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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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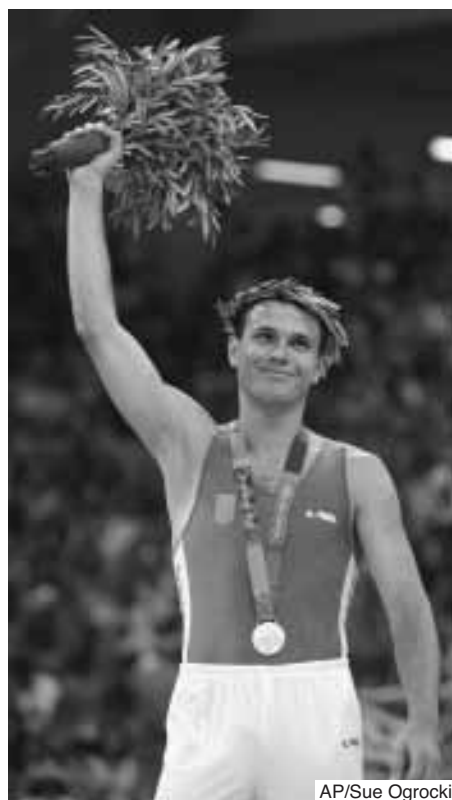
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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2004

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

10 days into Olympic competition, Ukraine's team boasts 18 medals



AP/Sue Ogrocki

Gold medalist Yuriy Nikitin of Ukraine during the medals ceremony after the men's trampoline competition.

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine continued its surprising performance at the Athens Olympics in the second week of this 16-day affair, capturing an additional three gold medals, while gathering more silver and bronze as well.

Unfortunately, one of those third-place finishes was negated after a member of the Ukrainian women's four-person sculling team, which took bronze on August 22, was found to have a banned substance in her system after taking a medication prescribed by the team physician.

Due to the positive result in a test given to one of the scullers, Olena Olefirenko, the team's bronze medals will be revoked, announced an International Olympic Committee spokesperson on August 26. Australia, which placed fourth in the event, will now take the third medal spot, according to Interfax-Ukraine.

While a setback, the disqualification did not tarnish what has been an unexpectedly successful medals-harvesting affair for Ukraine's National Olympic Team.

After taking five gold medals, a silver and a bronze in the first five days of Olympic competition in Athens — led by swimmer Yana Klochkova's two gold medals — the Ukrainians have followed with three more gold, three more silver and five additional bronze for a 10-day total of 18 medals. The team remained in the 10th spot in the gold medal count for most of the week, just ahead of perennial Olympic leaders Great Britain and South Korea, and 12th in the overall medal count.

Following a double gold for Ukraine on August 18, when Yuriy Bilonoh and Natalia Skakun took first place in the shot put and 63 kg weightlifting, respectively, the country achieved more gold on August 20 when 26-year-old Yuriy

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Tens of thousands in Kyiv celebrate anniversary of Ukraine's independence

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Tens of thousands of Ukrainians lined the Khreschatyk on August 24 to celebrate Ukraine's 13th anniversary of independence by watching some 5,000 soldiers from all the various military branches dressed in crisp parade dress display their brilliant marching technique. No less impressive: a battle of the bands among the leading orchestras of the country's armed forces, which ended with bursts of daylight fireworks that set a half dozen blue and yellow banners afloat.

State dignitaries filled a special dais on Independence Square to view the hour-and-a-half-long celebration, among them President Leonid Kuchma, who was flanked by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych and presidential chief of Staff Viktor Medvedchuk. Minister of Defense Yevhen Marchuk, who gave the order that initiated the parade, also presented the main address. He called on the country to keep moving in the direction it has for the last 13 years.

"The last 13 years are witness to the fact that the Ukrainian nation made the right choice," exclaimed Mr. Marchuk.

A short time later the defense minister enumerated a list of Ukraine's accomplishments, which included the establishment of the basic principles of a sovereign, democratic state and undeniable economic and social success.

"Ukraine is taking on the attributes of a democratic society. Its international

authority is strengthening," explained Mr. Marchuk.

The previous evening the defense minister and the entire Ukrainian state leadership took part in another celebration at the Palats Ukraina concert hall. During an evening filled with music and song, President Kuchma gave the main presentation during which he underscored that Ukraine's political agenda for the next decade should continue along the path that he had set during his 10 years in office. He also decreed August 23 State Flag Day.

"The point is that the lengthy process of Ukraine's change objectively requires us to ensure the inheritance of the political course," explained Mr. Kuchma. "The next decade must be — and I am convinced that it will be — a continuation, and not a change and not a contradiction of the decade that is ending. I repeat: not a contradiction and not a change, but a continuation."

The Ukrainian president, who was overseeing his last Independence Day celebration as state leader, noted that in the last decade of his presidency he had changed a "province of a lost empire" into a sovereign state and a militarized command control economy into a market type system; he had restructured a totalitarian single-party system into a multi-party, civil society; and transformed a "Sovietized" society into a political nation.

He underscored, however, that only the first stage of this transformation had taken place. He also emphasized that Ukraine and Ukrainians had begun to develop a European national identity. However, the country still did not have the required democratic institutions and levels of freedoms to become part of the European Union and NATO. He also noted that, even if given EU membership, Ukraine would fare badly on the higher level of economic competition.

The Ukrainian president noted that membership in the World Trade Organization would become a priority for Ukraine in 2005. He also underscored that close cooperation with Russia was good for Ukraine, as well as for Europe, because it would help Ukraine raise its living standards to meet levels enjoyed by its Western neighbors.

"In this context, pragmatic and stable relations with our strategic partner Russia, based on friendship and mutual benefits, is not a minus in our relations with Europe as the right would have us believe," explained Mr. Kuchma.

He told Ukrainians that they had two choices before them in the October 31 presidential elections: either to continue along the path laid out by the policies of the last decade, or face a new radical

Rumsfeld, McCain journey to Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — With upcoming presidential elections in both the United States and Ukraine as the backdrop, several prominent U.S. politicians associated with the Republican Party in the United States made their way to Ukraine on August 13-19 in separate visits to push for free and fair elections here and to thank the country for its participation in helping to resolve the conflict in Iraq.

First up in Ukraine was Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, whose visit was focused primarily on discussing the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan and speaking about NATO and EU integration with Ukraine's state leadership.

Mr. Rumsfeld, who spent a day in Crimea on August 13, was followed by a Senate delegation that arrived in Kyiv on August 18. Sen. John McCain of Arizona headed the delegation, which included Sens. John Sununu of New Hampshire, Susan Collins of Maine and Lindsey

Graham of South Carolina. The U.S. senators cautioned Ukraine's government about alleged campaign abuses that observers were already noting.

Mr. Rumsfeld met with President Kuchma at his official summer residence, located near the tourist town of Partinet, after completing a visit to Afghanistan and Iraq. In a daylong series of events held in informal settings under the Crimean summer sun, Mr. Rumsfeld — tie-less and coat in hand by the end of the day — thanked Ukraine for contributing to the Iraq Stabilization Force and the sacrifices its soldiers had made in the effort, and extended Ukraine a very optimistic message.

Waxing upbeat and positive, Mr. Rumsfeld explained that Ukrainians should not think that "the U.S. and the world have not noticed that Ukraine, a non-NATO member, has one of the largest contingents in Iraq." He added that Ukraine is on a "very constructive and progressive path to Europe and towards NATO and trans-Atlantic cooperation."

"We do not consider this a zero sum game," explained Mr. Rumsfeld, according to the Kyiv daily newspaper Den.

Ukraine's military force is the fourth largest in Iraq, with some 1,650 soldiers stationed in the southern region of the country and assigned to the Polish sector. A total of 32 countries have contributed to the international force.

Mr. Rumsfeld also told reporters during a press conference that the recent change in Ukraine's defense doctrine, in which specific reference to membership in NATO and the European Union as a stated goal was removed, would not be troublesome in maintaining good relations with Washington. The U.S. defense secretary said he saw no problem with Ukraine pursuing a multi-vector foreign policy, inasmuch as it is a sovereign country with the right to set its own policy directions. He did, however, stress that Ukraine and the U.S. needed to maintain close military ties, adding that lest it be

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ANALYSIS

TV coverage highly biased in Ukraine's election campaign

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Senior U.S. State Department officials have reiterated their threat that if Ukraine's elections in October are not free and fair, then Ukraine has no chance of being invited to join NATO (Ukrainska Pravda, August 9). Media freedom during the elections, the officials emphasized, is an important criteria in determining the openness of the elections.

The most important media outlet is television, as most Ukrainian voters obtain their news and information on the elections and most other issues from that source. Regular NGO monitoring of television coverage since the start of the election campaign has revealed strong biases that are likely to continue through election day.

Ukraine's national television stations can be divided into three unequal groups.

First are channels controlled by the Kyiv clan's Viktor Medvedchuk, in his capacities as head of the presidential administration (State Channel 1) or leader of the Social Democratic Party – United (1+1 and Inter).

Second, three channels are controlled by President Leonid Kuchma's son-in-law, Viktor Pinchuk, and the Dnipropetrovsk oligarch clan (ICTV, STB and Novyi Kanal) or Andrei Derkach (Era).

Finally, there is Channel 5, which is owned by Our Ukraine businessman Petro Poroshenko.

Channel 5 has already been removed from the cable schedule in the Donetsk

Oblast, the home base of presidential aspirant Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. On June 29, after Channel 5 began broadcasting live coverage of parliamentary proceedings, the director of Volia, the cable company that transmits Channel 5, Serhii Boyko and his deputy, Valerii Saliyov, were arrested. The trumped-up charges included violating their broadcast license, money laundering and transmitting pornography (Ukrainska Pravda, June 30). Even the pro-Kuchma newspaper 2000 found this development too hard to swallow (July 9). Ukrainian commentators concluded that the authorities seemingly do not wish Ukrainian voters to watch debates or hear opposition speeches made in Parliament during an election campaign.

The Donbas clan plans to launch a new all-Ukrainian television station in September, possibly by expanding the broadcasts of the Donetsk-based Ukraina TV channel throughout Ukraine. The Donbas group is the only clan without nationwide media resources. The launch of the Donbas clan's new channel could signal that Mr. Yanukovich does not trust his oligarch partners to give him the national coverage that he believes his clan needs to win the elections.

Equal Access, an NGO linked to the New Choice 2004 coalition, studied broadcasts during the month of July and found that positive coverage was given only to Prime Minister Yanukovich, the

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The Yanukovich campaign and the issue of media freedom

by Taras Kuzio

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Equal access to the media during this year's Ukrainian presidential campaign is a key issue in determining to what degree Western governments, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe can judge the election as "free and fair" (Ukrainska Pravda, August 3). Serhii Tyhypko, the head of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's campaign, rejected accusations that his allies were censoring television and, therefore, not providing equal access for all candidates. Claiming he had never seen "temnyky" (presidential instructions to TV stations), Mr. Tyhypko claimed, "I do not know about such kinds of political censorship" (Ukrainska Pravda, July 27).

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the candidate of the pro-Leonid Kuchma camp, is unsuccessfully attempting to prove he supports media freedom. Speaking to an all-Ukrainian conference of heads of state and communal mass media outlets, he said that media freedom is one of the most important requirements for the normal functioning of the state. There is a need to speak the "truth,"

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).

he added (Ukrainska Pravda, May 6).

The problem Mr. Yanukovich and his allies face is that actions speak louder than words, both domestically and internationally. A new report by Freedom House titled "Under Assault: Ukraine's News Media and the 2004 Elections," concluded: "Few believe Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's May 6 speech defending the rights of the media" (freedomhouse.org/research/specreports/ukmedia604.pdf). One major factor that "Ukraine fatigue" exists in the West is precisely because of the wide gulf between words and deeds on the part of Ukraine's pro-Kuchma elites. The same factor explains why Ukrainians have such low trust in their leaders.

Mr. Yanukovich declared in his May 6 speech, "If an official takes criticism as a personal insult then he should be not working in state institutions." Furthermore, he explained, "I, for example, have always taken criticism in my family and in society at large as a signal that I am not doing something in the right way, and I was grateful to my friends and colleagues [for this]."

During Mr. Yanukovich's six-year rule as chairman of the Donetsk Oblast administration between 1997 and 2002, such humility went unnoticed. The Donetsk Oblast, in fact, has the worst record on media freedom in Ukraine. With a poor history on media freedom as both oblast chairman and prime minister, Mr. Yanukovich's promises to support media freedom if elected seem hollow.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Government vows to raise pensions

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said on August 21 that the government in 2005 will increase the current minimum monthly pension of 137 hrv (\$26) to the subsistence minimum for disabled persons, which now stands at 285 hrv, Interfax reported. The average subsistence minimum in Ukraine was established by the government in May at 362 hrv. The government is planning to increase this minimum to 382 hrv in 2005. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Fire destroys newspaper office...

LVIV – A fire at the office of the Lviv-based independent newspaper Postup has officially been declared an act of arson. This was reported by the Ministry of Emergency Situations directorate in Lviv Region. The fire broke out in the early morning hours of August 19 and destroyed the newspaper premises, computers and office equipment. The Ministry of Emergency Situations put the cost of the damage at 48,000 hrv (about \$9,000). The editorial board of the newspaper put it at 300,000 hrv (about \$56,500). The director of the Postup publishing house, Andriy Bilous, said he is convinced that the office was set on fire because of critical, anti-government publications in Postup. The Channel 5 TV program reported that the Ukrainian Union of Journalists has appealed to the Internal Affairs Ministry to investigate the Postup incident immediately. (BBC Monitoring Service, ARTUIS)

... Yushchenko accuses authorities

KYIV – Our Ukraine leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has suggested that the fire in the editorial office of the daily Postup may have been inspired by the authorities, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on August 20. According to police, the fire, which destroyed 48,000 hrv (\$9,000) worth of equipment and property, was an act of arson. Mr. Yushchenko compared setting fire to the Postup editorial office with preventing Our Ukraine from holding a convention in Donetsk in October 2003, the controversial mayoral election in Mukachiv in April and the recent shadowing of him by Internal Affairs Ministry officers in Crimea. "These are desperate actions of the same kind," Mr. Yushchenko said. "The authorities are weak and they are not going to conduct honest political play. They not only illegally use law enforcement bodies and administrative resources, but also have no scruples against cooperating with

overtly criminal groups." (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM vows to lower bread prices

POLTAVA – Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich said on August 19 that the government will work with regions to have bread prices reduced, Interfax reported. "We will meet with the leadership of each region, we will have talks to persuade them in an amicable way," Mr. Yanukovich said in Poltava. "We propose to reduce [bread] prices but not at the expense of farms." He added that the Poltava Oblast is prepared to reduce bread prices by 10 percent as soon as September. Meanwhile, Communist Party leader and presidential candidate Petro Symonenko has called on the government to stop "uncontrolled exports" of grain. "Having no conditions for the preservation and processing of harvested grain, farms are forced to sell grain to profiteers for a song," Mr. Symonenko said. "Grain is already being shipped abroad at world prices in an uncontrolled way through Ukrainian sea ports, in particular, Odesa and Illichivsk." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma reprimands defense minister

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma reprimanded Defense Minister Yevhen Marchuk and sacked First Vice Minister for Defense Oleksander Oliinyk on August 19 for their failure to demilitarize and ecologically revive Balaklava Bay in Sevastopol, as the president had ordered in mid-2003, Ukrainian media reported. "The fixed capital and property of the disbanded military units that were deployed along the Balaklava Bay have not been fully released, whereas the released property is being transferred to commercial structures for conducting entrepreneurial activities," Mr. Kuchma said in a decree meting out punishments for Messrs. Marchuk and Oliinyk. "Ecologically dangerous production capacities continue to operate in the Balaklava Bay area." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrtelekom's privatization suspended

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has ordered the suspension of the privatization of Ukrtelekom, the largest national telecommunications operator in Ukraine, and a chemical plant in Odesa, Ukrainian media reported on August 19, citing the presidential press service. Earlier this month, the government had announced

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Ukrainians in Russia celebrate homeland's Independence Day

by Maryna Makhnonos

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

MOSCOW – Members of the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia and officials of the Embassy of Ukraine celebrated their homeland's 13th independence anniversary with a colorful music concert at the Ukrainian cultural center in Moscow on the eve of the national holiday. A top-level reception at the Embassy headquarters followed the next day.

