sponsors are indicated by an asterisk. At present the resolution's sponsors include 12 Republicans and 21 Democrats.

The measure, whose official title is "A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the genocidal Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933," was referred to the Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations on July 28, 2003, where it has been stalled.

George Voinovich (R-Ohio)  
Mike DeWine (R-Ohio)  
George Allen (R-Va.)  
Richard Durbin (D-Ill.)  
Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.)  
Norm Coleman (R-Minn.)  
Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.)  
Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.)  
Joe Biden (D-Del.)  
Arlen Specter (R-Pa.)  
Russ Feingold (D-Wis.)  
Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.)  
Rick Santorum (R-Pa.)  
Jon Corzine (D-N.J.)  
Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.)

Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)  
John Kerry (D-Mass.)  
Carl Levin (D-Mich.)  
Wayne Allard (R-Colo.)  
Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.)  
Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.)  
Mark Dayton (D-Minn.)  
Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.)  
Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.)  
Mary Landrieu (D-La.)  
Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.)  
Susan Collins (R-Maine)  
Patty Murray (D-Wash.)  
Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.)  
John McCain (R-Ariz.)  
Herb Kohl (D-Wis.)  
James Inhofe (R-Okla.)\*

NB: Of the 19 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, 10 are co-sponsors – Republicans Allen, Voinovich and Coleman, and Democrats Biden (the ranking minority member), Sarbanes, Boxer, Kerry, Feingold, Corzine and Dodd – of S. Res. 202, while nine committee members – Republicans Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), Chuck Hagel (Neb.), Lincoln Chafee (R.I.), Sam Brownback (Kan.), Michael Enzi (Wyo.), Lamar Alexander (Tenn.) and John Sununu (N.H.), and Democrats Bill Nelson (Fla.) and Jay Rockefeller (W.Va.) – are not. Sen. Lugar is the Foreign Relations Committee chairman.

## Foreign policy...

(Continued from page 1)



**Ambassador Richard Holbrooke briefs Ukrainian American leaders on U.S.-Ukraine relations.**

Republic, Hungary and the others would be in NATO today without our pressure?" he asked. "Absolutely not. We can even exert pressure on EU membership if the administration in Washington is respected."

But that is not the case with the current administration, he said, pointing to the incident at the recent NATO meeting in Istanbul, when President George W. Bush called on the EU to accept Turkey as a member.

"He got slammed by the Europeans," Mr. Holbrooke said. "He got attacked across the board" for meddling in their affairs.

When President Clinton and he made that same call some 50 times at different venues in the past, "nobody ever attacked Clinton for interference. In fact, the Turks welcomed him as a close friend," he said.

### Alienating Europeans

"What's the difference?" he asked. "We have an administration in Washington now which has so alienated and angered the European leadership that even when the president of the United States says something that is a consensus American position – and what Bush said was exactly what Clinton said – he gets

an adverse reaction."

"John Kerry won't have that problem," Mr. Holbrooke said.

But the next government in Kyiv must state Ukraine's intention to join NATO "in a clear and unambiguous way," he continued, and it must understand that NATO will take into account its internal issues. "And they will be taken into account," he said, reminding the audience about how the Clinton administration "bumped" Slovakia off the list because of internal policies of Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, whom Mr. Holbrooke describe as "one ugly thug."

"Therefore, we should put maximum pressure on the government to hold open and fair elections, to monitor them and to work with them on transparency and dealing with corruption," Mr. Holbrooke said.

"My own view is that Ukraine should look [toward] both East and West. They cannot remain in the future what they were for the last thousand years," he said. "The rest of Europe has to think of them as European. And they need to be part of the European Union for obvious economic, psychological and cultural reasons, and they should be part of NATO so that never again will they have to face a threat from Moscow."

### "Blind check" for Putin

Ambassador Holbrooke accused the Bush administration of subordinating its support for Ukraine "to the blind check for Vladimir Putin."

"I have no objection to improving U.S. relations with Russia, but not at the expense of the neighborhood," he underscored.

When he was in Kyiv – his third trip in 21 years – Mr. Holbrooke said he met with President Kuchma, who assured him that he would not run again for president and again stated his government's intention to join NATO. His prime minister and ruling party presidential candidate, Viktor Yanukovich, however, would not state his position on NATO membership, presumably because of political considerations in eastern Ukraine.

Mr. Holbrooke said he did not have a chance to meet with the main opposition presidential candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, who was out of the country, but he did meet with Borys Tarasyuk and other leaders of his group.

## Spread of HIV-AIDS in Ukraine is "catastrophic," says Holbrooke

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Briefing representatives of Ukrainian American organizations here on July 20 about his recent trip to Ukraine, Richard Holbrooke, the veteran diplomat now advising the John F. Kerry presidential campaign, made a special appeal to them on a subject they do not frequently address: the alarming spread of HIV-AIDS in Ukraine.

Using such terms as "alarming," "tragic" and "catastrophic," he called on them to do all in their power to convince the government and its agencies and non-governmental organizations in Ukraine to take the spread of AIDS seriously.

Ambassador Holbrooke, who also serves as president of the Global Business Coalition on HIV-AIDS, presented the latest data on the spread of that disease and asked Ukrainian community representatives to do the math along with him:

• With a population of under 50 mil-

lion, Ukraine has about 460,000 HIV-positive cases, or about 1 percent of the population.

• China, which along with India was singled out at a recent international conference on HIV-AIDS in Bangkok for the critical situations there, has 1.3 billion people, or about 65 times the population of Ukraine, and 1 million of them are HIV-positive – only twice the number of Ukraine.

"You can do the math. That means that Ukraine is 32 times as infected as China," he said. And its growth rate is worse than in Africa. Those who are infected in Ukraine – sailors, prostitutes and intravenous drug users – constitute what he called "a perfect trifecta to turn this from 1 percent into a major, major crisis, which will wreck the economy of Ukraine."

Two important indicators about Ukraine have come out recently, he said: it had the world's highest economic

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## Donetsk Oblast...

(Continued from page 1)

read: "The holy father requested that his sympathy be expressed to the relatives and friends of the victims, as well as to the authorities."

Cardinal Sodano's message also noted: "While [the pope] assures you of his fervent prayers for the repose of the souls of the deceased and for consolation for the wounded and all those who are suffering as a result of this serious accident, he sends you a special apostolic blessing as a sign of his spiritual closeness."

Ukraine's mines are considered to be the most dangerous in the world due to lack of respect for safety procedures, high concentrations of methane, and antiquated equipment.

The Krasnolymansk mine is considered to be one of the country's most dangerous mines due to the high concentrations of methane. Three years ago a methane explosion there killed nine miners. While it is one of the most dangerous, it is also one of the most profitable mines and extracts approximately 10,000 tons of coal daily.

This latest disaster brings the death toll in Ukraine's mines to at least 448 deaths in accident since Ukraine gained its independence in 1991, whereas the total number of deaths is over 3,700, according to the State Labor Protection

Committee, with 267 deaths in 2003 alone.

After an explosion at the Barakova coal mine in Luhansk in March 2000, in which at least 80 miners were killed, the government developed new and stringent safety regulations for mines, which came into effect in October of that year.

According to the government's 2002 program on increasing safety in Ukraine's mines, of the 190 mines that were operating at that time, 90 percent of them are dangerous due to the possibility of methane explosions, while 60 percent of them have high concentrations of coal dust, which also is highly explosive.

The same document, obtained by The Weekly, indicates that the levels of safety had constantly decreased over the 10-year period from 1991 to 2001. "The volume of methane, extracted using degasification systems, decreased from 590 million cubic meters to 230 million cubic meters per year. The number of mines that are using degasification technologies had decreased from 86 to 45," the document notes.

In an attempt to improve the level of safety in Ukraine's mines, the government announced in 2002, that it planned to spend over 1.3 billion hryv, (about \$253,490,126 U.S.), with the first priority being placed on the improvement of degasification systems in the mines. The work was to be completed by the end of this year.

## Spread of HIV-AIDS...

(Continued from page 8)

growth rate of 11 percent last year as well as the highest growth rate in HIV-AIDS.

"The reason AIDS is the most dangerous health crisis in human history," he explained, "is because it incubates in a person's body for seven to 10 years without any external signs. If you don't know you have it, you're spreading it. And, according to the United Nations, 95 percent of the people who have it don't know they have it."

A person who gets AIDS has two options: either the person dies or lives on anti-retroviral drugs for the rest of his life – at a cost of from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars a year.

"The cost breaks the society," Mr. Holbrooke said.

The Global Business Coalition on HIV-AIDS which he heads will be sending a team to Ukraine in the near future, he said. "But I beg you, as the influentials of the Ukrainian American community, to tell all your friends in Ukraine

that they have to get with the program. And that includes civic organizations, NGOs and the government – which is not doing what it should."

Some individuals and organizations in Ukraine are doing a good job in trying to fight the epidemic, he said, singling out President Leonid Kuchma's daughter, Olena Franchuk, and her Anti-AIDS Foundation, which is running a good public service ad campaign on television, and the international tennis star Andriy Medvedev.

The Global Fund on HIV-AIDS, one-third of which comes from the U.S., budgeted \$95 million for Ukraine, but only \$700,000 of the amount has been distributed because of what he termed "massive misuse and abuse." As a result, the program is now being suspended.

"That is a tragedy," he said. "Ukraine has lost \$95 million that it could have been spending on this because they couldn't get their act together in the government." He added, "This is catastrophic."

"I urge all of you to get involved in this. That is a critical issue," Ambassador Holbrooke said.

## UCCA launches program to educate Ukraine's voters

by Vasyl Pawlowsky

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on July 12 launched its voter education project, "The Power of One." Supported by the National Endowment for Democracy to the tune of \$45,000, the project's goal is to provide voters with information to allow them to make an informed decision when casting their ballots for Ukraine's next president on October 31. This is not the first time the UCCA has conducted such a project, in fact it has done so in every one of the elections that have taken place in Ukraine since independence.

"We have been on ground since July 7, and we have been extremely busy since we arrived," Tamara Gallo-Olexy, one of the project's consultants, told The Ukrainian Weekly.

### Town hall meetings

"Our overall aim of the project is to inform voters of election issues, and we plan on doing this by stimulating public debate at town hall meetings. In doing so we hope to provide the candidates or their representatives [an opportunity] to meet with the voters in order to discuss and debate important issues during the upcoming elections, in addition to providing equal opportunity for all of the candidates during the campaign," Mrs. Gallo-Olexy added.

The project is to focus on 12 oblasts in the south and east of the country, and will be conducted in a public debate format in which presidential candidates or their representatives will have five minutes to present themselves or their candidate's platform.

In addition to the presentation of candidates' platforms, there will be an opportunity for candidates or their representatives to debate one particular question, as well as for participants in the audience to pose questions. In order to stick to the format, and avoid chaos, that can happen at such events, questions that participants want to ask are written down and screened by the moderator during the public discussion, explained Mrs. Gallo-Olexy.

While the project is to be fully carried out in September-October, Ms. Gallo-Olexy stated that the UCCA has made a number of presentations of the project at the local level, inviting the mass media, local NGOs that are doing voter education and mobilization projects during the election, and local officials.

"The feedback we have been receiving has been pretty positive. In fact many of the candidates understand that it is to their advantage to participate in these types of events," Ms. Gallo-Olexy said.

"We explained the whole program to the Central Election Commission," she added. According to Ms. Gallo-Olexy, the idea of the program as well as its concern for the rights of Ukrainian citizens outside of Ukraine was well received by the vice-chairman of the Central Election Commission, Yaroslav Davydovych.

### Voters outside of Ukraine

The UCCA representatives also brought up with the Central Election Commission the fact that the number of Ukrainians living outside of Ukraine is quite substantial. They, too, must have an opportunity to cast their ballots on Election Day, and a comprehensive system must be in place in order to ensure that if they are to vote outside of Ukraine, their names be taken off the electoral list in Ukraine. "The CEC was understanding when we discussed the problems of Ukrainians outside of Ukraine, and they were open to the idea of adding additional polling stations outside of the country, where the demographics demand [it]," Ms. Gallo-Olexy noted.

With 12 oblasts included in the project, there are still a number of other presentations the UCCA has to make in order for the project to be ready to start in September. While there are already 10 candidates registered to run for the presidency, many of the presidential candidates have said it is too early to commit to participating in these town hall meetings, even though that is clearly to their advantage, explained Ms. Gallo-Olexy.

"While meeting with the CEC, Ms. Kristina Lew, another one of the project's consultants, and I also took the time to register as international observers for the election," said Mrs. Gallo-Olexy, adding, "We were the first two observers to register, and we hope that there will be others coming from the U.S. to observe these elections."

### Volunteers are needed

Ms. Gallo-Olexy stated that volunteers interested in acting as observers – with volunteers covering their own travel and accommodations in Ukraine – should contact the UCCA's New York office at (212) 228-6840.

## Congratulations, Graduates!

*Thanks be to God and all our special friends, whose unending encouragement and friendship made this day possible.*

*Congratulations Oksana (Sanya) Huk on your graduation from SUNY New Paltz with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Art, after completion of your internship at Gateway Industries. We wish you continued success in your internship at the Albert Ellis Institute and with your volunteer art therapy program at Rockland Psychiatric. We are also very proud of your work with toddlers and the special art program you designed for these little ones at Roche.*

*We wish you continued success as a NJS finalist at the prestigious International Modeling and Talent Conference.*

*But most of all, we are proud that you are a caring and loving member of our family - and appreciate all the laughter you have brought into our lives.*

*Mom, Roman  
and all those who know and love you.*





## Scholars discuss current status of scholarship, culture and politics in Ukraine



Vasyl Lopukh

Gathered for a presentation at the Shevchenko Scientific Society are (from left): Vasyl Makhno, Mykola Zhulynskyi, Larissa Onyshkevych, Oleh Romaniv, Tatiana Kononchuk and Yevhen Misilo.

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – Four Ukrainian scholars, returning from the 23rd annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects at the University of Illinois in Urbana, made a stopover here on June 26 to share their views of today's Ukraine with a capacity audience at the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) headquarters.

In her opening remarks, NTSh President Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych noted that the society's program coincided with the ceremonies at the Shevchenko monument in Washington, marking the 40th anniversary of its unveiling, and called upon the audience to unite in spirit with those celebrating there.

She recalled the key role that NTSh and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U. S. (UVAN) had played in bringing Taras Shevchenko to Washington. Beginning in 1960, the Shevchenko Memorial Committee of America was chaired by NTSh president Prof. Roman Smal-Stocki, its secretary was Dr. Jaroslaw Padoch, a future NTSh president, while its first vice-president was the president of UVAN, Prof. Oleksander Arkhimovych.

The project of erecting a Shevchenko monument in Washington at first evoked a hostile reaction from the Soviet Union, but eventually led to a positive development – the unveiling of a Shevchenko monument in Moscow. Similarly, the Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia was produced as a reaction to the publication in the diaspora of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, which was sponsored by NTSh, said Dr. Onyshkevych.

Prof. Vasyl Makhno, who chaired the remainder of the proceedings, introduced the four guest speakers. Yevhen Misilo, director of the Ukrainian Archive Center of Documentation and Studies in Warsaw, Poland, is a historian who has authored a number of books on the history of Ukrainian-Polish relations after World War II, in particular on the subject of the "Akcja Wisla." Dr. Mykola Zhulynskyi is director of the Institute of Literature of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU), and twice a former vice-premier of Ukraine. Dr. Oleh Romaniv, president of NTSh in Ukraine, is a corresponding member of NANU. Prof. Tatiana Kononchuk, is a specialist on Ukrainian literature with a focus on the subject of the Holodomor, and editor-in-chief of the private publishing house TVIM INTER in Kyiv.

First to speak was Mr. Misilo, who updated the audience on the status of the Ukrainian archives in Poland, about which he had first reported here on December 7, 2002. Thanks to NTSh sponsorship, Mr. Misilo, with the collaboration of Halyna Svarnyk, an archivist from

Lviv, has already catalogued and micro-filmed the archives of the Lviv NTSh and of the Legion of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen.

Many other archives remain to be studied and catalogued, including those of the Western Ukrainian National Republic, the Galician Army, the army of the Ukrainian National Republic and the Ukrainian Representation to the Polish Parliament.

Mr. Misilo reminded his listeners of the circumstances under which he found the archives in 1982 – they were discarded in a dumpster in Warsaw. He also recalled how he gathered some of the pages scattered by the wind throughout the adjacent park. He reiterated the difficulties he experienced in getting Polish authorities to make these archives available for scholarly research.

In a positive development, he said, the Poles have recently stopped denying the possession of other Ukrainian archives; archives in the city of Wroclaw are now accessible to scholars. Mr. Misilo expressed his disappointment with Ukrainian government officials who, despite his repeated pleas, have refused to demand that Poland return these archives to Ukraine.

Next to speak was Dr. Zhulynskyi, who explained the spiritual and political situation in Ukraine by citing the opinion of the Ukrainian philosopher Viacheslav Lypynsky that the malaise of Ukrainian statelessness was caused primarily by internal and not external factors. According to a recent poll, 48 percent of the population of Ukraine is unhappy about the independence of their country, while 26 percent long for the renewal of the Soviet Union; in Eastern Ukraine, only 5 percent are glad to live in an independent Ukraine. This means that the level of national consciousness in Ukraine is very low, and there doesn't seem to be any improvement in that respect among the younger generation, said Dr. Zhulynskyi.

In 2004, Dr. Zhulynskyi continued, we stand on the threshold of a turning point: either Ukraine is going to become a country with a Ukrainian national face, reflecting Ukrainian history, culture and spirit, or we are going to preserve the status quo, where the government lacks Ukrainian character and is dominated by business interests, which are opposed to democratic change.

Dr. Zhulynskyi said he sees Ukraine's salvation in the election as president of Viktor Yushchenko, a patriotic Ukrainian and a moral person. He feels that in a fair and democratic election the present regime is doomed to failure, but the recent events in Donetsk (where Mr. Yushchenko was prevented from holding a public rally

and in Mukachiv (where the mayoral election was apparently stolen from a member of Mr. Yushchenko's party) indicate that the regime will do everything in its power in order to prevail.

In answer to a question as to what the diaspora could do to help bring about a fair election in Ukraine next fall, Dr. Zhulynskyi answered that it could facilitate the voting by Ukrainian citizens in North America and also send as many observers as possible to monitor the election process in Ukraine.

Dr. Romaniv essentially echoed the views of Dr. Zhulynskyi on the political situation in Ukraine, but he also emphasized the growing Russification in Ukraine's government, NANU, and on TV and popular stage, which has characterized the two terms of President Kuchma. The young generation is brought up without Ukrainian national consciousness; 7 million of Ukraine's most active people are working abroad, running away from their own identity, from themselves, complained Dr. Romaniv. All of these problems stem from the nature of the present regime, which must be changed, said Dr. Romaniv.

He said that he, too, sees Ukraine's salvation in the election of Mr. Yushchenko as its next president – an outcome he considers possible in a fair election. The campaign process, however, is already unfair, as Mr. Yushchenko is practically denied time on television, noted the speaker.

Dr. Romaniv said he would like to see the U. S. government adopt a more principled position with respect to Ukraine's elections by putting pressure on President Kuchma to ensure a fair campaign and election process and by counteracting Russia's interference in that process. A truly Ukrainian state can be

(Continued on page 11)

## Ukrainian Free University is accredited by Ukraine

MUNICH – Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, acting rector of the Ukrainian Free University (UFU), and Dr. Volodymyr Machulin, president of the High Accreditation Commission (VAK – Vyscha Atestatsciyna Komisija), the official agency that accredits institutions of higher learning in Ukraine, signed an agreement that de facto and de jure fully validates all academic degrees of the UFU.

The agreement was brokered by Dr. Anatolii Pohribny, dean of the Faculty of Ukrainian Studies at the UFU and Head of the Ukrainian Writers Union. The signing of the document on May 21 was a culmination of a five-year process of negotiations between the two institutions.

Although the UFU was officially recognized by Ukraine's Ministry of Education as early as November 12, 1992, the VAK had refused to confirm the validity of the University's degrees until now.

The agreement is of great importance for the future of UFU. It will enable qualified graduate students from Ukraine to obtain their academic degrees at the UFU and to make use of the rights and privileges inherent in them, without additional examinations and bureaucratic requirements.

"Inasmuch as some 75 percent of all Ukrainian Free University master's and Ph.D. candidates hail from Ukraine, the importance of the agreement cannot be overestimated. This is especially good news for the numerous UFU graduates who are

already occupying various academic positions in Ukraine," noted Dr. Rudnytzky.

The agreement has an even more far-reaching significance, however. "It strengthens and enhances the role and function of the UFU as a graduate institution of higher learning and as a connective link between Western Europe and Ukraine," Dr. Rudnytzky pointed out. In addition, it integrates the UFU into the Ukrainian academic world.

Thus, the Ukrainian Free University, a university in exile that was founded in 1921 in Vienna and moved later the very same year to Prague, has now been legally admitted into the academic fold of its native country.



Officials of the Munich-based Ukrainian Free University and the Higher Accreditation Commission of Ukraine sign an agreement between the two institutions.



## Lviv dedicates plaque remembering lawyer/political activist Volodymyr Starosolsky



Family and friends of the family of noted lawyer Volodymyr Starosolsky gathered at the plaque unveiling ceremony held in his honor in Lviv.

LVIV – Citizens of Lviv will now always be reminded of Volodymyr Starosolsky (1878-1942) as they pass by his former home, at 14 Copernicus St., where he worked and lived from 1905 through 1918. A plaque honoring the Ukrainian lawyer, sociologist, and civic and political leader was blessed there on May 30 in the presence of 500 onlookers.

Mr. Starosolsky's daughter, Uliana

Starosolsky traveled to Lviv from New York to take part in this unveiling. Ms. Starosolsky spoke of the tablet as a symbolic homecoming for her father, from Siberia where he was exiled in 1939, to his home in Lviv.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society, to which Starosolsky belonged since 1923, organized the effort to erect this memorial symbol. The president of the

Shevchenko Scientific Society in Ukraine, Oleh Romaniv, attended the ceremony, along with Taras Andrusiak, head of the society's Law Commission; Prof. Zoriana Romovska, a national deputy; Petro Franko, head of the Union of Political Prisoners and the Repressed; and former political prisoner Yurii

Shukhevych, who is a relative of the Starosolskys.

The Rev. Mykhailo Kviatkovsky of the Ukrainian Catholic University blessed the tablet and held a requiem service for the repose of Starosolsky's soul. The Slovianka choir of the Blessed Mother sang during this tribute to Starosolsky.



Lviv residents watch the ceremony on Copernicus Street.

## Memorial plaque recalls international bandura promoter

LVIV – On historic Market Square (Ploscha Rynok), on Sunday, June 13, almost five years after the death of Mykola Dosinchuk-Chorny, a memorial plaque was unveiled on the building where he lived in the late 1930s.

Mr. Dosinchuk-Chorny was born in northwestern Ukraine in 1918, but relocated in the early 1930s to Lviv where he became an active participant in the Ukrainian student movement that had begun to fervently assert the rights of Ukrainians then living under Polish rule. He subsequently joined the anti-Soviet Ukrainian underground movement and was forced to flee to the West at the close of World War II.

From his home in New York City, Mr. Dosinchuk-Chorny took up the cause of promoting Ukraine's cultural heritage, devoting his life to popularizing Ukraine's national instrument, the bandura. He established the New York School of Bandura in 1973, and in 1981 launched the publication of a special quarterly, *Bandura Magazine*, dedicated to featuring articles on Ukrainian music history as well as providing a forum for the exchange of information, music, ideas and news among bandurists throughout the world.

He traveled extensively throughout North and South America and Europe to promote the bandura. In the case of Ukrainian communities in South America, Mr. Dosinchuk-Chorny organized visiting instructors and the mass delivery of almost 300 instruments to meet the growing demand among youths to learn how to play Ukraine's unique stringed instrument.

When Ukrainian independence was restored in 1991, he began traveling throughout Ukraine, gathering information about the bandura and the many performers scattered throughout the country, helping them organize and promoting their accomplishments through the press within Ukraine and abroad.