Ambassador Mykola Biloblotskyi on Monday, August 23, addressed a festive gathering of the Ukrainian diaspora and his Embassy colleagues to kick off celebrations in the cultural center at 9 Arbat St., located in Moscow's historic downtown. He focused on his country's economic achievements, positive trends in Ukrainian-Russian bilateral relations and the upcoming presidential election in Ukraine.

"I am sure that the current state of Ukrainian-Russian relations corresponds to a strategic partnership and true and kind neighborly ties between the states," Mr. Biloblotskyi told the public. "Ukraine and Russia are and will be close friends, reliable neighbors and

business partners. I am definitely sure that we will use this atmosphere of mutual trust and agreement, which was created in recent years, to develop Ukraine and Russia as independent, strong and democratic states."

Trade volume between Ukraine and Russia grew by 37 percent in January-June compared to the same period last year, and reached \$7.7 billion, which equals the annual trade volume between the two states in 1999.

The ambassador also praised Ukraine's overall economic growth of 12.7 percent, 15 percent increase in people's real income and low inflation of 4.4 percent in the first six months of 2004. The inflation figure is one of Ukraine's greatest and probably most sensitive issues as people remember the first year of independence in 1991, when they suffered 10,000 percent inflation.

Mr. Biloblotskyi also touched on the theme of the upcoming presidential election in Ukraine, calling this the country's most important event this year: "I am sure that the state and its people will pass this exam successfully and according to

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Navy cadets march in Kyiv during the military parade on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Tens of thousands...

(Continued from page 1)

change in direction that could lead to chaos and the "fall of the economic renaissance."

On the morning of August 24 Mr. Kuchma, along with Prime Minister Yanukovich and Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Lytvyn, under tight security, laid flowers before memorials to Taras Shevchenko, considered the country's national bard, and President Mykhailo Hrushevsky, leader of the first independent Ukrainian state in 1918.

After the parade, Ukrainians frolicked on the Khreschatyk on this warm late summer day, and also walked the shores of the Dnipro to watch the 13th annual Independence Cup Regatta. Hoards trucked to Hydro Park and plopped themselves down on the sandy beaches of the Dnipro shoreline to take in the last summer rays. Still others strolled along the promenade between St. Sofia Sobor and St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral, enjoying two of Ukraine's oldest and most respected landmarks.

As dusk approached, however, those who were still in a party mood ascended back onto the Khreschatyk to watch the annual fireworks show and listen to an open-air concert of Ukraine's most popular musicians.

The revelers, of course, had much to say about what the holiday meant to them.

Valeria Aniskov, 39, of Kyiv explained that she was celebrating more than simply 13 years of independence – she was celebrating "the independence of a nation that has been around since Kyivan Rus'."

Artur Korol of Luhansk, who was visiting his friends in Kyiv, called Ukrainian Independence Day not only a holiday, but also a "big" holiday. "Who knows, later on we may even drink 13 shots in honor of it," Mr. Korol quipped.

Leonid Tumanian of Kharkiv, who had been at the parade, said he comes every year. He said this one was better than usual. His grandson Ihor, who was with him, disagreed, however. "Marching parades are good, too, but I like it better when there are tanks and armor," noted Ihor.

ELECTION WATCH

Yushchenko still in the lead

KYIV – According to a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) on August 7-15, 30 percent of respondents intend to vote for Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko and 25 percent for Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich in the October 31 presidential election, Interfax reported. A similar KIIS poll one month earlier recorded the same level of support for Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko in Wall Street Journal

PRAGUE – In an article published in the international edition of the Wall Street Journal on August 24, Our Ukraine leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko wrote that Ukraine is facing a historic choice in the presidential election, which may bring "real change" to Ukrainian society. "On the one hand, my vision for Ukraine proposes a system founded on democratic European values, which will enable each citizen to realize their socioeconomic potential in a country governed by the rule of law," Mr. Yushchenko wrote. "On the other hand, those from the ruling regime propose preserving the current autocracy, which rules over competing financial-industrial groups." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Authorities warn of 'provocations'...

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Internal Affairs Ministry have issued a joint statement pledging to apply timely "preventive measures" against what they call possible "various dangerous provocations" on the part of the opposition, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported on August 22. "Some representatives of the opposition have announced that if they lose the presidential elections, they will call on Ukraine's population to express protest in the most extreme forms – a revolt," the statement read. "We deem it our duty to state that Ukraine's constitutional authorities will in no way yield to provocations and blackmail. We are fully resolute to prevent the hazardous ventures that are being organized by opposition staffs." (RFE/RL Newsline)

... Opposition denies allegations

KYIV – The Force of the People

coalition, an election alliance backing Viktor Yushchenko's presidential candidacy, on August 23 refuted the government's statement that the opposition is preparing "various dangerous provocations" in the ongoing presidential election campaign, Interfax reported. The Procurator General's Office, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Internal Affairs Ministry had issued a joint statement warning against such provocations and pledged to take preventive measures against them. "Having no hope for a victory of the pro-government candidate [Prime Minister Viktor] Yanukovich in a fair struggle, the authorities are preparing the ground for provocations and heating up the atmosphere of confrontation in society," the Force of the People coalition said in a statement. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Marginal candidates urged to quit

KYIV – Our Ukraine lawmaker Mykola Tomenko, head of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for the Freedom of Expression and Information, on August 21 called on presidential candidates with low popularity ratings to quit the presidential race voluntarily, Interfax reported. Mr. Tomenko said that, according to surveys, support for 18 out of the 26 presidential candidates does not exceed 1 percent. Furthermore, he specified that these 18 candidates include 10 hopefuls with zero backing. "I request that these 10 unpopular candidates make the Ukrainian people happy and withdraw their presidential bids," Mr. Tomenko told journalists. According to Mr. Tomenko, such a large number of candidates in the presidential campaign makes it very difficult for the media to observe the principle of equality in reporting on presidential campaign developments. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Analysts outline Moscow's preferences

MOSCOW – In an interview with Nezavisimaya Gazeta on August 17, Effective Politics Foundation head Gleb Pavlovskii said that Viktor Yanukovich has a very good chance of winning the October 31 Ukrainian presidential election and that he has ambitions of becoming "a Ukrainian Putin." Mr. Pavlovskii added that President Vladimir Putin has definitely "placed his bet on Yanukovich," but said that some major

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Quotable notes

"We think it is very important for the people of Ukraine that they choose their next president, and that the elections are not manipulated and stolen the way they were in Mukachevo [Mukachiv]. We know that President [Leonid] Kuchma has said that the elections will be free and fair, but we are disturbed with what has been happening in recent months. Administrative methods have been used to make it more difficult for the opposition to conduct their political activities, especially in areas where they could not have a great deal of support, and there have been restrictions on the media, which are troublesome.

"The abuse by the tax authorities to go after oppositionist politicians is another problem. I had a good meeting with the new head of the [State] Tax Administration [Fedir Yaroshenko]. He expressed the need for the tax authorities to act in a proper way. And we look forward to seeing that.

"If elections are free and fair, U.S.-Ukraine relations will prosper and Ukraine's interests in integration into Euro-Atlantic structures will be enhanced. And we will embrace the winner, whoever it is. We know we can work with whoever wins free and fair elections. I am also certain that free and fair elections will encourage investments by American firms. I also think that free and fair elections here will limit so many abuses that we have seen within Ukraine on economic questions, including the area of privatization."

– John Herbst, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, in an interview with the *Kyiv Post* on July 1, responding to the question: *How will the upcoming elections influence relations between the U.S. and Ukraine, particularly in terms of business?*

Ukrainian American runs for Arizona's House of Representatives



Oksana Komarnyckyj

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Oksana Komarnyckyj, a long-time Ukrainian community activist in the United States, is running for a seat in Arizona's House of Representatives.

"Because of my heritage I know what freedom means and I know that we must always protect it. Serving as an elected

official is my way of serving Arizona and America and protecting our freedom," Ms. Komarnyckyj said.

In Arizona's House of Representatives two people are elected to represent a district. Ms. Komarnyckyj, a Republican, is running for a seat in the 15th district, which covers a portion of Phoenix, the state's capital.

She is joined in the race by Tara

Roesler, who is the only other person in the Republican primary and therefore the two are assured to move passed the September 7 primary. David Lujan and Kyrsten Sinema will face incumbent Wally Straughn in the Democratic primary, while Ms. Komarnyckyj prepares for the general election on November 2.

She said her campaign would focus on the key issues in the election. "Substance abuse, poverty, neighborhood safety and education are best addressed by fixing the root causes of those problems, as opposed to throwing money at the problems," Ms. Komarnyckyj said. "We need to treat the disease and not just the symptoms," she told an Arizona newspaper.

A member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 184 in New York City and the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Ms. Komarnyckyj née Kurowycy moved to Arizona after she married Orest Komarnyckyj. The couple has two daughters, Ksenia, 7, and Katya, 5.

Ms. Komarnyckyj, 43, holds a law degree from Arizona State University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of New Orleans.

She has also spent a number of years working in Ukraine. In the early 1990s she established and operated a Junior Achievement exchange program with the city of Ivano-Frankivsk, one of the first pilot programs of its kind in the former Soviet Union. Junior Achievement has been called the oldest and largest non-profit economic education organization in the world.

At the same time, she also advised an international trade and tourism company, and worked as an economic advisor to the

chairman of Ivano-Frankivsk's regional council before returning to the United States to extern with Judge Stephen M. McNamee of the U.S. District Court in Arizona. Since then she has worked as a lawyer at two prominent firms in Arizona.

"As a child, I was taught that in America I could be anything I want to be as long as I work at it. In other words, this country gave me the opportunity but it was my job to seize it. I would like to see a greater emphasis on that belief," Ms. Komarnyckyj said in a statement on her campaign website, www.oksanaforhouse.com.

Her parents also have been active in the Ukrainian American community. Her grandfather Erast Kurowycy in 1955 opened Kurowycy's Meat Market in New York City, which was later run by his son Yaroslav Kurowycy Sr. and is now run by his grandson Yaroslav Kurowycy Jr., Mrs. Komarnyckyj's brother. Her mother, Iryna, is president of the New York-based Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

Asked about her role as a legislator if elected, Ms. Komarnyckyj said, "The greatest impact a legislature can have is to listen to their constituency. You take a look at what your goal is and you find a way to work toward that goal."

Correction

In "Batkivschyna captain faces hardship but is undeterred in original quest" by Roman Woronowycz (August 22), the length of the ship was given as 28 feet. The Batkivschyna is 28 meters long.

Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

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

The UNA's 30th Convention opened in Rochester, N.Y., on Monday, May 24, 1982, with 396 delegates, 26 Supreme Assembly members and seven honorary members of the assembly in attendance. The week was proclaimed Ukrainian National Association Week by Rochester Mayor Thomas P. Ryan, and Supreme President John O. Flis, in opening the convention, called on UNA delegates to uphold the spirit of unity and fraternalism.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

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

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

Chapter 5

The American Focus

[At the beginning of the 1920s] ... UNA organizational life in the United States continued. The UNA had problems to be addressed, ideas to be developed and members to be enrolled if it was to maintain its leadership role in the community. As in the past, many social issues were addressed by the UNA daily.

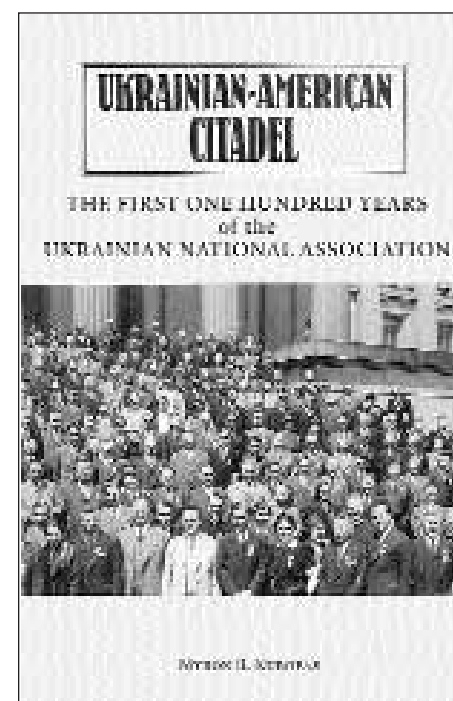
In January 1922, Svoboda published a long article about greater thrift among Ukrainian Americans. Reporting on the unveiling of a statue to Benjamin Franklin in New York on the occasion of the 216th anniversary of his birth, Svoboda recalled how significant thrift had been in Franklin's life. Reminding readers that in comparison to Ukrainians in Galicia, Ukrainian Americans led a comfortable life, Svoboda suggested teaching thrift by establishing an annual community-wide “thrift week” or “thrift month.” “All [the money] that would be saved [during such events] could be donated to some worthwhile cause at the beginning of March. ... The overall benefit would be great. ... And so would the benefit to individuals ... who would learn to discipline themselves regarding money.”

In a long editorial titled “The Self-Destruction of Ukrainians in America” Svoboda condemned the making of

“moonshine.” The main reason for “moonshineism” wrote Svoboda, was not Prohibition or the moonshine itself, but human stupidity.

“All Ukrainian communities are working long and hard to organize and enlighten all of their people. The work is hard. But for the moonshiners, the work is easy. Many people go to them for this poison and even pay for this illegal favor. This worse enemy called self-destruction has found its way into the Ukrainian American community. If the Ukrainian immigration in America wants to live; if it doesn't want to ... disappear before its time, then the time has come not to think and to talk but to immediately, and once and for all, rid their Ukrainian homes of this poison. ... [Let the Christmas season] be a time of agitation against moonshine, against the self-destruction of Ukrainians in America. ... Let's save our people for the Ukrainian nation and for its good name.”

Another social problem Svoboda addressed during this period was child labor. In 1923 the editor reflected on a National Child Labor Committee report that provided shocking statistics regarding the number of children between the ages of 10 and 15 working in factories, explaining how difficult it was to protect children from exploitation because different states had different laws. If federal



laws were necessary to get children out of factories, Svoboda concluded, so be it.

In 1923, the UNA launched a major membership drive. Svoboda reminded its readers again of the importance of belonging to the UNA with an article by M. Bistrychenko titled “Ten Reasons.”

(Continued on page 23)

Young UNA'ers



Erin Aleksa Drebych, daughter of Susan E. and Christopher M. Drebych of Edison, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 27. She was enrolled by her grandparents Christine and George Drebych.



Dorian A. Pickens, seen above with his parents Maria and Donald Pickens, is a new member of UNA Branch 172. The family resides in Cave Creek, Ariz. Dorian was enrolled into the UNA by Longin Staruch.



Colin Boryskewich Boyd, born to Matthew and Nicole C. Boyd of Port Charlotte, Fla., on July 2, is a new member of UNA Branch 381. He was enrolled by his great grandmother Barbara O. Boyd. All members of the Boryskewich Boyd family belong to the UNA.



Sasha E. Alcott, daughter of Carol Sorochtey Alcott and Gary Alcott of Paxton, Alaska, is a new member of UNA Branch 367. She was enrolled by her grandmother Stella Sorochtey.



Insurance Matters

by Joseph Hawryluk

Why do I need insurance?

Dear Osyp:

My wife keeps bothering me to get life insurance. We're both in our 40s, have good jobs and don't intend to have any children. Why should I spend money on life insurance?

— Wasyl

Dear Wasyl:

Unfortunately, life insurance is basically for those you leave behind. It's also a fact that men die younger than women, that Social Security provides only a \$255 death benefit, and that if your employer happens to offer you a life insurance death benefit it is group life insurance payable only while you are actively employed. If you happen to die in-between jobs, while working as a contractor, etc., your wife will not get anything.

It's also true that, with a cash-value life insurance policy, while you're still alive you can save some money on taxes building up an estate, get loans at favorable interest rates, get subscription discounts on Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, get discounts when you stay at Soyuzivka, get a UNA prescription drug discount card, etc., but the big money still would be paid out after you die.

So, you say, what does she need all this money for? I would imagine that with two incomes and no children, you are living a pretty comfortable lifestyle. You probably have a big house (big mortgage), fancy cars (car loans), maybe a boat (also financed), etc. Wasyl, she would need the life insurance money to keep up the loan payments while she adjusts to living on one paycheck. She would also probably like to pay your final medical bills and give you a decent funeral, complete with a nice casket and plot in the cemetery, and a bountiful funeral breakfast at which all your friends could get together and remember you fondly.

— Osyp

Joseph (Osyp in Ukrainian) Hawryluk is an advisor on the UNA General Assembly, chairman of the Buffalo UNA District and secretary of UNA Branch 360. This is an occasional column on insurance that appears in The Ukrainian National Association Forum.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

New beginnings

It's that time of year again. With the end of August our brains tell us the summer is over. Yes, the calendar tells us that summer has a little more than three more weeks to go, but everything around us tells us otherwise.

Our summer interns here at The Ukrainian Weekly (thank you for everything, Roxolana [Woloshyn] and Peter [Steciuk]!) and next door at Svoboda have gone back to school. The stories and photos about diverse summer camps have been arriving here at our editorial offices. The back-to-school sales on everything from school supplies to clothes to computers are on. And, "Ukrainian Week" in Wildwood is drawing to a close. How can this be? Where did summer vacation disappear?

Much as we hate to see summer end, we prefer to look on the bright side. For, after every ending, there is a new beginning. That, perhaps, is how we all should look upon the imminent arrival of September.

Indeed, September ushers in a new beginning. After all, it's not just the school year that commences. It seems that all our community activities start after the summer hiatus: youth organizations' meetings, dance lessons, sports practices. Even our adult activities are restarted at this time of year as our community organizations resume their work.

September, then, is a time for all of us to become reinvolved in our communities. It is also a good time for us to take stock of our community involvement and to take a clear-eyed look at what needs to be done in our community life.

Ask yourself: Am I contributing to the life of our Ukrainian American or Ukrainian Canadian community? Have I volunteered in some manner to help my parish, my school, my club? Have I supported the groups that are important to me, my children, my family, my community, my nation?

Hopefully, the answer to those questions is "yes." And, if you did say "yes," then September is also a good time for a reassessment of your involvement.

Again, ask yourself: Am I contributing as best I can to my chosen organizations/institutions in terms of my talents? Have I devoted enough time to working on worthwhile volunteer projects? Have I donated enough money to support the groups and projects I hold dear?

And, add to this a very important question for those of us who are parents: What example am I setting for my children as regards our Ukrainian community life? Surely, if you want your children to be involved, you must show them the way. Community involvement means much more than dropping your kids off at one activity or another.

So, as September approaches, it behooves us to set aside some time and give some thought to our community life – a most precious commodity that needs nourishment in order to survive and thrive.

Sept.
2
1996

Turning the pages back...

Eight years ago, on Monday morning, September 2, 1996, the hryvnia, Ukraine's new national currency, debuted on the streets of Kyiv. Our Kyiv Press Bureau correspondent at that time, Marta Kolomayets, wrote that "on this first day of the long-awaited monetary reform, many residents combed the city looking for open banks and currency exchanges to trade in their old karbovantsi for the new, multi-colored bills."

She further reported on the scene in Kyiv:

"Although pensions and wages were paid out to senior citizens and state sector employees in crisp new hryvni and shiny kopiyyky (coins) on Monday morning, workers in the private sector, tourists and foreigners waited in long lines to change karbovantsi and dollars into the new currency.

"There was no sense of panic on the streets, but long lines formed at the post office, where pensioners first lined up to collect their measly monthly allotment (the average pension is a little over 4 million karbovantsi, or 40 hryvni, which amounts to less than \$25 per month) and then lined up at another window to trade in their karbovantsi (also known as coupons) for new hryvni.

"I've been here for three hours," said Olha Paziak, 65, a retired teacher of Ukrainian language at Kyiv State University, who strolled around the post office, waiting to collect her pension. "Although the government has assured us that we won't be cheated with this monetary reform, why take a chance," she said as she waited for her husband to exchange their life's savings of 50 million karbovantsi to 500 hryvni, which is less than \$300.

"Oohh, they are nice," she exclaimed as her husband brought a stack of new bills for her to examine. "And they feel like real money, not just plain paper," she said."

The new currency, in effect, slashed five zeroes off the karbovanets and ended an era when every Ukrainian could jokingly call himself a millionaire.

The hryvni bore the portraits of historical leaders – Prince Volodymyr the Great and Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky appeared on the 1 hrv and 5 hrv notes, respectively, while the bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, was depicted on the 100 hrv bills.

Several banks and most currency exchanges were closed on September 2. Some were awaiting the delivery of the new hryvni, while others had been closed down by the National Bank of Ukraine for speculating on the karbovanets and sharply inflating the dollar rate of exchange in the last days before the reform was introduced. Many stores also remained closed on Monday as merchants spent working hours posting the new hryvnia prices alongside the old karbovanets signs.

Although there seemed to be a shortage of hryvni available to all who wanted to exchange karbovantsi and dollars, Vice Prime Minister Viktor Pynzenyk said that in a few days, practically all regions in the country would receive sufficient amounts of hryvnia notes and store customers would soon be getting their change in hryvni, not karbovantsi. The chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), Viktor Yushchenko, said he expected the hryvnia circulation to exceed that of the karbovanets by September 8-9.

Source: "Stable hryvnia greets introduction of monetary reform in Ukraine," by Marta Kolomayets, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 8, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 36.

ON UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S.

Following is the full text of an address by Mykhailo B. Reznik, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine. (The text was received on August 23.)

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend to you congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine.

Thirteen years ago the Ukrainian people finally gained a long-awaited independence. Although Ukraine with its great potential inherited the remnants of the Soviet management system and had to overcome great difficulties, such adversities only made us stronger. During this historically short period of time Ukraine succeeded as an independent country. Having overcome the economic crisis, we reformed the national economy into a market economy that has been performing at one of the highest growth rates in Europe for the last four years. We managed to preserve peace and stability within the country and to occupy a prominent place in the world arena.

But the greatest asset of our country is its hard-working, sincere and generous people who made our dream of independence come true. And today I must mention the vital contribution of the Ukrainian community in the United

States in making our motherland known and respected throughout the world. Being a Ukrainian is not determined by geography but by one's innermost orientation, not so much by formal identification as by a moral one. It is Ukraine that unites all of us wherever we live.

Ukraine has achieved significant results in many fields of social and economic life, including culture and science. However, we realize that the main work lies ahead as there still are problems to be solved. In this modern interrelated world, the consolidation of achievements and the beginning of a qualitatively new stage of the country's development are only possible with our friends' and partners' support. A special role belongs to U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation which has proven to be an effective key in establishment of the sovereign Ukrainian State. However, the potential of cooperation between our nations is far from being fully realized, and we consider its perspectives with optimism.

Dear Friends, on this festive day we look into the future with confidence. The nation is entering a new phase of development when the talent and industriousness of our people can place Ukraine on par with other prosperous and powerful democratic European countries. This historic opportunity should be realized.

Long live Ukraine!

Ukraine's ambassador to the U.N.

Following is the full text of a statement by Valeriy P. Kuchinsky, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, addressed to the Ukrainian community on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine. (The text was received on August 24.)

Dear Friends:

It brings me special pleasure to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of Ukraine.

I take this solemn opportunity, first of all, to thank the Ukrainian community in the United States for their continuous and substantial support to our state.

I am in particular grateful for your assistance, which we highly and sincerely appreciate, to the work of Ukrainian diplomats in the United Nations.

Facing the 13th anniversary of independence, Ukraine enters a new phase of domestic reforms which are carried out by her president, the Verkhovna Rada and the government to ensure the complex fundamental transformations in the country's life, creation of a democratic jurist state with socially oriented market economy.

Our achievements along this way are

irrefutable: the Ukrainian economy shows the best growth rates in Europe, there is also the necessary groundwork for complex internal and foreign policy measures that will bring Ukraine closer to integration with the EU and NATO. I am confident that the free and transparent election of Ukraine's president this fall will testify to the country's capability to enjoy the highest democratic standards.

Every major success of our state consists of successes of every committed Ukrainian, just like numerous rivers and streams join their waters into the mighty river Dnipro. So do I, on the eve of Ukraine's greatest holiday, place my sincere hopes on our common success, as well as on further active cooperation that brings all of us together.

It brings me pleasure to inform you that, according to the decree of the president of Ukraine on the commemoration of historical traditions of Ukrainian state-building and national symbols of independent Ukraine, from now on, every year on the eve of the Independence Day, on August 23 Ukraine will celebrate the Day of the State Flag.

Please accept, Dear Friends, my best wishes of happiness, good luck and well-being.

Long live Ukraine!

Thirteen years of independence

Following is the text of a press release titled "Thirteen years of independence" issued by Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. (The text was received on August 23.)

On August 24, 2004, Ukraine celebrates the 13th anniversary of its independence. Over the last years the absence of ethnic and national conflicts, irreversibility of democratic transformations, active reforming of economic, political and social life have become inalienable features of state-building processes in Ukraine.

A new stage of internal reform in Ukraine is aimed at securing profound systematic transformations in the country's life, corresponding to the standards of a democratic state with socially oriented market economy.

Ukraine's internal development

Over several consecutive years Ukraine's economy has demonstrated one of the highest growth rates in Europe. Against the background of a stable financial situation, exports are rapidly

(Continued on page 21)

NEWS AND VIEWS

Filip Konowal comes home**Filip Konowal**

by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

I was standing over his grave when the verses came to me: "I once was lost, but now I'm found. Was blind, but now I see. ... Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."

How apt a devotional for a Canadian hero, Corp. Filip Konowal.

I first heard of him in the early 1980s. In those days Konowal was "lost." Of those who even knew his name most questioned who he was. There was no Ukraine when Konowal came to Canada, they said, only imperial Russia. Ukrainians were just "Little Russians." Those claiming otherwise were pesky "émigré nationalists." And they ignored how he identified himself as Ukrainian. So I empathized with Konowal. They didn't want me to be a Ukrainian either.

In Ottawa's Notre Dame cemetery, where he has been since 1959, scarcely a trace of him could once be found, save for a small tablet, flush to the ground. How ironic that Konowal lies not far from Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a good man who opposed branding Ukrainians and other Europeans as "enemy aliens" during Canada's first national internment operations. Yet, from 1914 to 1920, thousands were herded into concentration camps, stripped of what little wealth they had and later disenfranchised. That happened as other Ukrainians, like Konowal, were loyally volunteering for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, some lying to enlist. Calling themselves Russians, for example.

Across Canada, and even in his ancestral village of Kutkivchi, Konowal was

Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor at the Royal Military College and co-author, with Ron Sorobey, of "Konowal: A Canadian Hero" (Kashtan Press, 2000).

unrecalled, save for his name inscribed over Branch 360 of the Royal Canadian Legion, on Toronto's Queen Street West. It was not then the trendy area it is today.

Why should Konowal have been better known? Because he was a hero. During the Battle of Hill 70 on August 22-24, 1917, just beyond Vimy Ridge, Konowal's exploits were so daring that King George V personally awarded the Victoria Cross. And also because he was archetypically Canadian – an immigrant, forest worker, soldier, a man who persevered through hard times, loosing his first wife during the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine. He married a French Canadian widow, learned her language, worked as a janitor on Parliament Hill, never bragging of his VC, save for joking how he cleaned up with a mop, as once he mopped up with a rifle.

Mainly due to Branch 360 a campaign to recover Konowal's memory began in 1995. Much was done. A proper headstone was consecrated. Trilingual historical plaques were unveiled at sites connected with his life – one at the Toronto Legion, whose honorary patron he is, another in the Governor General's Foot Guards Armory – in Ottawa, home of the 77th Regiment, a third in the armory of the Royal Westminster Regiment, in Richmond, British Columbia, for he fought in the 47th's ranks. There is also a marker at the Ukrainian Canadian Centennial Park in Dauphin, Manitoba. His bust even graces the village where descendants occupy the family home. And a bas-relief will be unveiled next August, near Lens, France.

With Ukraine having re-emerged in Europe, Konowal is also no longer called a Russian. Curators and commentators alike concede he was Ukrainian Canadian and most acknowledge Ukrainians weren't Russians – then, now or ever.

Still, something remained "lost" – his Victoria Cross. Spokesmen for the Canadian War Museum vowed it was just misplaced, astray in their collections. We thought it was stolen, but couldn't prove it – until April 2, when an email came from England, from Iain Stewart. He reported Konowal's VC for sale by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions of London, Ontario. Immediate steps were taken to have the RCMP secure and authenticate that medal. Unquestionably, it is Konowal's.

Undeniably, it was filched from the museum. By whom? Where was it? That tale has yet to be told. But, thanks to the CBC's Geoff Ellwand, we know that in the early 1990s a well-dressed woman in her 30s brought it and a Hawaiian silver dollar into a local coin dealer's shop. Told both were fakes, she sold them, got \$20 and went away content.

The dealer had it half right. The coin was a copy, but the VC was real. How could he not know? He consulted a reference book on military medals and there saw a photograph of a Canadian Victoria Cross. Official bilingualism required Pro Valore as an inscription instead of the English-language-only "For Valour" of Konowal's VC. But for the flick of a few pages the gem that had come to hand would have been revealed.

And so on August 23, the 87th anniversary of the Battle of Hill 70, Konowal's Victoria Cross was returned to its rightful owners, the people of Canada. His prodigal medal will become a centerpiece in the new Canadian War Museum's World War I galleries. It will be where it belongs.