Several dozen people gathered for the unveiling ceremony, which included remarks by Prof. Vasyl Herasymenko of Lviv's Lysenko Music Academy and historian Bohdan Zheplynsky, and bandura performances by acclaimed musicians



Oleh Sozansky and Taras Lazurkevych perform on banduras at the unveiling of a plaque recognizing Mykola Dosinchuk-Chorny.

Lyudmila Posykira, Oleh Sozansky and Taras Lazurkevych. Dr. Dosinchuk-Chorny's daughter, Lydia Matiaszek, who resides in Kyiv, also spoke to the gathering about her father's commitment to promoting the bandura and its rich heritage.

The plaque was designed by Lviv

sculptor Mykola Posykira and architect Mykhailo Fedyk. Building No. 36 on Lviv's historic UNESCO-listed Market Square dates to the Renaissance Period. Prior to the Soviet occupation of Lviv in 1939, it housed *Ukrainska Narodna Torhivlia*, or the Ukrainian People's Trade cooperative association.

Volodymyr Starosolsky was remembered for his participation in the organization of the secession of Ukrainian students from Lviv University; his prominent role as one of the organizers and the first president of the paramilitary Ukrainian Sich Riflemen society; and for his involvement as a lawyer in the defense of Ukrainian political prisoners who fought against the occupation of Ukraine by the Polish regime.

Starosolsky was arrested by the Soviets in 1939 and sentenced to hard labor in Siberia, where he died in 1942.

Members of Plast belonging to the *Lytsari Zaliznoyi Ostrohy* fraternity placed a wreath composed of blue and yellow flowers underneath the memorial plaque. The Slovianka Choir, under the direction of conductor Vasyl Stefanovych, also sang patriotic songs dating back to Starosolsky's period during the solemn ceremony that lasted almost two hours.

Sculptor Oleh Kupustiak and architect Vasyl Kamenschyk, two artists from Lviv, designed the memorial tablet honoring Starosolsky.

*The story above is based on a Ukrainian-language article by Oleh Romaniv that appeared in Svoboda.*

## Scholars discuss...

(Continued from page 10)

built only with the victory of democratic forces, otherwise Ukraine will remain a country of oligarchs with Russian language and culture, concluded Dr. Romaniv.

The last to speak was Prof. Kononchuk, whose topic was "Todos Osmachka in the Context of Contemporary Ukrainian Literature." A poet, novelist and translator, Mr. Osmachka (1895-1962) emigrated after World War II to the U.S., where in the 1950s he wrote several works on the subject of the Holodomor, the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

As a Holodomor researcher, Prof. Kononchuk became interested in Mr. Osmachka's literary heritage and has been republishing his works in Kyiv. She was also instrumental in organizing two scholarly conferences dedicated to Mr. Osmachka in the town of Cherkasy, which is near his birthplace, as well as a celebration of the writer's centennial in 1995, which was marked by NANU.



## International Festival of Satire and Humor organized in Uzhhorod



Oleksander Havrosh

Mykola Horniak (right) receives the humor festival's grand prix.

by Vasyl Pawlowsky

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

UZHHOROD, Ukraine – Over the weekend of July 10-11, under sunny skies and warm temperatures, the First International Festival of Satire and Humor, dubbed “Karpatskyi Slovoblud,” was held at Detsa u Notaria (which loosely translated means A Drink at the Notary's) in Uzhhorod, a restaurant that has gathered somewhat of a cult follow-

ing due to the great food, hospitality and pleasant atmosphere created by its owner.

The festival brought together close to 500 humorists, satirists and guests from throughout the Carpathian region. Participants came from Poland, Slovakia and Serbia making the festival clearly regional, both geographically and ethnolinguistically, as many of the participants presented in their own dialects of the Ukrainian language.

“The whole idea of this festival was to encourage the development of our language and humor, regardless of the different dialects we speak. Actually the seed that was planted nearly two years ago while chatting with Serhii Naboka and Oleksander Kryvenko has finally sprouted and we hope it will grow,” the festival's organizer, Pavlo Chuchka, who also is the owner of Detsa u Notaria told *The Weekly*. (Mr. Naboka passed away in January 2003, and Mr. Kryvenko passed away in April 2003.)

“Furthermore, humor has always played a role in Ukrainian society, as a way of coping with the problems we have faced and continue to face today in our young and independent Ukraine,” he added.

“I am glad that Pavlo has started something like this here in the region,” Yevhen Dudar, well-know Ukrainian humorist and member of the panel of judges told *The Ukrainian Weekly*. As the first festival of its type in the region, it was not without some problems, however. “There definitely has to be some type of pre-selection leading up to the festival. What we had was a marathon! But at the same time we saw some extremely talented individuals present themselves,” Mr. Dudar added.

The festival was divided into three competitive sections, with different time limitations. The first, “People's Author,” allowed 20 minutes for competitors to present their original material in prose, verse, music or a series of miniatures. The second section – whose theme was “Ukrainians – to the moon!” – was limited to between five and 10 minutes and was simply joke telling. The third section had a wedding theme, where the “starosta,” or master of ceremonies, was to keep people entertained during a mock wedding celebration. Mr. Chuchka explained: “We all know that weddings are a time for celebration, and it's during our celebrations that we often hear a great deal of traditionally comical lines.”

Indeed, the festival was a marathon. Having started later than planned, the festival was drawn out and it was not until well after midnight that a decision was announced. The head of the judges panel, actor and humorist Les Poderevlianskyi, announced that Mykola Horniak of Slovakia was awarded the grand prix. “It wasn't easy to select the

winner. We had to at times simply rate the competitors based on the reaction of the audience, and clearly Mr. Horniak had the audience laughing the hardest,” Mr. Poderevlianskyi said during the announcement of the winners.

“We have learned from this experience,” said Mr. Chuchka prior to the awards ceremony held on the second day. “We will work on improving the selection, and ensuring that everyone is kept laughing when they come to the festival next year,” he added.

In addition to the judges' selection of top humorists on Saturday, members of the audience had an opportunity to choose their favorite humorist on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Dudar added, “While there were some organizational problems, there is one young man who caught the attention of the entire audience – the youngest participant from Rakhiv, 15-year-old Ihor Ivaniv.” Mr. Ivaniv received a warm round of applause, while Mr. Dudar presented him with his own two-volume set of humor, encouraging the young man to continue with his writing and develop his talent further; he even offered to act as the young man's mentor.

Mr. Dudar also invited Mr. Horniak to participate next year in a Festival of Humor and Satire in Kyiv to be held, quite appropriately, on April 1.



Humorist Yevhen Dudar, one of the festival's judges.

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## Ukrainians in Texas showcase their culture at Folklife Festival

by Steve Sokolyk

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – The Ukrainian presence in Texas continues to increase as manifested recently by the Ukrainian representation at the 2004 Texas Folklife Festival on June 10-13. The tens of thousands of visitors were once again treated to the flashy costumes, exciting dances and lively music of not one, but two Ukrainian ensembles.

For more than 20 years the Zorya Ukrainian Dancers of Dallas have brought their brand of kozak entertainment to the festival. This year they gave four performances with two entirely different repertoires.

The group debuted “Dubotanets” from Ternopil, as well as a women's dance from Bukovyna, the latter taught by Luba Brewster, an experienced dancer originally from Kyiv.

One show featured a Hutsul suite, and the other was climaxed by a Poltava suite with a sword dance and the Hopak. The 10 juniors and 14 senior dancers – one of

whom is almost 70 – were enthusiastically received by the crowds.

Texas Ukrainians were also fortunate to meet two Ukrainian soldiers studying English at the Defense Language Institute at Lackland Air Force Base.

The Zorya troupe has been the centerpiece of the Dallas-area Ukrainian community for many years. It has drawn many members without Ukrainian connections who simply fell in love with Ukrainian dance and culture. It currently is directed by the father-daughter combination of Andrew and Larissa Chobany.

Making their first appearance at the annual Texas Folklife Festival were the Zhuravli Ukrainian Dancers of Houston under the direction of the Martha Uschak-Noukas, assisted by Erik Heymann. This 21-member group, whose dancers range in age from 11 to 23, is to be commended for the large number of “Fourth Wave” immigrants who populate its ranks.

(Continued on page 25)



## Fourth annual Lemko Vatra in U.S. shows off culture of Lemkivschyna



The Pid Oblachkom ensemble performs on stage.

by Diana Howansky

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Only one member of the Ukrainian Canadian quartet Metelytsya has Lemko roots, but that did not stop the group from singing Lemko folk songs with the rest of the performers. “Native Lemko land, green Carpathian mountains, no matter where a Lemko is, he has to remember you,” Metelytsya and the other performers sang together during the finale of the fourth annual Lemko Vatra, a cultural festival that took place on June 25-27 at the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) resort in Ellenville, N.Y.

Perhaps the Metelytsya singers could not fully feel the meaning of the song’s lyrics, which describe the pain of being forced from one’s homeland, as the Lemkos were during and after World War II. But the singers – Anastasia Baczynskyj, Oksana Nahirna, Anita Tuz and Katherine Tuz – still expressed an attachment to Lemko songs and music, chiming in one after another after one of their sets.

“We started singing Lemko songs right away. It was the stuff that brought us together and worked the best. It got us excited that it was working,” said one member of the group, which has been singing a cappella together since October 2002.

“They’re catchy. They catch a person’s ear. The words have a lot of meaning. A lot of variety – from happy, fun songs to songs about leaving your country,” a second added.

“They also attract people, even non-Lemko. It’s something different,” another said.

Fostering such appreciation of Lemko culture among both Lemko Americans and the greater Ukrainian American community is the goal of the Vatra, which, this year, featured two days of performances, Lemko memorabilia for sale and the groundbreaking of a commemorative chapel.

Coordinated by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna (known by its Ukrainian acronym as OOL), the fourth annual Lemko Vatra included a range of musical performers from Ukraine (Anytchka, Roman Cymbala), Canada (Karpaty trio, Pid Oblachkom ensemble, Metelytsya) and the United States (Vidlunia ensemble, Lviviany ensemble, Oros sister duet, Pawlyshyn sister duet, and Maky dance group.)

Anytchka, as the Lviv singer Anna Tcheberentchyk is known, performed for the first time at the U.S. Vatra, after appearing in past Lemko festivals in Poland, Canada and Ukraine. Ms. Tcheberentchyk’s family, originally from the Lemko village of Owczary, was relocated to the Ukrainian SSR as part of the Polish-Soviet agreement to exchange Polish and Ukrainian populations in 1944-1946. (A lecture on the topic of the 1944-1946 deportations was presented at this year’s Vatra by editor and journalist Osip Roshka.)

Ms. Tcheberentchyk, who sings Lemko folk songs in a contemporary style, said she remembers her grandmother’s stories of relocation and remains influenced by her roots.

“Every Lemko song is close to me,” Ms. Tcheberentchyk said in Ukrainian. “The history is interesting because it deals with my roots. To explain the feeling is difficult, unless you’ve lived it. For someone to tell you to take 25 pounds on your back, and, ‘go!’”

The ensemble Pid Oblachkom, meanwhile, noted that the Vatra in Ellenville had led to the creation of their group. After attending an earlier Vatra, the members of the ensemble – Iwona Kowal, Ola Polanski, Hala Cechowska, Beata Bazylewicz – decided to begin performing together and adopted their name from the Lemko writer Seman Madzalan’s piece about love, they said.

“The program was wonderful this year. Even on Labor Day weekend, they don’t have a program like this,” Vasyl Harhaj, the OOL organizational head of the Vatra, said in Ukrainian. Dressed in traditional Lemko costume – a blue, decorated vest (known as a “liabyk” or “drushliak”) and white embroidered pants (known as “kholosni”) – Mr. Harhaj served as the festival’s “starosta,” or village elder, hosting the event.

“[The Vatra] is for everyone to gather here. To not forget about us – that Lemkos were, are and will be,” said Mr. Harhaj, who was relocated from his



Vatra performers and organizers (from left), Anita Tuz, Oksana Nahirna, Steven Howansky, Katherine Tuz, Anastasia Baczynskyj, Vasyl Harhaj, Anna Tcheberentchyk, Ania Pregner and Zenon Halkowycz.

native Lemko village of Komancza to northern Poland during Akcja Wisla, the 1947 campaign to resettle and force assimilation upon the Ukrainian minority in Poland.