As a soldier of the Great War, Konowal must have heard the magnificent hymn, "Amazing Grace." Hoot, if you will, but I am a man of faith. That spiritual's comforting words intruded just as I paused where he rests. So I know Filip Konowal has been found. And that grace led him home.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

**Montana's pysanka-making veteran**

The next time you're anywhere near Circle, Montana, look up Andrew Rychkun, age 87. He's a World War II U.S. Marine veteran who was featured in an article in the May 31 issue of U.S. News & World Report.

According to the article, "Andy Rychkun's parents came from Ukraine as homesteaders – they got 620 acres for free in exchange for building a sod house. Some years were so dry that nothing grew. After his father died, the family might have starved if not for relief programs."

I was fascinated by Andrew's story so I tracked him down and convinced him to send me more information about his life in Montana. He sent an article about his family, authored by Beryl Zahn.

Matthew and Sophia Rychkun, Andrew's mom and dad, I discovered, left Ukraine in 1898 and headed for Canada on a steamship. The sale of their meager property provided enough money for Sophia's passage. Matthew, however, paid his way across the Atlantic by tending to some of the farm animals that were on board to provide food for the passengers.

Arriving in Manitoba, they purchased two oxen and rented farmland. Oxen cannot be driven like horses, so Sophia had to lead the animals while Matthew managed the plow. Life in western Canada was incredibly difficult so when the Rychkuns heard of homestead land in Montana, they jumped at the opportunity, moving in 1910 along with the oxen. Other Ukrainian families followed suit. Within a three-year period 10 Ukrainian families left Canada and came to homestead west of Vida, Montana.

Matthew and Sophia raised 10 children. Andy's two older sisters eventually married and moved to North Dakota. In 1922, Matthew and Sophia, children in tow, traveled to Glendive, Montana, where they were sworn in as citizens of the United States. They traveled by horse and buggy, a round trip that took three days to complete.

Homesteading was never easy, always tenuous. Although they had 160 acres, the Rychkuns were able to till only a few acres. Sophia had a garden and raised chickens and turkeys. The garden was always prey to black beetles, army worms and swarms of grasshoppers. Two wells 12 feet deep, some three-quarters of a mile from the house, were used by the family. One well was for drinking, the other for washing and watering the stock.

At one point, Sears Roebuck had contracts with local farmers to purchase turkeys during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. According to Beryl Zahn, the turkeys were prepared at home, "put in barrels, and taken to Wolf Point for shipping. Paper was wrapped around the feet and head of the turkeys for shipping. Grasshoppers were a gourmet meal for turkeys. However, the turkeys retained a horrible odor after eating grasshoppers. It took some time before the local turkeys raisers could eat the meat."

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

Things were looking good for the Rychkuns in 1928 when money for an unusually good harvest allowed them to purchase a truck. Unfortunately, swarms of grasshoppers soon attacked their farm. Writes Beryl Zahn: "Most homesteaders can tell of the grasshopper swarms and how the sky was darkened as the hoppers moved in. They destroyed everything in sight from crops, gardens and pasture to fence posts."

Two of Andrew's brothers left to study for the priesthood at the Basilian seminary in Mundare, Alberta. One brother became seriously ill and had to drop out of the program while the other, John, was ordained as Father Innocent Rychkun. According to the publication "Ukrainians in Chicago and Illinois," compiled and edited by Daria Markus, Father Rychkun was pastor of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church on Chicago's southside from 1951 to 1962. In 1956, during Father Rychkun's tenure, the parish constructed a full-time day elementary school next to the church.

Tragedy struck the Rychkun family in 1932 when an older son, who was helping with the farm work, drowned in a freak accident. In 1933, Matthew went to work as part of a county crew hired to gravel a road. Working for 40 hours a week at 40 cents an hour, Matthew helped support his family. "During the winter months," writes Beryl Zahn, "the road crew was housed in an old building without sunlight. This contributed to dampness which later afflicted Matthew with rheumatism." It became so bad that Matthew was taken to a hospital in Circle where he spent three months. Nothing seemed to help, and he was sent home with pain so intense he remained in bed, his body in a fetal position. Sophia cared for him, fed him, and toileted him as he remained rolled up in ball, eating less and less.

Matthew Rychkun died in 1936 weighing only 97 pounds. Shortly thereafter the Federal Land Bank confiscated two horses and one cow from the Rychkun family, forcing them to go on welfare.

While Andy was serving with the U.S. Marines in the Pacific, his mother went to live with her daughters in North Dakota. She lived until 1965, reaching age 91.

According to demographer Dr. Oleh Wolowyna, the 2000 census informs us that there are 1,739 Ukrainians living in Montana, seventy eight of whom speak Ukrainian. Andy, apparently, is one of the latter group.

So what does Andy do during the long winter nights in Montana? He creates Ukrainian Easter eggs and demonstrates his skills to nursing home and Circle residents. He told me he starts making Easter eggs in December, at about the time of the winter equinox.

Andy lives with Helene, his wife of 55 years. Here's a suggestion. How about dropping Andy a note and thanking him for his military service, and for remaining true to his Ukrainian roots. He'd love to hear from you. His address is Box 95, Circle, MT 59215.

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

ON UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

UCCA statement: Ukraine's Independence Day 2004

Below is the text of a statement on Ukrainian Independence Day issued by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. (The statement was received on August 20.)

As a Ukrainian American community, we have struggled for many years for a free and independent Ukraine. Since this dream came true in 1991, our community has been helping Ukraine solidify its democracy and market economy. We continue to work to achieve the dream of many generations of our ancestors and leave a stable, democratic, European Ukraine to our future generations. Since restoring independence, Ukraine has undergone many transitions; however, many problems remain.

We, as a Ukrainian American community, are troubled by Ukraine's recent policy shift toward Russia, expressed in the changes made to the military doctrine, as well as the expedited creation of the Single Economic Space (SES) among Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakstan. In the same spirit, the practical overturning of the Odesa-Brody pipeline to Russia's control will strengthen Ukraine's energy dependence on its "northern neighbor," instead of alleviating it. Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin's warnings against "Western agents" who supposedly try to sabotage the creation of the SES are very reminiscent of the 1654 Pereiaslav Treaty.

The presidential elections scheduled for October of this year carry significance for solving Ukraine's international and domestic issues. Conducting the

elections in a free and fair manner will guarantee Ukraine's progress on its way to a mature democracy, otherwise the Belarus scenario may recur. The European community, as well as the United States, should not allow this to happen. A stable, democratic Ukraine is a guarantor of peace and stability in Central Europe, which is one aspect of the Euro-Atlantic community's strategic interests. Let us, therefore, assist our brethren outside Ukraine to vote during the upcoming presidential elections for the candidate of their choice. Whether in Ukraine or here in the United States, the Ukrainian people's strength lies in unity; thus, it should be our goal to promote harmony within our community in the United States.

On this 13th anniversary of independence, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) sends its warmest greetings to the Ukrainian American community and urges all to celebrate this anniversary appropriately. There is much work ahead, but there is no doubt that Ukraine will become an equal member of the Euro-Atlantic community. The UCCA urges our community to take an active role in American and Ukrainian civil life. With your assistance and participation, Ukraine will overcome all obstacles and build a democratic, prosperous nation built on the rule of law.

On behalf of the UCCA executive board:

Michael Sawkiw Jr.
President

Marie Duplak
Executive Secretary

UACC statement: Ukraine in its 13th year of independence

Below is the text of a statement by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day. (The text was received on August 26.)

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council extends its warmest greetings to all the people of Ukraine on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence. By voting overwhelmingly for independence in 1991, you have demonstrated to the world that decades of foreign domination and oppression could not destroy your yearning and determination to join the family of free and democratic nations. We here in the diaspora are forever indebted to you for the many sacrifices you made to keep the struggle for independence alive and for finally reaching this great achievement peacefully and without bloodshed.

In reflecting on the progress that Ukraine has made in many spheres, we welcome many of the changes that these 13 years have wrought: the diplomatic achievements, the growth in economic health, improvements in infrastructure, a quantum leap in "creature comforts" that

have been afforded to a good portion of the population.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned that forces, both outside and within Ukraine, are still threatening the sovereignty of this young nation, as well as its continuing development towards becoming a truly democratic state under the rule of law. We, therefore, call on you to redouble your efforts to secure and to protect Ukraine's full independence and ensure that it becomes a country free of political corruption and of the shadow of the Soviet past. Ukraine must display the same determination to become truly a part of Europe this year, in 2004, that it did when it rid itself of its "Soviet sarcophagus" in 1991. Only then will it become a truly free nation and an integral part of a democratic European civilization.

On behalf of the executive committee of the UACC:

Ihor Gawdiak
President

Dr. Roman Baranowskyj
Secretary

UCCA prepares Congress of Ukrainians in America

by Tamara Gallo-Olexy

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – Since its founding in 1940 the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) has represented the interests of the Ukrainian American community before the U.S. government and worked to improve the fate of Ukraine. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's restored independence, the UCCA has redirected its efforts toward supporting Ukraine's democratic transition and encouraging free-market reform, while sustaining a vibrant Ukrainian community in the United States. The focus of the UCCA's work is determined at the quadrennial Congress of Ukrainians in America. This year, "the City of Brotherly Love," Philadelphia, will host the 19th Congress of Ukrainians in America from September 24 to September 26 at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia.

This convention of UCCA members brings together representatives of the UCCA branches and member-organizations. Representatives of Ukrainian civic organizations and the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church will also be among the convention participants.

In addition to addressing internal matters and electing UCCA governing bodies, convention delegates and guests will have an opportunity to discuss various issues of importance during six planned workshops. The format of the workshops is designed to allow for an open and frank discussion on various topics, including: "Maintaining/Preserving our Identity," "Unifying the Ukrainian American Community," "Using the Mass Media to Get Your Message Out," "Advocacy – Your Voice in American Politics," "Support for Ukraine: Furthering Democracy and Ukrainianization," and "Outreach Programs for New Immigrants and Youth."

The main focus of this year's congress is the unification of the Ukrainian American community. During the last several years the UCCA has worked actively toward this goal, initiating several meetings with leaders of various Ukrainian American civic organizations. During such meetings, strategies for community unification, as well as issues that interest various groups within the community were discussed.

Organizations that are not members of the UCCA are welcome to participate in the congress as observers. The UCCA strives to represent the interests of all Ukrainian Americans, since a united Ukrainian American voice in Washington, as well as in Kyiv, would have greater influence.

The Convention Organizing Committee has planned two special events: a casual evening reception on Friday and a formal congressional banquet on Saturday evening. Many high-level officials from the United States and Ukraine have been invited to participate in the banquet, which begins at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening. During the banquet, members of the Ukrainian community who demonstrated great commitment and active work in the community will be presented with the Shevchenko Freedom Award. This award will also be presented to non-Ukrainians who have championed the cause of the Ukrainian American community.

The ticket price for the convention banquet is \$100 per person. To reserve tickets, please contact Ihor Kuszniir, UCCA Philadelphia Branch president and chairman of the 19th Congress Organizing Committee, by telephone at (215) 498-1697 or via mail at 500 E. Gravers Lane, Wyndmoor, PA 19038-8411.

Also, on Friday evening there will be a concert of local talent, and on Saturday evening, at 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., there will be a dance (admission is \$25).

The UCCA urges all community members to take part in the XIX Congress of Ukrainians in America in order to make their contributions to the UCCA action plan for the next four years. In order to register for the congress, or for more information, readers may contact the UCCA National Office at (212) 228-6840 or e-mail ucca@ucca.org. A discounted hotel price for delegates (\$99 per night) is valid for reservations made before August 31. Hotel information is as follows: Crowne Plaza Philadelphia CenterCity Hotel, 1800 Market St., Philadelphia PA 19103; telephone, (215) 561-7500; fax, (215) 561-2556, (215) 561-7500; e-mail, sphiladelphiacrowne@ichotelsgroup.com; website, <http://cpphiladelphia-centercity-felcor.com/>.

Ukrainians in Russia...

(Continued from page 3)

generally recognized world standards, Ukraine's Constitution and its Law on Elections."

After the envoy's long speech, the well-known Ukrainian quartet Yavir opened the concert with the national anthem. In true patriotic spirit, attendees rose solemnly and barely restrained themselves from joining the professional choir. Several renowned opera singers, who came to Moscow from Kyiv specially for the event, local Ukrainian musicians and Russian composer Alexander Morozov, who has roots in western Ukraine's Vinnytsia region, excited the audience with classical and folk music masterpieces, eliciting bursts of generous applause.

The peak of the celebrations came on Tuesday, August 24 – Ukrainian Independence Day – when dozens of Russian officials headed by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Russian political leaders, members of other diplomatic missions and activists of the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia attended a special reception at Ukraine's Embassy in Moscow.

"Because many former Soviet states proclaimed their independence almost at the same time, we have to attend a dozen festive receptions in the span of a few weeks. And, I should say I love what the Ukrainian Embassy, and probably Uzbekistan's, do as they make these celebrations sincere and natural – not boring at all," one Russian Foreign Ministry official confessed at the reception immediately after he had heard a performance by three bandura players from Ivano-Frankivsk.

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57th convention of Ukrainian Orthodox League held in Parma

by Dr. Steven Sivulich

PARMA, Ohio – A bus ride from McKees Rocks, flights from San Diego and Chicago, automobile trips from Carnegie, Pittsburgh and Ambridge, Pa., and longer rides from New Jersey and Minnesota brought delegates and guests to the Parma, Ohio, area for this year's convention of the Ukrainian Orthodox League.

On Wednesday, July 21, Lynn Szafranski (Philadelphia), national UOL president, opened the 57th Annual UOL Convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Independence, Ohio, by inviting Metropolitan Constantine, the primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. to offer the opening prayer. Members of St. Vladimir's Junior UOL (Parma) presented the colors – Nina Aust, the St. Vladimir Banner; Adam Kominko, the Ukrainian flag; and Lauren Widdersheim, the U.S. flag. Christy Bohuslawsky (Parma) presented bread and salt with an English and Ukrainian greeting.

Following opening remarks by Ms.

young adults retreats, scholarships ... all of these started at the convention.

"You are representatives of your church and your community. The theme of this convention's faith, hope and love; the greatest is love. St. John says God is love – all are created in love, for love, to love. Your motives at the League Convention must be in the totality of love – in your charity and in your creativity," Metropolitan Constantine said.

On Thursday, July 22, a divine liturgy was held at St. Vladimir Cathedral in Parma. The daily moleben service and the divine liturgies were enhanced by the beautiful music of the choir directed by Markian Komichak (Parma). The choir comprised local parishioners, as well as delegates and guests from other UOL chapters and parishes. Hierarchs included Metropolitan Constantine (Pittsburgh), and Archbishop Antony (South Bound Brook, N.J.), president of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

A special highlight of the convention was the keynote address given by Bishop Robert Moskal of the Ukrainian Catholic



The 2004-2005 Junior UOL executive board.

Greenleaf, St. Vladimir, Parma, first vice-president; Dr. Natalie Bilynsky, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, second vice-president; Kathryn Bailly, St. Mary, New Britain, Conn., treasurer; Oleh Bilynsky, St. Vladimir, Philadelphia, financial secretary; and Gregg Misko, Assumption Virgin Mary, Northampton, Pa., auditor.

Metropolitan Constantine appointed Father John Nakonachny and Father Myron Oryhon as spiritual advisors, respectively, to the UOL and Junior UOL.

The following appointments were made by the UOL president and approved by the UOL executive board: L.S.S.K. Chair – Daria Pishko, Holy Ascension, Clifton, N.J.; editor of UOL Bulletin – Dr. Steve Sivulich, Ss. Peter and Paul, Carnegie, Pa.