Members of the younger Lemko generation, Lena Howansky and Andriy Khomyk,

also wished to keep the Lemko spirit alive, but by designing and selling T-shirts with humorous Lemko themes. One T-shirt, for example, depicted a bottle of “kropka,” an ether drink that was popular in the Lemko region and read “Absolut Lemko,” while another depicted a rabbit in Lemko folk costume saying, “Hug me, I’m Lemko.”

“I wanted to produce something fun and positive, and to instill Lemko pride, which is what the shirts are all about. You literally wear them on your chest and show that you’re Lemko,” Ms. Howansky said. “I also wanted to advertise our Vatra, by making a nice souvenir that people could take away. The Vatra in Ellenville is in its beginning stages and has a lot of potential, so, when people wear the T-shirts, they’ll help to spread the word to Lemkos and other Ukrainians about it. My idea was that the T-shirts would help carry the Lemko spirit beyond just the three days of the Vatra.”

An additional way in which the OOL is trying to preserve Lemko culture and histo-

did not attend the Lemko festival, particularly to celebrate the new chapel plans.

“It’s fun to be Lemko. You party. You’re with your own people. And you feel kinship. The festival will continue because it’s part of our mission statement to perpetuate Lemko culture,” Mr. Halkowycz said. “I was very much disappointed, however, that we didn’t see the people who have asked the Lemko people to support them. Whenever there’s a demonstration, we’re told, ‘This is your national responsibility.’ We were hoping to see some of these Ukrainian patriots come and party with the Lemkos and support a noble cause – the building of the chapel to commemorate Akcja Wisla.”

Close to 1,000 people attended the Vatra, Mr. Halkowycz said. Many stated generally positive opinions about the festival, which also included a soccer game, pig roast and Saturday night dance, or zabava.

“It’s very nice. I hope they will not change this Lemko festival to a Ukrainian festival,” said Helena Ksenyycz, who traveled from Mississauga, Ontario, to the



The audience watches a musical performance at the Lemko Vatra, as the symbolic bonfire burns.

ry is through the building of a chapel at the SUM resort to commemorate the victims of Akcja Wisla. Sunday liturgy at the Vatra took place at the site where the chapel will stand and where the ground has already been broken, followed by a special blessing for the future structure. The chapel, which architect Teodor Bodnar said would

Vatra and whose family was originally from the Lemko village of Binczarowa before being relocated through Akcja Wisla. “I would like to see here more Lemko traditions, because it’s my Lemko tradition from childhood,” she added.

Although incomparable to the Lemko Vatra held annually in the mountains of the Lemko region in the village of Zdynia, the Vatra in Ellenville is improving, said Walter Maksimovich, who operates the website [www.lemko.org](http://www.lemko.org).

“It’s a good gathering point for me to meet other people face to face,” Mr. Maksimovich said, “I feel that a great injustice was done to our people. Even though we’re not well organized, we don’t have access to media, we’re doing the best we can.”

Praise also came from non-Lemkos, such as Atanazy Steforak of Lehighton, Pa. – a Hutsul.

“I have to congratulate the Lemkos,” said Mr. Steforak, who came to the Vatra with his Lemko wife. “They keep together better than the Boykos or the Hutsuls.”

And, therefore, although the words of the poignant, last song performed by Metelytsya and the rest of the performers at the Vatra say, “It will never be, as it once was for me,” events such as the Lemko Vatra inspire hope that Lemko culture will be passed on.

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For more information about the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna readers may contact Mr. Halkowycz at (201) 692-1471. For more information about the Lemko Vatra performance, contact Mr. Harhaj at (973) 772-3344.

take four to six weeks to build, will be created in the wooden, vertical style of traditional Lemko churches.

OOL President Zenon Halkowycz, while expressing pride in the Vatra, also noted disappointment that more people from the greater Ukrainian community



## Soyuzivka hosts USCAK-East tennis tournament



Trophy winners during closing ceremonies.

by George Sawchak

KERHONKSON – Soyuzivka was again the site of the USCAK- East Singles and Doubles Tennis Tournament held during the Fourth of July weekend. The 48th annual event attracted 35 players, 40 entrants, making it one of the best attended USCAK-East tournaments in recent years.

Play was conducted in four singles groups, in men's doubles and in mixed doubles. Dennis Chorny was declared the men's singles champion when his finals opponent, Andriy Charchalis, could not compete because of an injury incurred during his semifinal win over George Sawchak. In the semi-finals, Chorny

defeated Steve Sosiak 6-0, 6-3, and in the quarters, he beat Mykola Nalyvajko 6-2, 6-2.

Nor was there a final in the women's group. Thirteen-year-old Katrusia Charchalis was declared the women's champion when her opponent, Luba Voinov, failed to show for the finals. In the semifinals, Charchalis defeated Tanya Petrykevych 6-2, 6-1, while Voinov defeated Lidia Zablocka 6-0, 6-0. In the quarter-final round, Petrykevych beat Natalka Troyan 6-2, 6-1, and Voinov won over Svetlana Goletz 6-2, 6-1.

Defending USCAK champion Ivan Durbak became the USCAK-East senior champion when he defeated George Hrabec in the finals 6-1, 6-2. In the semis, Durbak beat Milan Obradovych 6-0, 6-1, and in the quarters he beat Walter Dziwak 6-1, 6-1. Hrabec had a harder route to the finals, defeating George Petrykevych in the semis 7-5, 6-3 and Iwan Shwanyk in the quarterfinals 6-1, 6-0.

Partners Ihor Lukiw and Steve Sosiak became this year's USCAK-East doubles champions when in the finals they defeated the Kusina brothers, Yuri and Bohdan, 6-1, 6-1. In the semis, Sosiak/Lukiw won over Oleksiuk/Legeckis 6-0, 6-4, and the Kusinas beat the young pair of

Stroynick/Kostyk 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. The latter pair advanced with the score of 3-6, 0-5 after Yuri Kolb and George Popel decided not to play the next round of the tournament.

The mixed doubles championship went to Vera Popel and George Sawchak. In the finals they defeated the young pair of Katrusia Charchalis and Andriy Charchalis 6-4, 6-1, and in the semis the husband and wife team of Svetlana and Peter Goletz, 6-0, 6-3. The Charchalis team defeated Laryssa and George Hrabec, the latter winning a marathon match over Tanya and George Petrykevych 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

The men's consolation winner was Mykola Nalyvajko, who defeated Bohdan Kutko 7-6, 4-0 retired. The women's consolation tournament went to Svetlana Goletz with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Lidia Zablocka.

The tournament was hosted by the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) of New York, and was conducted by the USCAK tennis committee: Messrs. Popel, Hrabec and Sawchak, director.

The next Ukrainian tennis tournament this year will be USCAK's National Singles Championships held also at Soyuzivka during the Labor Day weekend, September 4-6.

## Chornomorska Sitch marks two anniversaries: an 80th and a 35th

by Omelan Twardowsky

NEWARK, N.J. – The Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch of Newark, N.J., which this year is celebrating its 80th anniversary, is well-known in the diaspora and in Ukraine as a society that has made an important contribution to the treasury of Ukrainian sports in the diaspora.

In a number of sports, Sitch has developed many outstanding athletes, some of whom were selected to U.S.A. national teams and league all-star teams as well as representative teams of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada. Several of Sitch's former leading athletes have become coaches, particularly in soccer, and have been working in this capacity at American high schools and colleges.

In past decades Chornomorska Sitch teams have won a number of championships in their respective leagues, earlier in baseball, basketball and bowling, and later in soccer, volleyball, swimming, hockey and other sports – proof of which can be seen in the permanent exhibition of the championship trophies and

certificates displayed at the Sitch home in Newark. Some of these awards have been transferred to the Museum of the Sports Glory of Ukraine in Kyiv.

A significant number of the awards was won by the graduates of the Chornomorska Sitch Sports School, which has been functioning for the last 35 years. The Sports School was founded in 1969, in the club's heyday, when its members were reaping many successes. The Sitch Sports School came to accept students from other Ukrainian American sports clubs. For the first several years, many groups of youngsters arrived at the Sports School from Yonkers, Chicago, Detroit and other U.S. cities. After the first decade, this enthusiasm of distant sports clubs waned and their participation declined.

Subsequently, the Sports School has introduced various improvements in its instructional program, in which, in addition to Sitch members, youngsters from different parts of the U.S. and Canada, and more recently from Ukraine, continued to participate on their own initiative.

This year's Sitch Sports School, held at the Verkhovyna/MountainView resort,



Participants of the 1989 Sitch Sports School at Verkhovyna.

is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Chornomorska Sitch.

Many devoted individuals have contributed to Sitch's functioning and development over the past 35 years. They are, first of all, the Sports School's founders and directors, Myron Stebelsky and Omelan Twardowsky, as well as Marika

Bokalo, Alexander Napora and Walter and Slava Wasylak. Many outstanding instructors have worked at the School for many years, among them Eugene Chyzowych, Ihor Chupenko, Prof. Ostap Stromecky, Ihor Zyga, Volodymyr

(Continued on page 17)



Chornomorska Sitch's 1972 sports camp participants, coaches and staff.



## Plast day camp brings 119 children age 4-6 to Soyuzivka



Sophia Bilinsky Shevchuk

"Tabir Ptashat" campers and counselors during the day camp's first session.



Sophia Bilinsky Shevchuk

Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych with her group of young dancers.

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – For 16 years now the Plast sorority Pershi Stezhi has been organizing "Tabir Ptashat," a Ukrainian-language day camp affiliated with Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, here at the Ukrainian National Association resort Soyuzivka.

This year the camp, which is geared toward children between the ages of 4 and 6, had two one-week sessions: the first (June 27-July 4) had 69 campers – a record number; the second (July 4-11) had 50 participants.

As usual, these youngest campers flocked to Soyuzivka with their parents, plus siblings, as well as grandparents and other relatives. Thus, the resort was at full capacity and humming.

Petrusia Paslawsky directed the first session with the assistance of 11 troop leaders and 21 additional counselors/volunteers, all of whom are parents of the children participating in the camp. Neonila Sochan, the founder of "Tabir Ptashat," was camp administrator.

The camp program included the traditional activities for "ptashata" (as the little campers are known) – storytelling,

games, arts and crafts, singing, nature hikes, folk dancing and the like – all conducted in the Ukrainian language with the ultimate goal of introducing the children to their Ukrainian heritage.

At the conclusion of the weeklong camp, the children, dressed in embroidered Ukrainian blouses and shirts, performed a special program of Ukrainian songs and dances in the Veselka auditorium.

Immediately afterwards, the children and the camp's leaders took a group photo and the traditional "Tabir Ptashat" closing ceremony was held. In attendance was UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich, who briefly addressed the gathering.

During the second session of "Tabir Ptashat," a similar program was directed by Katria Sos-Hayda, along with 12 troop leaders, 13 counselors and camp administrator Theresa Ben.

The camp's theme was "Our Earth," and the majority of the week's activities were related to that topic. Campers also worked on creating a camp scrapbook focusing on their troops, each of which,

in keeping with "Tabir Ptashat" tradition, was named for a bird. On the final evening of camp all enjoyed a bonfire featuring a distinctive program related to the camp's activities, followed by the closing ceremonies.

The U.S. National Plast Command's director of "novatstvo" (the youngest Plast members), Ulana Slabicky, paid a visit to the "ptashata" during the camp's second session.

Another special visitor to week 2 of "Tabir Ptashat" was Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj, who welcomed the campers and their families at the association's resort. During the UNA chief executive's visit, as an expression of their deep appreciation and love for this unique family resort, "Tabir

Ptashat" administrators presented a check for \$500 earmarked for the purchase of two commemorative bricks in support of Soyuzivka's renaissance.

"Tabir Ptashat" has been held annually at Soyuzivka since 1989, when the camp was founded. During that first year, the camp held only one weeklong session, with 58 children attending. The idea for the camp came from Mrs. Sochan, who was then the leader of the Pershi Stezhi. She dubbed her concept "A Grandma's Project" and declared the camp a gift to Plast on the occasion of the sorority's 40th anniversary. "Tabir Ptashat" has been going strong ever since, quickly expanding to two sessions per year to meet the demand of parents who wish to enroll their children in its program.



Ihor Hayda

The "Diateli" (Woodpeckers) troop with their counselors Roksolana Hayda and Michael Lykthey.



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## Will contradictions...

(Continued from page 2)

declared the winner. However different Ukrainians are from the Serbs and the Georgians, the authorities nevertheless fear history repeating itself. Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn suggested that perhaps it would be better to have the opposition win the presidency rather than face an anti-oligarch revolution.

The prevailing mood is a product of two factors. First, Ukrainians fear widespread election fraud. In the April mayoral elections in Mukachiv, the Our Ukraine candidate won, but the Territorial Election Commission declared a pro-Kuchma candidate victorious. Despite the adoption of two critical parliamentary resolutions, not a single person involved in the Mukachiv fraud has been punished. Not surprisingly, three-quarters of Ukrainians do not believe the presidential elections will be free and fair. To prevent a repeat of Mukachiv, Mr. Yushchenko's supporters believe they need to win in the first round and avoid a run-off. If the authorities repeat their Mukachiv tactics, violence between opposition observers and skinheads deployed to disrupt the balloting will be inevitable.

Second, there are at least two reasons to doubt that Mr. Yanukovich will win. One reason is that he is the authorities' candidate in a country where the authorities are widely despised. Within Ukraine and abroad it is widely believed that Mr. Yanukovich could only win in a rigged election. Mr. Lytvyn advised Mr. Yanukovich that it would have been better if he was an independent candidate, rather than one supported by the authorities.

Another reason is Mr. Yanukovich himself. Mr. Yanukovich's circle in Kyiv consists of the same cronies he had as chairman of the Donetsk Oblast from 1997 to 2002. These "advisors" were involved in numerous highly unscrupulous activities. The July 2001 murder of Donetsk journalist Ihor Aleksandrov, who had uncovered high-level corruption, remains unresolved. Opposition deputies believe the Donetsk Administration, Procurator's Office, and Internal Affairs Ministry continue to cooperate with organized crime. Aleksandrov's murder took place when Mr. Yanukovich was Donetsk Oblast chairman and the current procurator general, Hennadii Vasiliev, was head of the Donetsk Procurator's Office (Ukraina Moloda, July 7). Mr. Vasiliev is also involved in covering up the murder of opposition journalist Heorhii Gongadze in fall 2000.

Mr. Yanukovich's promises, and those of his Party of Regions, to support free and fair elections, oppose the use of "administrative resources," battle corruption (which he described as higher than in the "worst African countries"), reduce the shadow economy, ensure that everyone is equal before the law and support media freedom are met with total disbelief (Ukrainska Pravda, July 5). These "remain, as before, empty words" (Zerkalo Nedeli, July 3-9).

Mr. Yanukovich is also using "administrative resources" by refusing to go on leave as prime minister. He benefits from continued attacks on the opposition, both public (i.e., attempts to indict Mr. Yushchenko's ally, Yulia Tymoshenko) and in the form of provocations (i.e., fake leaflets, fascists told to trumpet their support for Mr. Yushchenko). A new book launched to coincide with the election campaign includes unfounded allegations of Mr. Yushchenko's corruption (temnik.com.ua, July 7). Despite the illegality of foreigners working for election candidates, Russian "political technologists" are very actively working for the Yanukovich camp.

These fundamental contradictions in Mr. Yanukovich's campaign could be his ultimate undoing.



## Ukraine turns down...

(Continued from page 2)

Kyiv traditionally blames the European Union for the poor state of EU-Ukraine relations. Specifically, Ukraine resents the EU's unwillingness to adopt a NATO-style open-door policy for Ukraine. Yet, while NATO does operate an open-door policy, the Kuchma leadership has not shown any interest in doggedly pursuing membership. The reason is, as former President Leonid Kravchuk has pointed out, that Ukraine – despite its declared intentions – does not really seek NATO membership. The same is probably the case with the EU. “There is no need to look at individuals as there are authorities who do not want to join NATO and under various pretexts says that they do not want us there,” Mr. Kravchuk lamented (Ukrainska Pravda, June 30).

It is far easier for the authorities to claim that Ukraine is “not ready” for NATO membership or that the EU is “unwilling to consider Ukraine as a future member. The alternative would be to pursue domestic reforms, because of the benefits they would bring to Ukraine. In the process, Ukraine would be brought closer to NATO membership, as well as force the EU to change its mind about not giving Ukraine a membership option.

For now, the October presidential election takes precedence over Euro-Atlantic integration. Whether Ukraine will be allowed to join NATO and the EU is not even on the radar screens of President Kuchma and his allies this year. Their only preoccupation is how to survive if challenger Viktor Yushchenko wins the presidential election.

This creates a difficult challenge for Western policy-makers. On numerous occasions prior to the Istanbul meeting, the NATO secretary-general and the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO (PA NATO) repeatedly urged Ukraine to hold free and fair elections and for Mr. Kuchma to leave office, rather than stand for a third term (nato-pa.int). The United States repeatedly raised similar demands.

Ukrainian authorities reacted to the PA NATO statement by denouncing it as “interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.” “Ukraine categorically refuses to accept such a tone,” Vasyl Baziv, deputy head of the presidential administration, advised “our foreign friends” (Ukrainska Pravda, June 11).

While praising Ukraine's military reforms and adaptation to NATO standards, U.S. and NATO officials have severely criticized its democratic shortcomings. This discrepancy flows from personal commitment. In the military field, Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk is committed to NATO membership and pursues policies within his ministry to achieve this goal. Within the political field, President Kuchma's jurisdiction, there is no commitment to the Western values that underpin NATO (and the EU). Ukraine's gradual regression from democracy began in the late 1990s and has worsened this year due to the impending transition to a new presidency.

Thus, Ukraine has a contradictory approach to NATO. While it is meeting

NATO's requirements in the military field, it has a democratic deficit. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer praised Ukraine's military modernization, while advising: “In the first instance it is essential to strengthen political declarations with concrete actions in [Ukraine's] internal political life” (Ukrainska Pravda, April 17).

This approach to NATO makes nonsense of President Kuchma's March 25 decree ordering the State Council on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration to fulfill the 2004 Ukraine-NATO Action Plan. As U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Armitage pointed out, “Democratic elections are the standard that underpins the Ukraine-NATO Action Plan” (Ukrainska Pravda, March 25). Yet, the Ukrainian authorities are only too well aware that their candidate – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich – is unlikely to be able to win a free and fair election; two-thirds of Ukrainians do not even believe the vote will take place.

Bruce Jackson, head of the U.S.-NATO Committee, advised Ukraine to show greater tolerance toward the opposition, halt interference in politics by the Security Service of Ukraine and the State Tax Administration, and improve the status of the independent media (Ukrayinska Pravda, March 15). But, as is often the case in Ukraine's relations with the West, both sides are speaking past each other, as the Ukrainian authorities sincerely believe that freedom of the press already exists in Ukraine. As to temnyky (secret presidential instructions), Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the presidential administration, explained to Istanbul participants, “What you call censorship is in reality state policies” (Ukrainska Pravda, June 29).

Because NATO has an open-door policy and the EU does not, Ukraine's relations with NATO should be far better than those it has with the EU. Yet, this is not the case. Mr. Marchuk repeatedly dampens Ukraine's chances of joining NATO by saying it is unlikely until around 2011-2015. President Kuchma refuses to even give a date, merely saying that Ukraine is not politically and economically ready for NATO membership. NATO officials, such as Douglas Bereuter, head of the PA NATO, and Mr. Jackson, believe otherwise. They have said that Ukraine could join as early as the third round of NATO enlargement, scheduled for 2007. Many Russophile states in the EU, such as France, never supported EU enlargement, and insisted that Ukraine should not join the EU unless Russia is also invited. In NATO the situation is more favorable, as influential member-states actually support Ukraine's membership.

These differing policies and opinions leave a paradoxical situation where NATO and Western governments are stating that Ukraine could join NATO earlier than even Ukrainians themselves thought possible. Usually post-communist states have lobbied for earlier admission while Western governments have advised caution. The Ukrainian case is different because the lack of democratic reforms, which is holding back Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration, benefits President Kuchma and the ruling elites.

## Chornomorska Sitch...

(Continued from page 14)

Kovalov and Roman Balash in soccer; Bohdan Hayduchok, Zenon Stachiw, Nestor Paslawsky, George Sajewych, Ihor Akinshyn and Ihor Rudavsky in volleyball; Bohdan Kuchynsky, Ihor Lukiw, Alexander Terlecky, Yuriy Kolb, Albert Kolb and Andrew Harmaty in tennis; and Andrew Slysh, Gregory Maik, Taissa Bokalo and Ihor Balash in swimming.

In addition to those enumerated, there

were scores of other enthusiasts who worked in different years at the Sports School. Their names are recorded on the pages of the bilingual book on the history of Chornomorska Sitch, titled “Sichovymy Shlakhamy” in Ukrainian and “Ukrainian Sitch – A History” in English.

In addition, Sitch honors the memory of those leading activists who have passed away over the years: Ivan Oryniak, Ihor Olshaniwsky, Peter Semeniuk, Adrian Lapychak and Lida Bokalo.



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would like to inform our members  
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## MARY LESAWYER

Mary, together with her husband, Joseph, chaired the committee honoring Person of the Year and were active members of the Institute for many years.

To Joseph Lesawyer, one of the founding members and Member of the Board, we express our deepest condolences.

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## "Café Ivasiuk" acquaints audience with the life and music of the late compos-

by Halyna Kotovych

EDMONTON – To better acquaint the public with the music and short life of the Ukrainian folk-pop composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk (1949-1979) on the 25th anniversary of his brutal murder, the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta (UMSA) organized a special evening, dubbed "Café Ivasiuk," on Friday, May 14, at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Center in Edmonton.

While enjoying coffee and cake, the guests, who filled the large hall to capacity, listened to singers whose performances alternated throughout several locations in the hall.

The master of ceremonies was Lilia Sukhy, and all texts about Ivasiuk's music, life and importance were written



Ola Myc recites a poem.

by Halia Kotovych. The program was delivered in Ukrainian, but English explanations for those who needed them, as well as brochures about the composer in English, were provided.

After the greetings and introduction by the president of UMSA, Luba Boyko-Bell, a large group of youth from Plast and SUM sang "Chervona Ruta" and "Vodohrai" (guitar, M. Lazurko; accordion, S. Kostiuk). Susan Romaniuk sang "Vidlitaly Zhuravli," 16-year-old Ivasiuk's first song (piano accompaniment, I. Tarnawsky).

Olex Lazurko sang "Kolyskova" to words by Ivasiuk's father, Mykhailo (guitar, M. Lazurko, Olex's father). Sisters Olia and Irene Federkevych sang "Pisnia Bude Pomizh Nas" (piano, I. Tarnawsky). Then the Verkhovyna choir sang the "Ballad about Malvy." (conductor, H. Lazurko; soloist K. Bilash; piano, L. Kaczmar)

Two short excerpts of video from the past followed. First, singer Sofia Rotaru sang the "Ballad of the Violins," as she and a dance ensemble staged a short Bukovynian wedding scene. Then, two singers from the ensemble Smerichka sang "Chervona Ruta" with a guest singer – the author himself. The audience saw Ivasiuk called out by long applause for an additional bow.

Following the video, a male quartet sang "Ya Pidu v Daleki Hory" (T. Zakordonski, M. Lazurko, O. Lazurko, S. Kostiuk). Then Roman Brytan read the words to Ivasiuk's song "Fantasy of May Nights," from which the audience perceived that Ivasiuk had a premonition of misfortune.

Two brothers, Mykola and Andrij Nykyforuk sang Ivasiuk's "Nad Morem" and "Hey, Vy Kozachenky" (H. Tatarenko), which had been a popular song in Ukraine.

Oksana Ostashevy related a short episode about Ivasiuk, a classmate at the



The Verkhovyna Choir in concert.