On Sunday, July 25, a procession of clergy, altar boys, choir and guests processed from the church to the parish house to greet the hierarchs and escort them to the church. Lynn Szafranski,

Melanie Nakonachny, Natalie Beck, Katya Curman and Geoffrey Greenleaf offered greetings to Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishop Antony as they entered the church.

Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishop Antony were assisted by Fathers John Nakonachny, John Mironk, Michael Strapko (retired) (Parma), Oleh Hucul (Maplewood, N.J.), Father Steve Repa, Bazyl Zawierucha (Northampton, Pa.) and John Henry (Abbot of St. Herman's Monastery, Cleveland), and Deacon Ihor Mahlay.

A farewell luncheon held in St. Vladimir's beautiful hall provided nourishment and fellowship that concluded the highly successful convention.

The next UOL convention will be hosted in Northampton, Pa., by the Assumption of the Virgin Mary UOL Chapter on July 27-31, 2005, with the theme: "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).



A view of one of the sessions during the UOL Convention.

Szafranski, Junior UOL President Natalie Beck (Palos Park, Ill.) offered words of welcome. Father John Nakonachny (Parma), convention spiritual advisor, welcomed participants with extensive comments, but with his usual humor and dashing style. Melanie Nakonachny (Parma), convention chairperson, followed her pastor with very brief and appropriate comments on the convention and her excitement about serving as chairperson. Geoffrey Greenleaf, president of St. Vladimir's Cathedral board of directors, welcomed everyone on behalf of the parish and board.

Metropolitan Constantine said: "God is good to us ... he brings us together. He also stated that he has been at UOL conventions before many of the board members were born. ("Happy Birthday" and "Mnohaya Lita" were sung for his 68th birthday during dinner on Thursday evening.) He noted that many initiatives within the Church began at UOL Conventions, such as the seminary, education camps, church school camps. Teenage conferences, All Saints Camp,

Church (Eparchy of Parma). Bishop Robert's address centered on the convention theme the greatest is Love. He said: "Hope is one of God's greatest gifts to us. But it is a gift God expects us to share with others. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us."

The Friday afternoon business sessions included a continuation of convention committee reports, junior convention reports, and approval of the 2004-05 budget. Then, future UOL convention sites were confirmed or reconfirmed: 58th UOL Convention – Northampton, Pa.; 59th UOL Convention – Coatesville, Pa.; and 60th UOL Convention – Carnegie, Pa.

Father Steve Repa offered the closing prayer for the UOL Convention. Later, buses transported convention delegates and guests to the newly remodeled St. Vladimir's Hall and the Ukrainian Village for a Ukrainian themed dinner and dance.

The UOL Senior officers elected for 2004-2005 include: Melanie Nakonachny, St. Vladimir, Parma, president; Helen



The 2004-2005 Senior UOL executive board.

ELECTION WATCH

(Continued from page 3)

Russian companies that are active in Ukraine "are trying to sit in two chairs at once" by making contributions both to Mr. Yanukovich and to Our Ukraine candidate Viktor Yushchenko. "I hope Putin will stop them," Mr. Pavlovskii said. "We do not need a new [Georgian President Mikhail] Saakashvili in Ukraine," Mr. Pavlovskii said. ORT commentator Mikhail Leontiev told polit.ru on August

18 that Mr. Yushchenko's campaign is "a special operation to detach Ukraine from Russia." He added, "Russia supports Yanukovich not because it likes him or because he is good, but because a victory for Yushchenko would be a disaster for Russia." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yanukovich accused of pressure tactics

KYIV – Our Ukraine lawmaker Serhii Soboliev has said that in the Zaporizhia Oblast in southeastern Ukraine "not a single signature in support of [Prime

Minister] Viktor Yanukovich's [presidential bid] has been collected without pressure from the administration of various institutions," UNIAN reported on August 19. "I can cite dozens of examples how school directors, doctors, teachers, kindergarten educators, the managers of plants, enterprises and other state-run institutions forced [voters] to sign up for the pro-government candidate," Mr. Soboliev said. He speculated that Serhii Tyhypko, head of the Yanukovich presidential campaign staff, stopped the collection of signatures for

Mr. Yanukovich out of fear that the number of votes cast for Mr. Yanukovich on October 31 will be "much lower" than the number of signatures collected to confirm his registration. Meanwhile, the private Channel 5 television quoted on August 18 from a statement by Mr. Tyhypko admitting that "zealous administrators who want to show Yanukovich their loyalty" have occasionally issued orders to collect signatures for Mr. Yanukovich and forced people to attend pro-Yanukovich rallies. (RFE/RL Newsline)

REFLECTIONS: For the love of dance and the Ukrainian heritage

by **Olia Rudyk**

I stood in St. Michael's school auditorium in Yonkers, N.Y., with folded arms, waiting for the new dance instructor to arrive. Anorexic I wasn't, and at the age of 16 quite self-conscious of my body in leotards. About 20 other young Ukrainians mingled about the hall – probably feeling just as uncomfortable and wondering what was in store for us all.

Then the huge door swung open and a tall, dark-haired, striking woman walked in. I was taken aback by her features. Her stride was confident, graceful and full of self-assurance. I immediately wanted to be just like her. I wanted to shed my shyness and awkward posture.

She introduced herself as Roma Pryma-Bohachevska and told us she had danced as a prima ballerina. She promised to teach us ballet and Ukrainian dances as well. Pani Roma was a strict and demanding teacher. She even carried a big stick. We would start classes with warm-ups and the five positions of ballet. Her stick would poke at my toes correcting the angles of my feet to the point I thought I would lose my balance and fall, flat on my behind. I never did fall and to this day I remember all the positions and many other ballet steps along with their names.

In about six months I was told to buy toe shoes. I remember the excitement when I slipped the satiny pink shoes on my feet and criss-crossed the long ribbons around my ankles. I practiced walking around our apartment on my tippy toes. Thinking back now, I must have looked like a circus clown on stilts, but in my mind I was ready for an audition to the American Ballet. I had visions of leaping across a stage into the arms of the male lead dancer. I dreamed of audiences applauding, yelling "Bravo" and throwing roses at my feet.

Although world fame was not in my future, I did perform on many stages for quite a few years. It was also because of Pani Roma that I was introduced to Roman Strotsky. He, too, was an enthusiastic and devoted dancer. One evening Roman packed two other dancers and myself into his beat-up old car and drove us to the Ukrainian National Association resort, Soyuzivka. We had an appointment with the resort's manager, Walter Kwas, who eyed us suspiciously.

Roman pitched his idea of organizing a "Soyuzivka Dance Ensemble." He would drill and prepare us for the famed



Sisters Olia Rudyk and Lillianna Chudolij.

festival stage in Dauphin, Manitoba. Mr. Kwas questioned us at length and, when we finally proved to be good candidates for work in the dining room as waitresses and bus boys, he conceded to Roman.

The summer of 1971 was one of the happiest times of my life. I thought I was in heaven. Soyuzivka had Ukrainian American employees from all over the United States. I bonded with co-workers, experienced my first "love" along with "heartbreak," and formed lasting friendships. I also met many wonderful guests. They were warm, kind and sincerely interested in us. They spoke to us with respect.

Mr. Kwas filled our days with hard work as employees of the estate, and Roman demanded long hours of dance practice. Very few afternoons were spent sun bathing by the Olympic-size pool. But hard work is followed by reward,

and every Saturday night the Soyuzivka Dance Ensemble performed for record crowd audiences. Although they did not throw roses at my feet, I did hear them yell "Bravo."

That summer, the Ukrainian National Association kept its word and sent the Soyuzivka Dance Ensemble to Dauphin, Manitoba. We were pampered hand and foot by the organizers of the festival. Being from the United States and representatives of the UNA and Soyuzivka, we met Sen. Paul Yuzyk and dined with the members of the famous Ukrainian band Rushnychok. I remember how we danced with deep passion at that festival. We were grateful to the UNA and proud of our culture. It was truly a whirlwind experience for me and another marvelous memory I will have forever.

My sister, Lillianna Chudolij, continued in my "footsteps" so to speak. She also came to meet Pani Pryma at St. Michael's hall that year, along with other youngsters. Lilia was only 6 and very tall for her age with big feet to match. Week after week, practice at the bar and floor exercises strengthened my string-bean of a sister into a steady, sure footed little dancer.

Wanting so much to please her new idol, Lilia would practice at home with a child's energy – endlessly. She tried continuously to master the splits and the perfect back position, often commenting that she could still feel Pani Roma's touch upon her shoulders, gently but firmly, pushing downward or correcting the curve of the spine or legs. During these years, Lilia met Ania Bohachevska, Pani Roma's daughter, who in Lilia's words was the "perfect dancer." Pani Roma's son, Boris, on the other hand, was every girl's dream partner.

Lillianna would often try my patience by stuffing and wearing my toe shoes and pestering me to teach her new steps in order to impress her teacher. She struggled and triumphed by being put in the front line where the best dancers were positioned. Pani Pryma's classes gave her the opportunity to learn to dance, and her body gained shape, style, grace and self-esteem.

Eventually, Lillianna was to perform in a ballet, "Kvit Paporoti." Pani Pryma chose a few students from each of her schools to perform. She also engaged Levko Strotsky, a fine dancer in his own right and a student of Pani Pryma's, to star as the prince. This was such an exciting time for my little sister as she toured with the ballet troupe to various Ukrainian communities. Other Ukrainian

folk dance performances were to follow.

Years later, Lillianna spent summers attending Pani Roma's Ukrainian Dance Workshop at Verkhovyna, then the Ukrainian Fraternal Association's resort in Glen Spey, N.Y. Three weeks of "lovable torture" was what Lilia called it. With the same old stick pounding out the beat, Pani Roma's students received hours of instruction in ballet, along with character and folk dancing. Steps became movements. Movements became combinations. Eventually, beautiful and intricate regional Ukrainian dances were woven together, showcasing the unique style for which her workshops were famous.

In the mid '70s and through the early '80s, well-known accordionists, such as Alex Chudolij and Ron Cahute, accompanied Pani Pryma's unique choreography at these workshops and the climactic Verkhovyna Festival and Soyuzivka concerts. The performers danced their hearts out and paid homage to their beloved teacher and mentor, Pani Roma. These programs continue to this day, and are much appreciated by the new generation of students that attend.

Pani Roma has influenced generations of young Ukrainians, helping them overcome their shyness and awkward posture as I did so many years ago.

* * *

I am currently working alongside a dear friend from those good old Soyuzivka days on preparing a tribute to Roma Pryma-Bohachevska. Stefa Dobrianska, an ardent enthusiast, sparked the now growing feverish preparations for a luncheon in tribute to Pani Roma as performer, choreographer and mentor.

The Ukrainian Institute of America is posthumously honoring Ms. Pryma-Bohachevska with its first "Lifetime Achievement Award." Her 40 years of dedication, passion and love for dance and Ukrainian heritage will be recognized on September 12, at the Waldorf Astoria, Grand Ballroom, 301 Park Ave., New York City, at 1 p.m. (The individual luncheon donation is \$120.)

A commemorative journal will be published, and anyone wishing to participate by placing a personal expression in memory of Pani Roma should respond by sending payment for a full page (\$300), half page (\$200) or a quarter page (\$125) to the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021. Further information may be obtained by calling (212) 288-8660 or by e-mailing programs@ukrainianinstitute.org.

Rumsfeld, McCain...

(Continued from page 1)

forgotten, relations between Russia and the U.S. remained close as well.

In a separate meeting with Ukraine's Minister of Defense Yevhen Marchuk, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld noted that the international stabilization force would remain in Iraq until state authority has been turned over effectively to the Iraqis. Mr. Marchuk added that while there had recently been a spate of calls from Ukrainian opposition leaders to shorten the stay of the Ukrainian contingency, it would remain with the larger force until the end.

"The sooner they [the Iraqi security forces] take control, the sooner our contingent will leave," explained Mr. Marchuk, reported Interfax-Ukraine.

During Secretary Rumsfeld's meeting with President Kuchma, the two sides also discussed the political and military situation within Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the withdrawal of troops from the Serbian region of Kosovo. They also

touched on presidential elections in both countries. Mr. Kuchma reaffirmed Kyiv's strategic partnership with the United States, while stressing that Ukraine remains oriented toward integration with the EU and NATO.

Five days after Mr. Rumsfeld's departure, Ukraine welcomed Sen. McCain and three of his colleagues, who came to Kyiv also to thank the country for its involvement in the Iraqi international force, as well as to assess the pre-election situation in the country. Their message to the Ukrainian government, regarding the way the pre-election campaign season was shaping up, was blunt and to the point.

"There have been widespread media reports and reports from human rights organizations that abuses have already taken place and there already has been significant restraint of the media," explained Sen. McCain, well-known for not mincing words.

Sen. McCain, who did most of the speaking for the delegation during a press conference held on the back lawn of the

U.S. ambassador's residence, said he believes the upcoming elections would be a vital moment in the history of the nation and that state authorities needed to guarantee free and fair elections with open participation by all the registered candidates.

Sen. Sununu said that should Kyiv decide not to heed international advice it could face a sully of its credibility and integrity, as well as exclusion from international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and NATO.

"I would suggest that if Ukraine and its government want to continue to be considered for membership in international organizations and a leading country in political and economic reform that credibility and openness are essential," explained Sen. Sununu, who later specified the WTO and NATO as two such organizations.

Sen. McCain expressed hope that the mass media would be allowed to present the views and platforms of all the candidates, and that all of them would have equal air time in upcoming public

debates. He reminded journalists that regimes in other countries that had rejected international standards of democratic processes had faced a slew of consequences, including reduction of foreign investment, exclusion from international organizations, as well as sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

The Arizona senator was quick to add that he did not expect Ukraine to have to face such a future.

The senators rejected the notion that Ukraine's participation in the Iraq Stabilization Force had saved it from facing the cold shoulder of the West after international scandals in the past and that it would remain a strategic partner even if the October 31 elections were deemed dirty and fraudulent by international observers.

"Participating in Iraq does not give any country the right to hold elections that are not fair," explained Sen. Graham. "We hope the elections here will mirror that which we want to achieve in Iraq: people free of fear willingly voting for the candidate they want."

SOYUZIVKA SCRAPBOOK: Children's Day Camp attracts more than 60 youngsters

by Tania Sawa-Priatka

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Shawangunk Mountains were alive with the sound of joyous music for two weeks in July as campers age 4-8 took part in sessions of Soyuzivka's Children's Day Camp.

The one-week camp, conducted on the sprawling Ukrainian National Association estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y., took place on July 17-24 and again on July 25-August 1. Over the course of the two weeks, more than 60 children participated in a program designed to expand their understanding and pride of their Ukrainian culture and heritage.

Campers hailed from across the globe, from Indiana to Texas, from Canada to Florida, from South Carolina, Colorado, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maryland, Virginia, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania and even from Ukraine.

This year's theme was "Pisnia Ukrainy" or "Melodies of Ukraine" and the children carried this theme throughout their daily activities, which included arts and crafts, Ukrainian folk dancing, story time, music, and sports and games.

Each morning was met with excitement as the children gathered to tackle the projects that each day presented. To begin with, the children were divided into groups named according to traditional Ukrainian instruments, such as the trembita, bandura, sopilka, buben and zozulka (whistle.)