Lviv Conservatory of Music, and how the militia informed the students that they were looking for Ivasiuk, who had disappeared. The master of ceremonies furnished information about Ivasiuk's murder and funeral. Ola Myc read a poem "Bez Tebe" (B. Stelmakh), written in Ukraine on the 55th anniversary of Ivasiuk's birth.

Among the performers was a composer-producer from Ukraine, Myroslav Levytsky, who had just finished a residence at the Banff Center for the Arts, Alberta. He played two songs of Ivasiuk's on the piano: "Echoes" and "Yellow Leaves." During the second song, Lilia Sukhy read the words in Ukrainian, and Ms. Boyko-Bell, the English translation by Peter A. Rolland.

The last performers were Kharytia Bilash and Olex Lazurko singing "Ya Tvoje Krylo" (guitar, M. Lazurko). The Master of Ceremonies concluded with a few words about Ivasiuk's importance in Ukrainian popular music and Ms. Boyko-Bell thanked

all who had contributed to the evening. A video excerpt of Ms. Rotaru singing "Pisnia Bude Pomizh Nas" completed the program.

Volodymyr Ivasiuk gave much-needed new direction to Ukrainian lyrical music during the communist era of "stagnation." He infused a patriotic message into music, as did Vasyl Symonenko into literature and Alla Horska into art – none of which were to Moscow's liking. However, Ivasiuk not only left beautiful music, but also showed how to be true to one's national roots, and how to draw inspiration from the treasures of one's culture.

"Café Ivasiuk" was a big success due to the enthusiasm and work of all the organizers and performers. Now the Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta is working on future plans whose goal is to ensure that the songs of Ukrainian composers from around the world "will always be with us" as Ivasiuk wrote in one of his songs.



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**Friday Eve., 9/24/04:** Visit of Art Gallery at Coral Gables, and Wine Tasting Seminar.

**Saturday, 9/25/04:** Seminars on The Patriot Act; Medical/Psychiatric Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Doing Business with & Opening a Law Practice in Ukraine; Interpreting Medical Records. Saturday Evening Gala Dinner Banquet.

**Sunday, 9/26/04:** Officers/Board of Governors Meetings, Socializing.

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## State Department unveils new travel website

*Embassy of Ukraine*

KYIV – On July 15, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs released a completely re-designed, more user-friendly update of its Internet site, <http://travel.state.gov>. Visitors to the website will find that its appearance, usability and functionality have all been enhanced, with improved organization and navigational tools to help them find information more quickly and accurately.

One important new function included in the new website is the Internet-Based

Registration System (IBRS) for American citizens traveling and residing anywhere in the world. The IBRS provides a convenient means for U.S. citizens traveling or residing overseas to provide important contact data, useful in the event of emergencies, and to receive up-to-the-minute travel and safety information for the regions or countries on their travel itineraries.

The travel registration website replaces less secure, locally managed websites in use at many U.S. Embassies and Consulates.

### Highlights...

(Continued from page 5)

Metropolitan John Theodorovich of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A. and Dr. Stepan Wytwycky, president of the Ukrainian National Republic in exile.

Supreme executive officers' reports noted that UNA membership now was 81,441, insured for a sum of \$61,894,377. There were now 489 UNA branches across North America.

A mere two years later, UNA membership had grown even further to 83,940, while assets reached the amount of \$28,294,732.95.

Among the decisions made at the convention: the number of UNA advisors was increased from 12 to 14; a by-laws committee and a scholarship committee were established; the UNA would now sell term insurance plans, as well as accidental death and dismemberment policies.

Elected to lead the UNA was Joseph Lesawyer, who had been acting president since the death a year earlier of Dmytro Halychyn.

Prior to the convention, UNA officers

and a number of delegates attended the blessing of the monument on the grave of Mr. Halychyn at Calvary Cemetery in New York.

The convention concluded with a gala banquet that was addressed, among others, by Sen. Jacob K. Javits (D-N.Y.), and New Jersey Gov. Richard J. Hughes.

Writing in his history of UNA conventions, Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan noted: "... the reports, discussions and results of the convention proceedings indicated that the UNA was passing through one of the greatest periods in its history, having risen to unprecedented heights of developments in terms of both membership and assets. ... the UNA had matured in all respects and developed into a veritable Ukrainian 'rock of Gibraltar' on the American and Canadian soil."

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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# NOTES ON PEOPLE

## Pastor retires after 53-year ministry

MACON, Ga. – The Rev. Stephen Krysalka is retiring from the pulpit for the second time in his ministry. The Rev. Krysalka first retired in 1982, but two years later accepted the pastorate of Smyrna Baptist Church in Deepstep, Ga. He has served as pastor of Smyrna Baptist for 20 years.

After 53 years in the ministry, Pastor Krysalka is retiring again. Stephen and his wife, Juanita, were honored on April 25 during his last worship service as the church's pastor.

With his call as Smyrna pastor, the Rev. Stephen and Juanita had come full circle in their life and ministry, having begun their formal ministry in Washington County and the Washington Baptist Association in 1951.

The Rev. Krysalka is a native of Pittsburgh and is a member of UNA Branch 53. Continuing the tradition begun by his parents, Nicholas and Anna



The Rev. Stephen Krysalka with his wife, Juanita.

Krysalka of Pittsburgh, the Krysalka children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are all members of UNA Branch 53.

## Financial advisor recognized for service

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# The Gongadze...

(Continued from page 3)

and campaign manager during the 1999 election. Mr. Volkov.

Gongadze wrote: "Our hero (Volkov) was born and grew up in the Stalin district of Kyiv. Alongside him grew his friend - the Kyiv criminal 'authority' Kysil. Mr. Kysil was sentenced five times for serious crimes and from the very beginning had a strong influence on Mr. Volkov."

The article stated that Messrs. Volkov and Kysil had been in business together in Kyiv.

As Mr. Kysil's name kept popping up in conjunction with the murder of Gongadze, Mr. Volkov did not deny that they knew each other, but hastened to add that he was not responsible for Mr. Kysil's actions.

On November 5, 2003, Mr. Kysil was the target of an assassination attempt when his car was blown up by a bomb in Kyiv. Mr. Kysil was injured and those responsible have not been found.

### Undercover agent Muzyka

More revealing information about the killing of Gongadze was provided by MVS officer Hryhorii Serhiyenko, the head of the section of operational information collection of the MVS during his interrogation on June 5, 2003.

In his reply to a question about whether he was involved in ordering his subordinates to follow Gongadze, Mr. Serhiyenko admitted that he did in fact give such orders and that he had received his orders from Gen. Pukach directly and from his deputy Mr. Sviatenco (presently the head of a section of the tax police of Ukraine). The third person who gave Mr. Serhiyenko instructions and who was in fact the "curator" of the Gongadze operation was Prulipko O.D., Gen. Pukach's deputy.

Mr. Serhiyenko went on to tell the investigator from the PGU that during the funeral of a former official of the MVS, he was approached by Gen. Pukach who told him to forget the name Gongadze and anything that "we were involved in concerning him."

Shortly after this advice from Gen. Pukach, Mr. Serhiyenko was ordered by Mr. Prulipko to destroy all the documentation held in his section. Mr. Prulipko stated that this was old material and needed to be destroyed. The order was carried out.

Then Mr. Serhiyenko dropped a bomb on the interrogator: "I decided to help the investigation by making available information which I have about the involvement of a concrete person involved in the actual killing of the journalist Gongadze H.R."

According to Mr. Serhiyenko, a highly reliable source, Oleksander Kruzhanivsky, a former officer of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian military and a former undercover agent for the Main Directorate combating organized crime in the MVS, told him that the person directly linked to the killing of Gongadze was an undercover MVS operative named Oleksander Muzyka. Apparently Mr. Muzyka himself had told Mr. Kruzhanivsky that he was involved in the killing of Gongadze.

According to the Serhiyenko interrogation, Mr. Muzyka had been assigned to work undercover with the "Kysil" organized crime grouping in Kyiv in which he attained the rank of head of one subsection in the gang. In 1996 Mr. Muzyka was arrested for possession of a firearm. He was soon extricated from this charge and continued to work as an undercover agent.

When asked by Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch about the present whereabouts of Mr. Muzyka, a member

of the parliamentary committee investigating the disappearance of Gongadze replied that he did not know.

### The cover-up continues

After the series of articles appeared in The Independent the reaction from the Ukrainian MVS was fast and furious.

The most dramatic and least expected response was the announcement on June 22 that the MVS had the killer of Gongadze in their custody. He was identified only as "citizen K" and was described as a serial killer who had confessed to killing Gongadze. "Citizen K" had apparently been arrested on other charges and while in custody confessed to killing the journalist, along with a number of other victims.

According to the International Herald Tribune of June 23, Serhii Rudenko, the spokesman for the Procurator General's Office, stated that "During questioning, the man said he had committed the murder of Gongadze. His statement fits the circumstances of the murder at the time and other key moments which are already in the public domain ... he said he had decapitated him."

This claim was met by considerable skepticism. Mr. Gongadze's widow, Myroslava, responded to the announcement by telling The Independent on June 26: "This shows the cover-up is continuing."

Not satisfied with finding the "killer," Mr. Rudenko announced that Mr. Honcharov was found to have been killed by a beating he received in prison and that a criminal case had been opened against the prison authorities where he was being held. Mr. Rudenko added that "all other versions of Mr. Honcharov's death are not official," the website Ukrainska Pravda reported on June 21. Why the MVS originally said that he died "of illness" was never explained by Mr. Rudenko.

The following day, June 22, the PGU office announced that it was considering opening a criminal case against those individuals (or individual) who passed over the documents cited by The Independent. According to a June 22 report by the Interfax news agency, the PGU's press service released a statement which stated that the "promulgation of part of the proof collected in the criminal case has already left a negative impact on the course of the investigation and posed a real threat to some people." This, in effect, can mean that if anyone connected to the Gongadze case is suddenly injured or killed (by a car bomb for example) or dies of "illness," the blame can then be placed on those individuals who gave the documents to Krushelnicky.

A somewhat less confrontational tone was adopted by Vasyl Baziv, the deputy head of the presidential administration on June 25. Mr. Baziv commented on allegations that President Kuchma was involved in the killing by saying: "I believe the philosophy of democracy and freedom must not cancel the fundamental basis of Roman law introducing the presumption of innocence." He was also quoted by Interfax on June 25 as saying that the articles in The Independent were a pre-election provocation, despite the fact that nowhere had there been any allegations made that any of the present presidential candidates were involved in any way with the murder of Mr. Gongadze.

President Kuchma, who had taken the Gongadze investigation under his "personal control" from its very beginning and who never announced that it had slipped out from his control, has yet to explain why he failed to prevent a massive cover-up. Legally he is at the very least responsible for the cover-up if not for other crimes in the case.

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## UUARC fund seeks to help disabled young mother in Ukraine

PHILADELPHIA – In 2002, Oksana Koren was taking a walk with her 4-year-old daughter along a country road. Suddenly, her daughter's life was ended, and hers was turned into a living hell by the drunk driver who crashed into them.

Ms. Koren who is now 27, is asking for help. Her little girl is gone, and she has had both legs amputated because of the accident. She relies totally on her mother but desperately wants to walk and become independent. She wrote to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee: "I am a young woman. I don't want to stay an invalid in a wheelchair. I want to walk again!"

The UUARC's director in Kyiv, Vira Prinko, visited Ms. Koren to deliver \$500 from the organization's Assistance Committee. This amount is to be matched by the Ukrainian community in Glen Spey, N.Y., but even with this dona-

tion, Ms. Koren will still be \$1,900 short of the \$2,900 required so she can be fitted for prostheses and walk on her own again. Ms. Prinko reports that Ms. Koren is very, very determined to become independent, and is also extremely brave. She has written to many institutions for help, including the president of Ukraine, and UUARC is the only organization to have responded to date.

Readers who would like to help Ms. Koren may send donations to: UUARC Inc., 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111, or via the web at [www.uuarc.org](http://www.uuarc.org) (credit cards accepted online). Please write "Oksana Koren" on your donation.

Ms. Koren's letter to the UUARC ends with this sentence, "I am not a beggar, just a person who wants to be like everyone else!"

## Ruslan Fedotenko...

(Continued from page 1)

gious award," he said, adding that he "will never forget the moment" when he raised the Stanley Cup over his head after Game 7.

"I would say that winning the Stanley Cup could be compared to winning a gold medal in the Olympic Games," Mr. Fedotenko noted, and later added that he would be proud to once again don skates as a member of Ukraine's Olympic hockey team. At the 2002 Winter Olympics, while

he was on the Philadelphia Flyers roster, Mr. Fedotenko played for team Ukraine – the first time ever a Ukrainian team participated in Olympic hockey competition.

While at City Hall, Viktor Fedotenko, who lives in Kyiv, recalled how all the parents of the Tampa Bay Lightning players had been invited to the playoffs by the team. He said the team's management made families feel like part of the whole Stanley Cup experience.

Close to 800 people gathered on Independence Square to see Ruslan Fedotenko and the Stanley Cup. During their wait for the arrival of the cup and its entourage, fans watched reruns of Mr. Fedotenko's performances in the Stanley Cup playoffs on two large screens. For the first time ever those on the square were treated to the song composed by Canadian Howard Cable, called "Saturday's Game," better known as the theme song to "Hockey Night in Canada."

As Mr. Fedotenko and the Stanley Cup arrived at the capital city's central square, security officers created a pathway from the stretch Lincoln, bearing both Washington state and Kyiv license plates, toward the stage. Mr. Fedotenko joyously raised the cup over his head to cheers from the crowd. Most of the time the cup was handled by an NHL official wearing white cotton gloves.

The Stanley Cup glistened on its pedestal while Mr. Fedotenko and his entourage – which now included his wife, and both his parents – were introduced to the audience to many rounds of applause. Some in the crowd wore Ukrainian hockey team jerseys, Montreal Canadiens jerseys or shirts with sayings such as "Canada is Hockey." Several onlookers said they were there to honor a person they considered a hero.



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"I think it's great that Ruslan Fedotenko brought the Stanley Cup home to Kyiv," 24-year-old Yaroslav Melnyk, a private businessman who hails from Kalush, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, told The Weekly. "He did for Ukrainian sports, what Ruslana did for Ukrainian music, and while I couldn't get close enough to see the cup up close, and couldn't afford the time to stick around, I could see it shipping. And I felt very proud for Ruslan and his parents, and I am glad he brought one of the greatest sports trophies to Ukraine," Mr. Melnyk concluded.

"It was incredible to see the cup," said one Montreal native who asked to remain anonymous. He added, "I never thought I would ever get that close to it, and be able to read the names of players that I idolized as a child. And the most amazing part about all of this is that I saw it here in Kyiv. It's just incredible!"



## Skovoroda...

(Continued from page 6)

beginning of a day; in life, death; while weeping leads to laughter and laughter to weeping. In the mortal there is immortality and in the incomplete, perfection. In that sense, the opposites are related, stemming from each other. A noted Skovoroda scholar, Dmytro Cyzevsky, suggested that the philosopher had been influenced by German mysticism, particularly the writings of Jacob Bohme.

To Skovoroda the world consists of the visible and invisible. By its very nature, the visible shows that the invisible exists. "The invisible shines through visible surfaces." Man exists in the visible, while God in the invisible. Man is mortal, God is eternal; man is matter, while God is Form. Man lives in the world of appearances, is changing and perishable, while God is eternal and unchanging. Reality lies beyond the realm of appearances and the invisible or divine sustains appearances. Because eternity is invisible, it is nowhere and everywhere. Everything in the world points to the existence of God, and man can find God's divinity in himself through introspection. God reveals Himself to us through faith.

A contemporary of the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778), Skovoroda is known as a philosopher of the heart. The heart colors our perception and understanding of the world. Like Rousseau, Skovoroda believed the role of education is to develop the whole man, including his mental, moral and spiritual capacities. Both philosophers had a profound effect on our progressive educational system.

Echoes of Skovoroda reverberate in the 20th century French writer Antoine de St. Exupery's famous line "The essential is invisible to the eye." Taras Shevchenko's poem "Perebendia," about the blind wandering musician, may have been inspired by Skovoroda.

To Skovoroda, God reveals Himself to men in three ways: the material world into which we are born; Man himself, or the microcosm which reflects the macrocosm; and the symbolic world of the Bible, which gives us the possibility to understand the eternal God. The material world is meaningless without one's intimate connection with the divine. Man has to use his cognitive powers to understand the macrocosm and its Creator.

The Bible leads us to the understanding of the eternal God. It is the main source of divine revelation, but it has to be interpreted personally. "It is mute to a fool and holy to a holy man." To understand its deeper message, the Bible has to be interpreted symbolically because its literal interpretation leads to contradictions, disputes and superstitions.

God gives every man the possibility to attain happiness and tranquillity in the world. He made everything that is necessary for happiness available and accessible to all. "He made easy that which is necessary and unnecessary that which is difficult." While He provides us with every opportunity to make us happy, facing disappointments and suffering, we are sometimes distracted from what is intended for us. Because of our ignorance, we pursue worldly things that are unnecessary for happiness. Instead, we should seek happiness in the invisible

and the eternal being. We must rise above these obstacles to happiness, open our hearts and seek what was intended for us by God. We should seek tranquillity in discord, joy in sorrow.

Each human heart is imprinted with special talents by God. Through introspection we need to understand what our talents or potentialities are and pursue them to the best of our abilities. Like Plato and Aristotle before him, Skovoroda called on us to "Know thyself." As we understand and develop our potentialities, we achieve unison with God. The greater the agreement between our and God's will, the happier we become. Our true calling brings fulfillment. "The natural hunter enjoys the hunt and work more than the roasted rabbit on the table," and "a bee enjoys gathering honey more than consuming it."

Men are ordained to live in societies and their unequal distribution of talents requires division of labor. Societies function when their members perform their functions well. To attain happiness we must "live according to the Ten Commandments and innate virtues that God has inscribed on our soul, work in the vocation assigned to us by God and flee the vanity of the world, seeking the permanent and eternal."

The purpose of education is to help men reach tranquillity and peace of mind. It should encourage the proclivities of each student. "There is no need to teach apple trees to bear apples and a falcon to fly, but it would be a waste of time to teach a turtle to fly," Skovoroda wrote. The purpose of wisdom and philosophy is to explain what happiness is and how to attain it. Man should live a peaceful, cheerful and ethically sound life so as to embrace death without fear.

### Conclusion

During his lifetime Skovoroda was controversial among the Church fathers and official society because of an unorthodox interpretation of the Bible, experimentation with poetry, his unorthodox approach to education and criticism of society's pursuit of material things.

However, he was well accepted by his friends and the common people, who viewed him as a wise and honest man teaching goodness and the fear of God. He lived what he preached and came to be known as "narodnyi filosof" or the people's philosopher. His followers were impressed by his academic learning, plain peasant's "svyta," wanderings on foot, enjoyment of solitude and the singing of his own songs. After his death, the legend of Skovoroda grew.

While not well-known in the West, Skovoroda was also one of the world's first existential philosophers. Some of his thoughts and writings precede Soren Kierkegaard's, generally considered to be the father of modern existentialism, by about a century and those of Martin Heidegger and Jean-Paul Sartre by two centuries. The latter two secular philosophers used the fear of death to stimulate men to search for their potentialities, while Skovoroda aligned men's potential talents with the gift and will of God.

As Ukraine searches for meaning in its new independent life, it would be well to re-examine Hryhorii Skovoroda's teachings. His philosophy remains pertinent in the 21st century.

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## Ukrainians in Texas...

(Continued from page 12)

They, too, came with an extensive repertoire, presenting two completely different, fast-paced shows. The variety of dances was great, from a traditional Kozachok to a women's dance accompanied by bandura to a fascinating tango. Perhaps the most



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

enterprises in the same period of 2003 was 42.3 percent, and the losses amounted to \$7.6 billion hrv. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine defends Danube project

BUCHAREST – Ukrainian Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Oleksander Motsyk said at a Bucharest meeting of the Danube Cooperation Process that the Bystraya canal project currently being implemented in a Danube Delta estuary is merely the reopening of a project abandoned during the Soviet era, Reuters reported. He said the canal would provide improved access to the Black Sea, thus helping develop a socially and economically poor region of Ukraine. Mr. Motsyk added that there are three deep waterways in the Danube Delta, none of which is in Ukraine. "We have the right to reopen a deep waterway in the Ukrainian part of the Danube," he said, adding that Kyiv will do all it can to avoid any negative impact on the environment. Catherine Day, the European Commission's director general for the environment, told the meeting that the EU has asked Ukraine to halt construction work on the canal "until a full environmental-impact study is carried out." Addressing the forum, Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase said any Danube River development project must take into account the need to protect the river's unique environment. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Komsomol leader apologizes to Church

ZAPORIZHIA – Stanislav Zubov, head of the Young Communist League (Komsomol) of the Communist Party in the Zaporizhia region, apologized on behalf of the party members for anti-Church activities conducted during Soviet times. His announcement was made on May 28 in an article in a local

newspaper, Lytsa Plus, dedicated to the Feast of the Holy Trinity. Mr. Zubov also stated that before making this announcement, he had discussed it thoroughly with his party mates. In his article, Mr. Zubov admitted the tragic policy of his predecessors toward the Church, which damaged church property and eradicated traditional spirituality from the hearts of Soviet youth. Mr. Zubov wrote that the collapse of the Soviet Union is the retribution for what has been done. "The only thing that we, the young Communists, can do about our past is to perform an act of repentance for our anti-Church history," said Mr. Zubov. "On behalf of the young Communists of the Zaporizhia region, I ask you to consider this statement such an act." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### PM: Orthodox Churches should unite

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said he was for the unification of all Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. He voiced his comments on May 31, after he and members of the government attended a divine liturgy for Holy Trinity Day in the Dormition Cathedral of the Kyivan Monastery of the Caves. "I believe we have to strive for this, and it will be a remarkable day when the Orthodox churches unite," he said. Answering a question about his prayers in the Church, Mr. Yanukovich said he asked God to help Ukraine overcome difficulties and give happiness to the Ukrainian people. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### Kremlin expert opens Russian Club

KYIV – Effective Politics Foundation head and Kremlin insider Gleb Pavlovskii announced during a July 19 press conference in Kyiv that his foundation plans to open a non-governmental organization in Kyiv that will focus on relations between Russia and Ukraine, glavred.info reported.

The organization, to be named the Russian Club, will be funded by public and commercial organizations in Russia and will host Russian politicians and other public and cultural figures. In reference to the Ukrainian presidential campaign, Mr. Pavlovskii said Russia is not intervening as it simply has no leverage to do so, RTR reported. Mr. Pavlovskii said that among the candidates in the October election, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich appeals most to Russia, while Our Ukraine candidate Viktor Yushchenko has given "no clear answers" to questions of interest to Russia, RIA-Novosti reported on July 19. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Population continues to shrink

KYIV – The State Statistics Committee made known on July 13 that as of June 1 Ukraine's population numbered 47.46 million – 30,000 less than a month before or some 200,000 less than six months before, Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine's GDP continues to rise

KYIV – The State Statistics Committee disclosed on July 14 that Ukraine's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 12.7 percent year-on-year in the first half of 2004, Interfax reported. In 2003, Ukraine's GDP rose by 9.4 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kuchma criticizes EU policy

THE HAGUE – The Ukraine-EU summit in The Hague on July 8 has failed to produce any political or economic agreements regarding mutual ties, Ukrainian and international media reported. In particular, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende did not make any promises about when the European Union may grant Ukraine a market-economy status, which is a key step for Kyiv on its path to membership in the World Trade Organization. Moreover, Ukrainian

President Leonid Kuchma said the EU's European Neighborhood Policy does not suit Ukraine's interests and he refused to sign a prepared action plan for Ukraine within the policy's framework. Mr. Kuchma said at The Hague that the action plan should not be a simple systematization of the existing cooperation areas but should open up "realistic prospects for expanding four freedoms in Ukraine – free movement of goods, services, capital and people," Interfax reported. According to Mr. Kuchma, the action plan should include a list of specific measures to set up a free-trade zone between Ukraine and the EU, to gradually liberalize the visa process, to facilitate the employment and social protection of Ukrainian labor migrants and to minimize the consequences of EU expansion in the areas of trade and the economy. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Council accepts Evangelical Church