Part of their arts and crafts projects during the week, led by Natalka Junas and Ducia Hanushevska, included making their own versions of these instruments and "performing" with them at the week's farewell evening, or camp closing ceremonies, held on Friday night during Soyuzivka's popular Odesa Night.

The theme of "Pisnia Ukrainy" was further underscored by Tania Sawa-Priatka as she taught the campers a host of up-tempo and cheerful Ukrainian children's songs. These songs could be heard all over Soyuzivka as the campers became more familiar with them and began teaching them to parents and siblings. The songs were then performed, much to the delight of parents, at the farewell evening.

During both weeks, the children also had the pleasure of participating in a special workshop led by Olya Chodoba-Fryz, which afforded them the opportunity to see and hear firsthand the hauntingly beautiful sounds of the bandura. To the surprise and enjoyment of Soyuzivka's guests, the children performed with Ms. Chodoba-Fryz at Hutsul Night.

Adding to the fun, Bohdana Puzyk and Olenka Bilyk led the children on an imaginative journey into the world of Ukrainian "kazky," or folk tales, introducing them to the many popular stories of their parents' youth.

Nadia Kruchowa used sports and games to encourage the children in team play. And, to round out the program, Andrij



Campers feed the animals during a visit to Kelder Farms.

Oprysko worked with the children to teach them traditional Ukrainian folk dance steps that were performed on the weekend.

Each week, the campers took a field trip to Kelder Farms, where they had a chance to see a real, working farm, go for a hayride, milk a cow and pick blueberries.

Now in its sixth year, Soyuzivka's Children's Day Camp (formerly known as Chemney's Day Camp) is a wonderful

opportunity for children to gain an appreciation for their Ukrainian heritage, whether they speak Ukrainian, understand Ukrainian or are simply just proud to be Ukrainian. Dates for next year's camp are still to be announced, however, as the children and their families left this year everyone promised to return for more fun next summer and to encourage their family members and friends to join in.



Children pose for a group photo at a playground during their field trip.



A scene from playtime at the Soyuzivka resort.



The children during their performance on the Soyuzivka stage on the popular Odesa Night.

An ascetic's holiday: A month at the Holy Dormition Monastery in Univ

The discovery late last year of a clandestine 1947 letter from the imprisoned Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj in a wall at the Holy Dormition Monastery at Univ spotlights this institution's role in some of the more dramatic phases of Ukrainian history. In his two-part article, Andrew Sorokowski reflects on a summer sojourn at Univ, describing the life of this remarkable community and its interconnections with Ukraine's political, social, economic and cultural life over the past six centuries.

by Andrew Sorokowski

CONCLUSION

World War I took its toll on the Studites. Many were drafted into the Austrian army while others, suspected of Russian sympathies, were sent to internment camps. But it was during the Polish-Ukrainian war that followed the fall of Austria-Hungary in late 1918 that the Sknyliv monastery was destroyed, first by fire, then by military operations. As a result, in 1919 Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky decided to transfer the Studites to Univ. With western Ukraine again under Polish rule, the metropolitan's brother, Archimandrite Klymentii Sheptytsky, concentrated on building monastic life in the Byzantine tradition. A revised Studite rule was developed on the basis of historical sources and approved in 1936-1937.

Today, one must be at least 18 years old to enter the monastery; formerly the age was 16. Every year an average of some 20 young men announce their candidacies, but few remain for long. Before World War II, they came mostly from the villages; now many come from the city. Although a few of them are considerably older than 18, most are young. About half wear beards.

The routine is demanding. Each monk devotes about eight hours a day to prayer and a similar length of time to agricultural or other physical labor, leaving the remaining eight hours for rest or sleep. They work in staggered shifts, so that there are always enough monks to pray and to work.

Nevertheless, there is time to pursue special interests. Some of the monks explore the vast and varied heritage of Eastern Christian liturgical chant, borrowing melodies for their choral services from the Bulgarian, Russian and Serbian traditions. One of the monks, Brother Andrii, took an interest in Byzantine bell-ringing. On late afternoons one could see him aloft in the belfry, trying out some exotic melodic pattern. Later I heard that he had enrolled in the Lviv Conservatory of Music.

In a relatively poor, post-Communist country like Ukraine, maintaining the monastic economy takes considerable skill. The monks do much of their work beyond the monastery walls. Upon its revival by Metropolitan Sheptytsky in 1919, the Holy Dormition Monastery could not derive rents from far-flung landholdings, as in feudal times. In order to survive the monks had to work in the adjacent orchards, fields and buildings.

In the 1920s and 1930s the monastery became a model of economic self-sufficiency, based on farming and gardening with up-to-date technology. The monks herded cows and raised horses. They gathered honey from a hundred beehives and tended a vineyard. They dyed wool and tanned hides in the winter. The monks processed flax into linen towels and tablecloths. The monastery operated two mills, a smithy, and workshops producing baskets and furniture. Shops housed a tailor, a cobbler and a locksmith.

Naturally, the monastic economy also addressed the spiritual needs of the laity: the monks crafted rosaries and, in the renovated print-shop, produced popular religious publications, as well as reproductions of the monastery icons, which would

be sold at religious festivals. The Studites did not neglect their lay neighbors' health or education either: they operated an orphanage and a primary school, and their physician and assistant would serve the villagers as well as the monks.

After the war the Soviet authorities confiscated most of the monastic land between the forest and the village road. Today it remains part of the local collective farm. Many collectives in Ukraine have survived the end of official communism, as privatization is slow and difficult. The monastery has retained a few buildings beyond its walls, however, and some patches of surrounding land. Here the monks perform their agricultural labor.

Yet the monks find time to counsel the laity. One warm evening after an outdoor vesper service the students and teachers met indoors with the young hieromonk Father Illya. To crashes of thunder and flashes of lightning, he recounted how after his stint in the Soviet Army he had first felt a calling to the priesthood. An elderly monk of his acquaintance had prayed daily for his vocation, and finally he had answered it. Father Illya invited us to recite the Jesus prayer before an icon. As the storm raged outside, the electricity went out, leaving us only the light of a single candle before the icon. Someone lit a second candle and, as we prayed, the lightning briefly illuminated us.

Later Father Illya took questions. Trust absolutely in divine providence, he counselled. Accept the situation in which God places you, even if it seems wrong or unjust. It was a hard lesson for us to swallow – particularly for one brought up in a culture where we are encouraged to question authority and assert our rights, to live as we want to live and to be who we want to be. Choice, not acceptance, is the watchword of the West.

Another time we met with Father Alexander, who mystified us with stories of the magic spells and witchcraft that had survived among the Hutsuls in the Carpathian Mountains. Some of the students were skeptical, seeing little danger in such folkloric relics of the past. But Father Alexander took it all quite seriously.

Later I talked with Father Hedeon, an elderly hieromonk with a long white beard. Ordained in Rome in the late 1930s by the Russian Catholic Bishop Ievreinov, he had studied at the Gregorian University. Father Hedeon had returned to Univ in the fateful year of 1939. One September day a forward detachment of the Red Army appeared in the village. The Soviet Union, dividing Poland with Nazi Germany under the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of the previous month, claimed to be liberating the Ukrainian people from the Poles, the landlords, the Church, the bourgeoisie and other "exploiters." The officers had heard that the monks were harboring arms. They arrested the abbot and stood him up against the wall of the belfry for execution. At that moment Father Hedeon appeared with some Belgian fowling-pieces. Pleased with this stylish booty, the officers abandoned the proceedings and resumed their journey of liberation.

This was only the beginning of the monastery's troubles. For while the Soviet authorities, careful not to alienate the population, treated the clergy circumspectly, they did not hesitate to appropriate church property. They nationalized part of the monastery's fields, woods and pastures, seized the cattle, and requisitioned the harvested crops. As one villager later recollected, the Soviets sat the poorest of the villagers atop wagons loaded with grain to sing songs of freedom and equality. In October 1939 a nearby monastic chronicler noted that it was precisely those villagers who had benefited from the generosity of the monks who now pillaged the monastery with the accusation "You've drunk enough of our blood!" The Soviet authorities set-

led Polish refugees in some of the cells and opened a basket-weaving workshop. By 1940 the monks, deprived of resources, were beginning to go hungry. Villagers who had received land confiscated from the monastery secretly sent them food.

Then came June 22, 1941, and the German attack on the USSR. As the Red Army retreated eastward before the advancing Wehrmacht, the Soviet secret police made sure to leave its mark, murdering three of the monks. In another village, a Studite monk was dragged through the streets before being tossed into a ditch and bayoneted to death.

During the subsequent occupation, the archimandrite and hegumen maintained contact with the Ukrainian nationalist resistance – a policy that risked Nazi reprisals and would also condemn them in the eyes of the Soviet regime. Moreover, the Studite monks harbored three Jewish boys, sons of rabbis from Lviv and Poznan, in their orphanage. This was part of Metropolitan Sheptytsky's successful plan to save Jewish children by hiding them in various monasteries. Aside from confiscating a bell, however, the German authorities left the monastery alone. But the German priest Josef Peters, who had earlier lived at Univ as a Studite monk, was arrested by the Gestapo in Lviv for printing illegal leaflets and sent to the Dachau concentration camp.

In the summer of 1944 the German army was in retreat. With the Red Army once again in charge, the monks continued to maintain clandestine contact with the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, providing it with food, shelter and medical assistance, and even harboring its commander-in-chief, Gen. Roman Shukhevych, for a few days. On September 30 Soviet security troops and tanks mounted an anti-insurgency operation in the forests near Monks' Hill. One detachment took the monastery. But for the time being, the Soviets would not directly assault

the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church.

Historians have not yet established why. Perhaps the Soviet leaders wanted to secure their grip on western Ukraine – and more broadly, on Eastern Europe – before assaulting the Church. Perhaps they were reluctant to harm the immensely popular Metropolitan Sheptytsky. Perhaps they thought the Church could be pressured into collaborating against the nationalist underground. In any case, after Metropolitan Sheptytsky's death on November 1, 1944, a Church delegation travelled to Moscow seeking an accommodation with the Soviets. Despite some good-will gestures, in early 1945 the Soviet government prepared a plan to liquidate the Church. They would do so by joining it to the recently revived and politically compliant Russian Orthodox Church.

In April 1945 the entire Greek-Catholic hierarchy in Soviet-occupied Halychyna, including the new Metropolitan Josyf Slipyj, was arrested. The following March, the press announced that the bishops would be tried for treason. A few days later, a group of clergy and laymen, many of them bused in from the countryside, was herded into St. George's Cathedral in Lviv, where the Church was formally dissolved and "reunited" with the Orthodox.

In the ensuing months and years, recalcitrant priests (many of whom had wives and children) were shipped off for hard labor to Central Asia or Siberia. During this operation, the Holy Dormition Monastery at Univ served as a collection point for monks from the various monasteries being dissolved throughout the region. While the Soviet authorities had plenty of experience in liquidating Churches – they had practically destroyed the Russian Orthodox Church in the 1920s-1930s – their knowledge of religious affairs was faulty: in a 1946 report the regional plenipotentiary of the Council for

(Continued on page 13)



Andrew Sorokowski

The interior of Holy Dormition Church, with its Gothic vaulting, restored neo-Byzantine frescoes and modern iconostasis.

An ascetic's holiday...

(Continued from page 12)

Religious Cults referred to the Studites as "students." The Soviets' talents lay elsewhere. According to some of the monks, one can still find the bones of prisoners who were shot in the monastery basement.

In June 1947 Archimandrite Klymentii Sheptytsky was arrested. The villagers relate that he was paraded through Univ in an open truck, flanked by two armed soldiers. He only managed to bow to the people standing in their front yards and to bless the village. His detention and investigation lasted until February of the following year, when he was convicted of "treason to the fatherland" and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. He died in June 1951 in the Vladimir Prison in Russia. A number of other monks, all of whom refused to convert to Russian Orthodoxy, were imprisoned or sent to labor camps.

Archimandrite Klymentii Sheptytsky was beatified by Pope John Paul II during his visit to Lviv on June 27, 2001, along with 26 other Ukrainian Greek-Catholic martyrs.

In 1948, Father Hedeon was arrested for rendering aid to the Ukrainian anti-Soviet underground. He was exiled to the far eastern region of Russia. After his return from exile he was allowed to serve a village parish – in the Russian Orthodox Church, of course.

It was only in September 1950, however, that the final assault on the Holy Dormition Monastery took place. It began with a thorough search of the premises. Books, paintings and other valuables were confiscated. "Harmless" or "useless" tomes were tossed into the church. But the villagers of Univ were able to hide some of the monastery's treasures from the Soviet police. For example, one family hid a precious Gospel in the ceiling of a corridor in their home. Today, many of these artifacts can be seen in an art gallery on the premises. It contains a remarkable collection of ecclesiastical folk art, including icons in the native village style. There is also a collection of antimensions, embroidered altar-cloths containing relics and inscribed by the reigning hierarch.

Once the monks were driven out, the monastery was converted into a residence for invalids, then into a women's psychiatric hospital. Later the inmates were joined by homeless people and ex-prisoners from around the country. In December 1952 the Soviets poured gasoline on the remaining books and burned them. Next, one Kochenkov, secretary of the Communist Party's local district committee, ordered that the church be turned into a cultural and recreational center.

The following spring, the employees of the residence were compelled to demolish the 18th-century iconostasis; the inmates were given the fragments to use as firewood. As the monks relate, a movie screen was placed at the altar. To heat the premises, an iron stove was plunked down in the middle of the nave, and a chimney was thrust through the ceiling. The frescoes were not spared either. They had been painted, with professional guidance, by a group of monks between 1935 and 1938 in the neo-Byzantine style. Now the Communist activists painted them over as high as they could reach. Local activist Sashko Makakhov had confidently declared, "No one will ever see these gods again!" The alabaster monument of local nobleman Alexander Lahodovsky was broken up (it has since been restored and moved to the fortress-museum of Olesko).

One evening in 1954, local Komsomol (Communist Youth League) activists destroyed the statue of the Virgin over the spring of healing water. They partly dismantled the belfry and topped the adjoining gate with a sign reading "Long live the Communist Party of the Soviet Union." By order of the party district committee, a large outdoor cross that had been erected

in 1938, on the 950th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus', was broken up. Workers managed to chip off the outer shell of the cross, but could not destroy the metal armature underneath. The villagers relate that when they summoned the blacksmith Iosyf Turchyn to cut it up, he refused.

In the mid-1950s, with the threat of anti-communist insurgents abated, the local party leaders saw the recreational potential of this secluded site. With its fresh air and wooded hills, the Univ monastery became an unofficial resort for the party elite. The village was renamed Mizhhiria. After all, the name "Univ" not only recalled the old monastery, but seemed to symbolize the detested "Unia" – the 1596 union of the Orthodox Metropolitanate of Kyiv with the Roman Catholic Church.

Meanwhile, the surviving Studites sought to maintain some form of monastic life. A few managed to remain in the ex-monastery as caretakers, employees or farm workers. One returned from exile under an assumed name to fix the gutters and visit the cemetery on Monks' Hill. Another corresponded with Father Josef Peters, who had survived Dachau and lived in Germany. Many Studite monks continued to live in groups according to their monastic rule in apartments in Lviv or other towns and villages. As part of the network of the underground Greek-Catholic Church, they maintained a central administration under Archimandrite Nikanor, who lived in Lviv from 1963 to his death in 1982. His successor, Father Iurii, lived in nearby Peremyshliany and would occasionally make illegal visits to the monastery, holding secret nocturnal services in the old cells. He died in June 1990, having witnessed the resurrection of his Church.