KYIV – During a June 15 meeting in Kyiv, the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations accepted the Ukrainian Evangelical Christian Church, headed by Bishop Leonid Padun, into the organization. In addition, members of the council listened to reports by A. Hlukhivskiyi, president of the Ukrainian Bible Society, on his organization's activities and by Viktor Bondarenko, head of the National Committee on Religious Matters, on the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first translation of the Bible into Ukrainian. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### Kuchma vetoes law banning land sales

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has vetoed a law on prolonging the moratorium on land trading until January 1, 2007, Ukrainian news agencies reported on July 8. Last month the Verkhovna Rada made

(Continued on page 27)

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 26)

changes to the Land Code, prolonging the ban on the buying and selling of agricultural land for citizens and legal entities until January 1, 2007. In accordance with the current Land Code, the moratorium ends on January 1, 2005. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada leaves Tymoshenko's immunity intact

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has rejected a petition by the Procurator General's Office to lift the parliamentary immunity of National Deputy Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition bloc. Interfax reported on July 7. The Procurator General's Office has instituted criminal proceedings against Ms. Tymoshenko, accusing her of attempting to bribe a judge. Ms. Tymoshenko denied the accusation, calling it "totally wrong" and a provocation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Opposition demands Gongadze info

KYIV – The Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko bloc caucuses demanded on June 22 in the Verkhovna Rada to hear the Ukrainian Procurator General's report on crime fighting in the country, Interfax reported. The demand was submitted by Oleksander Turchynov in connection with articles in The Independent newspaper on June 19. The newspaper published excerpts from interrogations of policemen, who say they trailed independent journalist Heorhii Gongadze before his abduction on orders from Internal Affairs Ministry senior official Oleksii Pukach. Mr. Pukach would have received his orders from Yuri Kravchenko, one of President Leonid Kuchma's closest associates. Mr. Turchynov said the publication proves "direct involvement of the president in Gongadze's murder, and Procurator General Hennadii Vasyliiev does his best to wipe out the proof in the case." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Romania begins visa regime with Ukraine

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Markian Lubkivskyi said on June 22 that Romania introduce a visa regime with Ukraine as of July 16, Interfax reported. The visa agreement between Romania and Ukraine was signed in December 2003, but it did not provide a deadline for introducing visas for travel between both countries. According to Mr. Lubkivskyi, visas will be issued without needing a formal invitation. Free visas will be issued for children under age 18, students studying in exchange programs, residents of border regions, and the staff of international road and railroad services. Holders of service and diplomatic passports and the crews of ships and aircraft will qualify for visa-free travel. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Putin: CIS seeks to 'restore what was lost'

ASTANA – President Vladimir Putin said on June 18 that the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States "are now working to restore what was lost with the fall of the Soviet Union but are doing it on a new, modern basis," the RTR and ORT news agencies reported. He was speaking at a conference of international experts at Lev Gumilev University in the Kazak capital of Astana on June 18 devoted to Eurasian integration and globalization. Mr. Putin said the ideas of Gumilev, who founded neo-Eurasianism based on the idea of a united Eurasia in opposition to the trans-Atlantic West, "are beginning to move the masses." He added, "Of course destroying is not the same as building, but there is a common understanding that protection from external threats and increasing global competition is possible through common intellectual potential and united efforts." Mr. Putin said chauvinism, nationalism, the personal ambitions of leaders and foolishness hinder

Eurasian integration. "But we are intelligent people, so let me conclude with an appeal: Intelligent people of the world, unite!" President Putin claimed a leading role for Russia in Eurasian cooperation, saying, "Russia is the very center of Eurasia." He also warned of the dangers of extremism in implementing controversial Eurasianist ideas. Mr. Putin's visit to Astana was part of a major diplomatic swing through Central Asia. Kazakstan's President Nursultan Nazarbaev has been promoting the concept of a "Eurasian Union" for the past decade. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Presidents visit restored monastery

NOVHOROD-SIVERSKYI, Ukraine – The presidents of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus on June 27 visited the Transfiguration Monastery in Novhorod-Siverskyi, in northern Ukraine's Chernihiv region, where they met with Metropolitan Volodymyr (Sabodan) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP). After Metropolitan Volodymyr celebrated a liturgy and consecrated a restored iconostasis, he showed the guests around the territory of the monastery, which celebrated its 970th anniversary in 2003. According to the press service of the UOC-MP, a year ago the monastery was dilapidated and most monastery buildings were in very poor condition. However, thanks to presidential support, the monastery has been repaired and restored. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

### New chief tax inspector is named

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on June 11 appointed First Vice Minister of Finance Fedir Yaroshenko as head of the State Tax Administration, Interfax reported. Mr. Yaroshenko will replace Yuri Kravchenko, who resigned from the post the same day, following Mr. Kuchma's criticism that the STA has failed to enforce legislation regarding value-added taxes on major enterprises. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### State monopoly in alcohol, tobacco voided

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has introduced amendments to a 2002 decree that effectively annuls the state monopoly in the manufacturing of alcoholic drinks and tobacco products, UNIAN reported on June 11. Mr. Kuchma's move followed last month's ruling of the Constitutional Court saying that the decree's provisions pertaining to the establishment of state monopoly in the production of and trade in alcohol and tobacco products contradict the Constitution of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Aleksei addresses East Slavic sobor

ZAPORIZHIA – Patriarch Aleksei II of the Russian Orthodox Church called upon the participants of the sobor (assembly) of the Peoples of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, held on May 17-19 in Zaporizhia, to continue to strengthen friendly relations between the three brotherly nations. The sobor was dedicated to the 350th anniversary of the Pereiaslav Council in 1654, which led to a union between Ukraine and Russia. Among topics discussed at the sobor were the problems of cooperation between Ukraine, Russia and Belarus in the sphere of political and social life, as well as the spiritual and moral state of society in these countries. The meeting gathered famous politicians, social movement leaders, scholars and priests. "I think by remaining faithful to the ideas of union proclaimed 350 years ago during the Pereiaslav Council, you will successfully continue work for the future consolidation of friendship between our peoples," reads Patriarch Aleksei's statement. "Over the past years, much has changed in our lives, but the main thing, which unites all of us is our common history, traditions, culture and the common Orthodox faith," he pointed out. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

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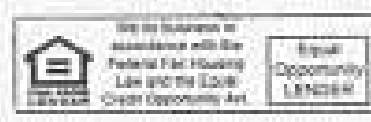
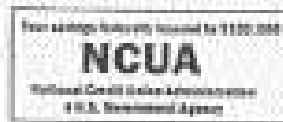
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## Soyuzivka's Datebook

July 24-31, 2004

Discovery Camp, Session Three  
Adventure Camp, Session Two

July 25-30, 2004

Chemney's Children's Day Camp,  
Session Two  
Scuba Diving Course (revised dates)

July 31, 2004

Exhibit - Daria "Dycia" Hanushevskia -  
library - ceramics  
Zabava - Cheres - 10 p.m.

August 1, 2004

Special Golf Tournament opening  
with Askold Buk Trio - time to be  
announced

August 1-6, 2004

Soyuzivka Golf Week

August 6, 2004

Cabaret performance by Ron Cahute  
& Ihor Bachynsky - 10 p.m.,  
adults only

August 6-8, 2004

2nd Annual Sports Jamboree (see ad)

August 7, 2004

Barabolya concert - 2 p.m.  
Vesetka Patio  
Kozak Exhibit - artwork by the  
Kozak Family - library  
Zabava - Burya - 10 p.m.

August 8-21, 2004

Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky  
Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp

August 13, 2004

Special Pub Night with Luna

August 14, 2004

Miss Soyuzivka Weekend  
Zabava - Luna - 10 p.m.

August 14-22, 2004

Club Suzy-Q Week

August 15, 2004

Ivano-Frankivsk festival celebration;  
more details to follow

August 21, 2004

Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky  
Dance Camp Recital with  
intermission performance by  
Olya Chodoba Fryz - 8 p.m.  
Zabava - Fata Morgana - 10 p.m.

August 22, 2004

Tempil - festival celebration; more  
details to follow

August 28, 2004

Zabava - to be announced

August 28-29, 2004

Lviv - festival celebration; more  
details to follow

September 3, 2004

Zabava - Luna - 10 p.m.

September 4, 2004

Zabava - Fata Morgana & Tempo

September 5, 2004

Zabava - Tempo & Vorony



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, July 26

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a round-table discussion moderated by Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, associate director of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. The discussion, "Ukraine's Domestic Politics on the Eve of Presidential Elections," will take place at 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Kresge Room of Barker Center, located at 12 Quincy St. in Cambridge on the Harvard University campus. For more information, contact the institute at (617) 495-4053 or visit the website at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu/husi.html>.

Wednesday, July 28

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute will host a lecture given by Georgii Kasianov, head of the department of contemporary history and politics at Kyiv National University, and Professor at the department of humanities at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Prof. Kasianov's lecture, "Making Ukrainians": Historiography and Challenges of Nation-Building in Contemporary Ukraine," will be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Kresge Room of Barker Center, located at 12 Quincy St. in Cambridge on the Harvard University campus. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the institute at (617) 495-4053 or visit the website at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu/husi.html>.

Friday, July 30

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute is pleased to host the fourth installment of their Friday Afternoon Matinees of Classics from the Harvard Film Archive Collection. This week's film is "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" (1964), directed by Serhiu Paradzhanov. The film will be shown at the Harvard Film Archive, located in the Carpenter Center at 24 Quincy St. in Cambridge on the Harvard University campus. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the institute at (617) 495-4053 or visit the website at <http://www.huri.harvard.edu/husi.html>.

Saturday, July 31

**JEWETT, N.Y.:** The concert featuring tenor Volodymyr Hryshko in the "Music at the Grazhda" summer concert series is cancelled due to scheduling difficulties. Appearing at the Grazhda on July 31 will be the Ukrainski Barvy vocal and instrumental ensemble, which is currently touring North America.

Founded in 1999 in Kyiv, under the direction of Oksana Stehelska, the ensemble is known for its diverse repertoire, which encompasses classical music, ancient ritual and folk songs, as well as popular music. Appearing in concert are Ms. Stehelska, Inna Tymoch, Andriy Serb and Roman Kuka. Ukrainski Barvy will appear at the Grazhda at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15, general admission; \$12, members and senior citizens; students, free. The Grazhda is located in the Hunter area of the Catskills on Route 23 A. For additional information call (518) 263-4335.

Monday, August 9

**TRYZUB, HORSHAM, Pa.:** A new under-9 boys soccer team is accepting players. Players must be born after August 1, 1995, to qualify (still 8 years old as of August 1 of this year). Games are on Sundays, and practices are held at Tryzub. Interested readers may call Petro Shtampil, (215) 870-0740, or Mike Klaczary, (610) 635-0212. The deadline to register is August 9.

Sunday, August 22

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** The Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub cordially invites everyone to attend its 13th annual Ukrainian Folk Festival celebrating Ukraine's independence. It will commence at noon, on Sunday, August 22, at "Tryzubivska," County Line and Lower State Roads, Horsham, Pa. This year's stage show will feature many folk music and dance artists, including: the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (Philadelphia), the Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (London, Ontario), the Obrij Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (New York), and the summer campers of the Voloshky School of Dance. This year's headliners also include the captivating vocal duo, Sisters Oros (Ukraine and New York), who will present a unique repertoire of Ukrainian folk songs. A solemn prayer for Ukraine led by representatives of all Ukrainian faiths and an capella performance by the Ukrainian Baptist Male Choir will add further depth to the occasion. The festivities will close with a Ukrainian dance ("zabava") to the music of the Harmonia Orchestra and the Ukrainian Nationals of the U.S. Amateur Soccer Association Majors Division (adult team) will play an exhibition match against a worthy opponent, commencing at 4:30 pm. Traditional Ukrainian ethnic foods, standard picnic fare and cool refreshments will be available throughout the day. There will also be a bazaar with folk arts, crafts, music and video vendors and exhibitors. Admission is \$10 per person; free for children under 13.

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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.
- ▶ Persons who submit any materials must provide a daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- ▶ Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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