A movement for legalization of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church had gained momentum in the 1980s, particularly with the advent of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms. The Church was effectively legalized in December 1989, when President Gorbachev visited Pope John Paul II in Rome. Immediately after, Greek-Catholic communities were permitted to register with the authorities and begin a legal existence. Hundreds of parishes that had been forcibly turned over to the Russian Orthodox Church in the late 1940s returned to Catholicism. Meanwhile, in June 1989 the villagers of Univ had already formed an "Initiative Group for the Rebirth of the Village." At a July rally they demanded the return of the monastery church. Later that year they were joined by the Memorial society, which petitioned for registration of the parish.

The communist authorities sought to sidestep the issue by offering to register the parish independently of the Greek-Catholic Church – and even tried to placate the faithful by replacing a bust of Lenin with a small cross. But a survey conducted in January 1990 revealed that 372 out of 394 villagers desired to register the parish as Greek-Catholic. The following year, the church and three monastic cells were returned to the monks, and the first liturgy was celebrated on Christmas Eve. Eventually, popular pressure forced the district council to return all the buildings and a small part of the nationalized land to the monastery.

After Ukrainian independence and the fall of the USSR at the end of 1991, the complex was renovated with assistance from German benefactors, notably the archdiocese of Mainz. As for Father Hedeon – after legalization he was able to rejoin the Greek-Catholic Church and returned to Univ in 1996.

One day Yaroslav Movchan, a restorer from a Lviv enterprise, showed several of us the ongoing restorations of the modern frescoes in the monastery church. When the Soviet Union collapsed, workers began to remove the green paint with which the Communist activists had covered the frescoes. The first image they uncovered was that of St. Theodore the Studite. Removing

the paint, however, was only the first step. Now the restorers must repair the original artwork. They work carefully, designating their own additions with lighter tones.

On some afternoons I would walk out past the belfry along the chalky, dusty road through the village. The houses on both sides and the fields behind them filled a shallow valley between golden hills capped by deep green forests of oak, fir and spruce. The earth had a salt smell. From the back yards of the one-story houses drifted the din of ducks, roosters, hens and geese. Along the way I passed wood plank wagons with rubber tires, drawn by tired nags.

In the middle of the village was a crossroads, where a stone cross overgrown with flowered vines commemorated the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the serfs in 1848. In this, Austria had anticipated Russia, which abolished serfdom in 1861. In both cases, economic hardships and legal obligations had continued to burden the peasantry. Nevertheless, the abolition of feudal servitude had great significance for the people, and memorial crosses could once be found in hundreds of villages throughout Halychyna.

I walked through the far side of the village and out into the fields. The dirt track was muddy and uneven. At the edge of a field I encountered another white stone cross, marking a boundary where a hill rose up into the thick forest. Returning through the village, I passed a horse-drawn wagon laden with hay. Birds sang, insects hummed in the grass, dogs barked. The sun was setting beyond the fields of corn and hay. A solitary automobile bounced along the road, later a truck with a load of hay. Children, youths and women ambled along, talking quietly in the familiar dialect of Halychyna.

On weekdays the village and the monastery live their separate lives, but on Sundays the villagers crowd into the monastery church for the liturgy. The women stand on the left, the men on the right. A few benches along the sides accommodate those unable to stand. Unlike the weekday services, which are in Church Slavonic, the Sunday liturgy is in modern Ukrainian. As in the Orthodox liturgy, the recitation of the Creed omits the filioque.

From the perspective of Univ, city life is worlds away. One warm Friday afternoon I packed a bag and hiked up the dirt road through the forest and down across the fields to the bus-stop on the paved two-lane road. A passing motorist took me to the outskirts of Lviv. There I caught a streetcar to the city center. Dropping my bag in the living room of my relatives' apartment, I strode out again

into the town center, with its lengths of crenellated walls, Renaissance and Baroque churches and palaces, and Hapsburg-period apartment houses. The city's gilded youth, decked out in the latest European fashions, paraded about the parks and boulevards, as if in some Mediterranean city.

But alongside the prosperity of the new elite, a large part of the population is slipping into poverty. There are beggars in the streets. Here and there an old woman in a kerchief sits on the pavement, hawking a handful of vegetables. The outskirts are more reminiscent of Greece or Mexico, the sidewalks cluttered with makeshift stands displaying a variety of household goods, packaged foods and popular novels. The noise and stench of diesel buses and run-down cars are suffocating. Crumbling walls are crammed with garish posters and graffiti. Along a major thoroughfare a prostitute awaits the affluent customer, while pedestrians step around a drunk lying bleeding on the ground.

On Sunday I attended morning liturgy at St. George's, the Rococo cathedral of the Greek-Catholic archbishop-metropolitan of Lviv, which overlooks the city from one of its highest hills. It was crowded with standing worshippers. The service was chanted by several priests and a well-trained choir. It resembled a concert. Compared to the concentrated, intimate worship of the monastic church at Univ, this seemed public, formal, almost impersonal.

I caught the bus for Univ in the late afternoon. At the village of Iaktoriv the bus turned off the main road, passing the pre-war National Home and the tall wooden church as it wound up into the hills. The driver let me off by a muddy path. The evening sun was warm, and my bag seemed heavy as I panted up the hill between the cow pastures. At the top, the path turned into a fragrant forest, emerging about a quarter of a mile further along into a clearing, from which a magnificent view of the monastery opened up below. The sun was setting as I tramped into the dining hall, stamping the dust and mud from my shoes, and joined my colleagues for supper. It was good to be back.

There are those, however, who walk the whole way. Every year on the monastery's feast-day – the Dormition is the Eastern equivalent of the Assumption, and by the Julian calendar falls on August 28 – scores of pilgrims spend a few days walking from Lviv to Univ. Mostly students and young people, they camp out at church halls in villages along the way. Arriving at

(Continued on page 15)

On visiting monastic communities

Most visitors to the Holy Dormition Monastery at Univ are locals, though foreigners do occasionally appear. Tourist buses from Lviv stop for brief look-arounds. But so far the summer session has been available only to select laity from Ukraine. That is probably all that the community can accommodate, and not only in practical terms. An influx of enlightenment-seeking Westerners could seriously disrupt the contemplative atmosphere and the monks' careful balance of work, rest and prayer. Differences in language, culture and standards of conduct could be disruptive.

There are, however, some innovative, English-speaking Byzantine-rite monastic communities in the United States that are open to contact and communion with the laity. One is Holy Transfiguration Monastery (also known as the Monks of Mount Tabor) in the mountains of northern California about three hours' drive north of San Francisco (P. O. Box 217, Redwood Valley, CA 95470-0217). Located in an area reminiscent of the

Carpathian Mountains and built in the rustic Carpathian style, the monastery was founded by the Belgian Archimandrite Boniface Luykx.

A new branch of this community is Holy Transfiguration Skete at Eagle Harbor, on the shore of Lake Superior on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. With the newly built wooden Monastic Church of St. John the Theologian, the community is seeking to create a center of worship, theological research and music. Local people attend Sunday liturgies, and faithful come occasionally for retreats. While isolated, the center welcomes visitors. Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis, Toronto and Winnipeg are all within a one- or two-day drive. (See John Fedynsky, "Byzantine Rite monks, part of Ukrainian Catholic Church in U.S., ready to dedicate monastery," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 17, 2003). The monks welcome visitors to their services (telephone: 707-485-8959).

– Andrew Sorokowski

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TV coverage...

(Continued from page 2)

candidate backed by the pro-Kuchma camp. At the same time, these television stations offered no censure of Mr. Yanukovich. The prime minister's May 6 call to officials to not be afraid of criticism has not led to more critical reporting of his government's work or himself as a candidate.

The Equal Access report resembles the conclusions of another survey of television coverage made by the Academy of the Ukrainian Press, an NGO offshoot of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Sociology, during the month of July. They concluded that the authorities were mounting a concerted effort to shape public opinion in the elections.

When candidates officially launched their campaigns on July 4, the day's television coverage was heavily biased in favor of Mr. Yanukovich (Zerkalo Nedeli, July 10-16). Nearly half of the reports on that day depicted Mr. Yanukovich positively, while only 5 percent were negative. Favorable reports on the rally in Zaporizhia held by Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions were extensively broadcast.

The television channels controlled by the pro-Kuchma camp frequently air examples of "support" for Mr. Yanukovich to give his campaign a sense of momentum that will inevitably lead to his victory. At the same time, TV coverage of opposition rallies take pains to minimize the number of participants. One "temnyk" (secret order from the presidential administration) explicitly instructed television stations on how to cover challenger Mr. Yushchenko's first election rally on July 4: "When covering the event, do not give long shots of the rally and shots of the crowd; show only groups of drunk people with socially inappropriate or deviant behavior" (Zerkalo Nedeli, July 10-16). To minimize the possible damage, Our Ukraine stewards confiscated the vodka that "provocateurs" were distributing at the rally.

TV coverage also focused on examples of extreme-right support for Mr. Yushchenko, such as images of individuals daubing slogans on the Lenin statue in downtown Kyiv or screaming provocative slogans at delegates to the Communist Party congress. "Pro-government TV channels also portrayed Viktor Yushchenko as an anti-Russian politician supported by extreme Ukrainian nationalists," the BBC Monitoring Research Service (July 8) found. TV channels also reported that the only political party backing Mr. Yushchenko was the extreme right All-Ukrainian Liberty Party, formerly the Social National Party.

Defectors from the Kuchma camp also have been subjected to biased television coverage, including Anatolii Kinakh who is himself standing as a candidate. When his Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs held its congress, Ludmyla Zhuk, deputy head of the related Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, complained that TV coverage alleged that most of the delegates backed Mr. Yanukovich, rather than Mr. Kinakh, as their candidate (Ukrayinska Pravda, July 14).

The first major attempt to muzzle Ukraine's media in a biased manner during an election took place in 1999. The final election monitoring report by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) found that media had failed to provide equal access. Some of the recordings illicitly made in President Kuchma's office by Mykola Melnychenko in 1999 also contain discussions about how to silence critical media outlets. But the current attempt by the authorities to control the media and influence public opinion operates on a far larger scale than in the 1999 elections.

An ascetic's holiday...

(Continued from page 13)

Univ on the feast day of the Virgin, they participate in the elaborate monastic observances. And they kneel by the monastery wall to fill plastic jugs and bottles with water from the legendary spring.

In Soviet times, the way to the spring was often blocked by the police. In 1972 a particularly zealous facility director covered the spring with concrete slabs and diverted the stream into a culvert. Every year on the feast of the Dormition he would gather the local Communist Party activists, Communist Youth League members, KGB, schoolteachers, police, firemen and first-aid workers to try to stop the pilgrims. When they could not reach the spring, the faithful filled their jugs from the stream, leaving flowers behind as a token of their devotion.

Not all of today's Ukrainians, of course, are in the habit of trekking to monasteries. Close to half are not believers at all, and millions believe in God but remain unchurched. Nominal Christianity is common. One weekend after the Sunday liturgy at St. Michael's, a favorite church of Lviv's students and intelligentsia, I joined an acquaintance and his bride. As we drove in their Daewoo to the Hill of Glory, a crumbling Soviet war monument, he

related how his marriage preparation had occasioned some moral introspection.

An engineer-turned-businessman, he sold his products abroad and thus had regular dealings with corrupt customs officials. The institutionalized deceit disgusted him. Yet there seemed no other way to stay in business. From the monument, which affords a splendid view of the city, we walked to a private restaurant with tasteful decor, clean tablecloths, and attentive service. Over a glass of Cahors, a whipped cream dessert and strong black coffee, my acquaintance ruefully described the atmosphere at a local university where he had been teaching. The students showed minimal interest and commonly skipped class, for they knew that survival in post-Soviet society required business acumen, not academic learning. And a good part of business acumen was knowing how to deal with demands for bribes and protection money. You didn't learn that in school.

The couple offered to drive me all the way back to Univ, and I agreed. I sensed they were eager to visit the monastery, which they had not seen in many years. They toured the grounds, stopping in the students' refectory for tea and some amiable conversation with one of the nuns in my class. As they told me later, they could not grasp how an attractive young

woman could give up the "good life" to live out her days in a nunnery. They took some photographs, said good-bye and drove back to the city – but not before filling a few jugs from the spring in the monastery wall.

On our last evening at Univ, a group of students and teachers climbed up a nearby hill to an old quarry. It was pitch black and quite chilly. Some of the students prepared a bonfire. The young men gathered tree branches, sharpened them, and strung them with potatoes, onions and tomatoes. We roasted the vegetables in the fire, and ate them with squash and chunks of white country bread. As the fire died down we could barely recognize each other. It grew colder. In the silent hilly landscape, the moon seemed soft, close, as in a dream. High up in the sky we saw the blinking signal lights of an airliner. We sat down on some logs, and took turns recounting our impressions of the past month. Then the women began to sing – now a melancholy love song, now a jarring, earthy Hutsul chant. At last we rose and closed the evening with a Marian hymn.

The next morning we said good-bye to the hegumen and monks, and boarded the bus for Lviv. Brother Andrii climbed up into the belfry. As we rumbled out toward the village road, the bells tolled in farewell.

What draws us – students, teachers, pilgrims, newlyweds or casual visitors –

to Univ? Is it the contact with the alien, mysterious world of prayer and contemplation? Is it the history of fortitude and martyrdom? Do we seek wisdom, advice, enlightenment – or just a drink of water from the healing spring?

The best vacations exceed our stereotypical images and banal expectations, offering something unanticipated, new. Univ was like that. I had come for the professional teaching experience. But later, when circumstances rendered it practically useless, it was Father Illya's hard lesson about acceptance that proved more valuable. Perhaps that is the allure of Univ: whatever you might seek there, you may come away with something altogether different, unexpected, even undesired; yet it is precisely what you need.

According to the founding legend of the Univ monastery, the nobleman Lahodovsky had originally wanted to build his church on Monks' Hill. This was logical enough with regard to defensibility. Yet each time he ascended the hill, the Virgin vanished. And each time he descended to the spring, she reappeared. He then understood that, contrary to his own reason and intent, he was to build on the site of the spring. When, centuries later, the most determined enemies of the faith came to seize the monastery, a hilltop location would hardly have stopped them. But they, in turn, could not stop up the spring, or the streams of faithful seeking to slake their thirst.

The Yanukovich campaign...

(Continued from page 2)

Our Ukraine deputy Mykola Tomenko, head of the Parliament's Committee on Media Freedom, called upon Mr. Yanukovich to uphold media freedom in the Donetsk Oblast, but the appeal went unheeded (Ukrainska Pravda, June 24). The overwhelming majority of media outlets in the Donetsk Oblast, Mr. Tomenko pointed out, were "directly or indirectly tied to the oblast authorities or Donetsk financial-industrial groups." This explains the Donetsk Oblast's dismal record on media freedom.

Mr. Tomenko raised the issue after Channel 5, a television station owned by Our Ukraine businessman Petro Poroshenko, was removed from the cable schedule in the Donetsk Oblast. While the official reason was "technical problems," cable TV providers unofficially told Channel 5 that the real reason was pressure from the local authorities (Ukrainska Pravda, June 23). One day later Volodymyr Demydko, deputy head of the Donetsk state administration, denied any official pressure on cable providers (Ukrainska Pravda, June 24).

The Donetsk Oblast also has very few opposition newspapers. One of the few, the weekly Ostriv, has always encountered difficulties. But since the election campaign began, these problems have dramatically worsened. Ostriv is the Donbas region's second most popular socio-political publication, according to a June survey by the Fund for Social Research that was financed by the Donetsk branch of the Union of Journalists (Ukrainska Pravda, June 18). But in June the Donbas printing house refused to print Ostriv, explaining that it had too many back orders to fulfill and broken printing machines.

Earlier, the Donechchyna printing house also had refused to print Ostriv. Their unofficial reason was an article that appeared in Ostriv in a November 2003 issue titled "The October Criminal Putsch." The article investigated the use of organized crime skinheads and other smear campaign techniques against challenger Viktor Yushchenko when he unsuccessfully attempted to hold an Our Ukraine convention in Donetsk on October 31, 2003.

Ostriv's editor sought to find other printing facilities outside the two Donbas Oblasts (Donetsk and Luhansk), but with little luck. The Dnipropetrovsk-based

printing house Zoria became the 13th in three weeks to refuse to print Ostriv because of yet more "technical reasons" (Ukrainska Pravda, July 13). However, the "technical reasons" did not prevent Zoria from accepting other print jobs. Anatolii Polishko, deputy director of Zoria, advised Ostriv: "Look for another print shop. But, in the Dnipro region, you will not be printed" (Ukrainska Pravda, July 13).

At this stage, the editor of Ostriv, Yevhen Talyshev, called on Mr. Yanukovich to withdraw from the presidential race. Mr. Talyshev revealed that printing houses had been ordered to not print opposition publications, such as Ostriv, during the election campaign (Ukrainska Pravda, July 15). He challenged the prime minister to prove his "regard for the principles of democracy, the rule of law and free elections [which] can be [confirmed by] only one step: beginning with the next issue, the newspaper Ostriv will be again printed in Donetsk, where the editors of the weekly are based." He continued, "And if you, Viktor Fedorovich, are not in a position to ensure not even this, then, do not take the trouble of having feelings for the good of Ukraine" (Ukrainska Pravda, July 15).

Prime Minister Yanukovich apparently took little notice, as Ostriv's printing problems have continued. In Pavlohrad the newspaper managed to print one issue, but was then informed by the director of the Pavlohrad City Print Shop that there would be "technical problems" with printing further issues (Ukrainska Pravda, July 21). This was now the 14th printing house to turn away Ostriv, including every print shop in Mr. Yanukovich's home base of Donetsk Oblast.

Kharkiv became the fourth oblast in which the Ostriv editors attempted to print their newspaper. Here, again, they encountered "technical problems." On top of the printing problem, now Ukrposhta, the state postal service, refused to continue fulfilling a contract to sell Ostriv in its Donetsk outlets.

Ostriv's editor, Mr. Talyshev, has reached the conclusion that his difficulties come from the regime's presidential candidate, Mr. Yanukovich. "If this state activist allows himself in the post of prime minister to so easily infringe the law, one can say with all certainty that he will not become the guarantor of the constitution if he is to be elected to the position of president of our country."

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Cover letter and resume should be sent to ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu. For more information, contact Frank Bohan, personnel and budget officer, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, 420 W. 118th Street, New York, NY 10027; tel. (212) 854-6217. Applicants will be reviewed starting August 26.

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Engineers' Society sponsors presentation on computer security

NEW YORK – On April 20 the New York City Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) recently presented a lecture by Ivan Durbak, chief information officer at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, on "Computer Security: Protecting the Integrity, Availability and Confidentiality of Computer Systems, both at Home and at the Office."

Mr. Durbak provided a broad overview of all aspects of computer security, at various levels across organizations and on the home front. He addressed key questions such as: What is security? Can open access and privacy and security co-exist on the Internet? Who polices the Internet? How do we deal with computer viruses and "spam-rage"?

Mr. Durbak began from a national perspective, describing the major federal leg-

islative initiatives: Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Modernization Act (1999), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) Act, USA Patriot Act (2001), Sarbanes-Oxley Act (2003) and the recent CAN-SPAM Act (2004).

He then detailed the typical computer security actions by modern organizations: risk assessment, designation of a chief security officer, physical controls, environmental controls, access controls/password management, audit logs, transmission/network controls, encryption, audit logs, disaster recovery and business continuity, incident response plan and drill, policies and procedures, and awareness, education and training.

Mr. Durbak next described current e-mail problems, for both large organizations and the individual consumer, and described ways to deal with "spam." He

then discussed computer viruses, which are small files that attach to e-mails or downloads and infect the user's computer. Mr. Durbak reviewed in depth the "hacking" problem and described in detail hackers as "the underbelly of the Internet: people who randomly scan the Internet to find openings so they can go in and snoop around, and, once in your machine, they have as much access to it as you do, including your online banking, personal data, family data."

Mr. Durbak, who has conducted considerable research on the worldwide hacker community, described their profiles, their habits, their culture, their hacker conferences, and described how hackers use commonly available software in a typical hacker attack: first they reconnoiter the organization's perimeter, then scan servers, ports and services, identify vulnerabilities, plan the attack, then execute the attack, secure back-door access, and finally eliminate all traces and evidence.

He identified the top 12 defense actions to take, at both the corporate and individual PC level, to protect against virus/worm attacks.

Mr. Durbak also described spyware and adware, and how to deal with both.

Finally, Mr. Durbak provided tips and hands-on advice, listing the eight items necessary to ensure computer security: physical controls, access controls (passwords), anti-virus software, patch management, firewalls, IDS (intrusion detection), security awareness and common sense.

Throughout his presentation on April 20 Mr. Durbak kept the audience engaged and involved with a balance of technical material and practical real-world problems.

The evening concluded with informal and convivial discussions over food and drinks.

This was the fourth in a series of engineering and scientific lectures presented by the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of New York City during the 2003/2004 year. The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America is an association of technical/scientific professionals and students, including engineers, scientists, architects and businesspeople. Its mission is to help advance members' professions, foster interest in technical and economic issues in Ukraine, and provide a social and professional network of mutual support. To learn more about the UESA, visit the website at www.uesa.org or write to UESA, 2 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10021.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

the sale of a 43 percent stake in Ukrtelekom. The opposition has subsequently accused the government of selling off state properties on unfavorable terms for the state before the October 31 presidential election. The presidential press service said Mr. Kuchma made his decision "taking into account the recent speculation concerning privatization processes in Ukraine." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD – A Ukrainian soldier was killed on August 15 in a land mine explosion southeast of Baghdad, a spokesman for the multinational forces said. The blast occurred near Suwayrah, some 25 miles south of Baghdad, in the Ukrainian troops' area of responsibility. Ukraine, which has about 1,600 troops in Iraq, is the fourth-largest contributor to the U.S.-led coalition and the largest among non-NATO countries. Seven Ukrainian soldiers have died in Iraq and about 20 have been wounded. (Associated Press)

Schroeder comments on Danube canal

BUCHAREST – During an official trip to Romania on August 12, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said that Ukraine should stop building the controversial Bystraya Canal in the Danube River delta until experts have assessed its impact on the environment, Reuters reported. The subject was raised during the talks between Schroeder and Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase. Mr. Schroeder said the German government has made its views known to Kyiv. However, he added, his Cabinet is not in a position to stop German companies from working for the Ukrainian project, according to Mediafax. Last month, the European Union asked Ukraine to halt the construction of the canal amid fears that the waterway could affect the Danube delta's unique ecosystem. (RFE/RL Newsline)

11 priests join "Sobornopravna" Church

KYIV – Eleven priests representing 15 parishes of the Fastiv district in the Kyiv region have left the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) and joined the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – Sobornopravna (UAOC-S). "Sobornopravna" means "governed by the church assembly." Metropolitan Moisei, head of the UAOC-S, made the announcement at a press-conference conducted by the UNIAN news agency on July 29. Metropolitan Moisei

also indicated that the UAOC-S is now "in the process of being registered" by Ukraine's government. At the press-conference, Metropolitan Moisei, Mitred Archpriest Heorhii (Kushniriuk), and several other priests from Fastiv criticized the activities of Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the UOC-KP. The Fastiv priests condemn Patriarch Filaret for his appointment of "several priests to one and the same position of authority in the Fastiv district without taking into account the interests of the religious communities and the clergy," read the statement released during the press-conference. The press release also noted that "the absence of any help for the religious communities from the UOC-MP, the personal negligence of Filaret concerning their urgent problems, in addition to 'church dislocation,' led the Fastiv priests as a group to leave the UOC-KP jurisdiction and join Metropolitan Moisei." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UOC-KP calls on priests to repent

KYIV – The press service of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) released a statement on July 30 concerning 11 priests of the UOC-KP in the Fastiv district, Kyiv region, who have joined the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Moisei of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – Sobornopravna (UAOC-S). The hierarchy of the UOC-KP called these priests "hostages of the ambitions" of those people who were excluded from the UOC-KP in the past and called on them to repent. "Patriarch Filaret is giving the priests a chance to repent and return to the jurisdiction of the Kyivan Patriarchate. If this does not happen in the near future, they will be excluded from the UOC-KP once and for all, and their posts will be taken by other pastors," the press service of the UOC-KP stated. Without being registered by state authorities, Metropolitan Moisei's followers have no legal right to take the parishes of the Kyiv Patriarchate under their jurisdiction. "Therefore, all parishes of the Kyiv Patriarchate in the Fastiv district continue to be part of the UOC-KP," the document emphasized. According to the representatives of the UOC-KP, "the structure headed by Metropolitan Moisei is a new religious organization, that has nothing in common with Orthodoxy apart from its outer resemblance." The documents state that Metropolitan Moisei, formerly a priest of the UOC-KP named Oleh Kulyk, "was excluded from the UOC-KP in 2002 for the propagation of heretical ideas and other transgressions, and the priest Heorhii Kushniriuk was excluded from the UOC-KP on July 6 for behavior unworthy of holy orders." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)



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Highlights...

(Continued from page 4)

The highlight of the convention was the major policy address on U.S.-Soviet relations delivered by Vice-President George Bush. He spoke about Soviet repression and referred specifically to the cases of Yuriy Shukhevych, Ivan Svitlychny, Mykola and Raisa Rudenko, and Petro Grigorenko as examples of the Soviets' persecution of human rights activists. "Ukrainians have been singled out for especially harsh treatment by the Soviet government," he stated. "The estimates are that up to half of all Soviet political prisoners may be Ukrainians."

Vice-President Bush went on to explain the U.S. approach toward the USSR as outlined by President Ronald Reagan – an approach based on military balance, economic security, regional stability, arms reduction and dialogue.

Mr. Bush reassured ethnic Americans: "You have not been forgotten." He continued: "We are a nation of immigrants, descended from those who sought a better world. It was they who helped build this nation; we owe it not only to ourselves and to our children to guard our liberty and our democracy zealously, but to them as well. Their spirit lives on. Their dreams live on. The quest for freedom lives on. Meanwhile, as the phrase has it, 'Sche ne vmerla Ukraina.'"

It was Mr. Bush's second appearance at a UNA convention, as he had addressed the 28th Convention in Philadelphia eight years earlier in his capacity as chairman of the Republican National Committee. It was also the second time that a U.S. vice-president had addressed a UNA convention, Supreme Advisor Taras Szmagala, who introduced Mr. Bush, reminded the delegates. Vice-

President John Garner had spoken at the 1937 conclave held in Washington.

Other major developments at the convention included the delegates' overwhelming go-ahead vote (295 for, 46 against) concerning a proposed merger of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association. The matter would next be voted on at the June convention of the UFA.

Mr. Flis was elected to his second term as supreme president. The convention voted to do away with the elected position of supreme organizer on the UNA Executive Committee, opting instead for a hired position of chief organizer. Convention delegates approved donations totaling \$30,000 for national causes, as well as \$45,000 for UNA scholarships.

The 1982 convention also marked the premiere of Slavko Nowytski's film "Helm of Destiny," a 58-minute history of Ukrainians in the United States that was commissioned by the association. Mr. Nowytski explained that the goal of his film was to awaken pride and awareness of identity in Ukrainians who have become detached from Ukrainian community life as well as to enable non-Ukrainians to better understand Ukrainians.

Source: "30th UNA Convention opens in Rochester; Flis, Kuropas win primaries; Sochan, Diachuk are re-elected by acclamation," by Roma Sochan Hadzewycz, The Ukrainian Weekly, May 30, 1982; "Bush addresses UNA convention's final session; John Flis re-elected; UNA/UFA merger backed," by Roma Sochan Hadzewycz, The Ukrainian Weekly, June 6, 1982. The border used for this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.

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Ukrainians visit Iowa as agricultural interns

by Barb McBreen

AMES, Iowa – Visiting the Chicago Board of Trade changed Mykola Horbachov's life.

"The Chicago Board of Trade opened a new world for me," Mr. Horbachov said. "I had heard about it but never understood it before."

Mr. Horbachov, who has worked as a professional grain trader for 12 years in Ukraine, visited the Chicago Board of Trade during a three-month internship at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. During their visit the six Ukrainian professionals attended a class on grain marketing and handling.

The Ukrainian group visited a family-owned farm, an ethanol plant, university laboratories, regulatory agencies and farm cooperatives. Mr. Horbachov said he was impressed with the buying and selling power cooperatives had but didn't think a similar business structure would work in Ukraine.

"Cooperatives are very interesting. In our country it's impossible because we just separated from the USSR and everyone wants to work separate and have their own money. It's very different," Mr. Horbachov said.

Mykola Sarazhynskyy, a graduate student in business administration, helped to facilitate the visit. He said the purpose of the program was to provide an industry perspective, facilitate discussions within the group and visit with professionals and professors.

"Our objective was to help Ukraine professionals gain familiarity with U.S. agricultural markets, government policies, farm operations, product processing, transportation and logistics," Mr. Sarazhynskyy said.

David Acker, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, said the Iowa State University college is dedicated to creating opportunities for professionals from Ukraine to study in the United States.

"Programs like this help both our stu-

dents and professors learn about Ukraine, while giving professionals from Ukraine a chance to understand our agricultural economy. It also helps our college and Ukrainian professionals develop long-lasting relationships," Mr. Acker said.

Lilya Zavorodnia, who works as a grain trader in Ukraine, said she enjoyed the visit to the Chicago Board of Trade and the opportunity to learn about corn quality testing at the various research laboratories the group visited. "It was interesting for us because they first measure the ear and then select the corn by color. It's a device that is quite simple and could be used in Ukraine," Ms. Zavorodnia said.

The group also attended a biotechnology symposium sponsored by Iowa State's Biosafety Institute for Genetically Modified Agricultural Products. Ms. Zavorodnia said the experience gave her a better understanding about biotechnology. "We thought it was bad. Then we were shown laboratories and we found out we have been eating biotech crops for several years," Ms. Zavorodnia said.

The students developed presentations on what they learned about specific crops in July before returning to Ukraine. Alla Petrenko, who has worked as a grain trader for the past year, said she enjoyed the experience. "I learned about American agriculture, farmers and elevators and how things differ from our country," Ms. Petrenko said.

The program was sponsored by the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Special American Business Internship Training (SABIT) program in Washington.

The internships were sponsored in part by the Ukraine-Iowa State University Student Exchange fund. The fund was initiated by Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak, who donated \$350,000 last November.

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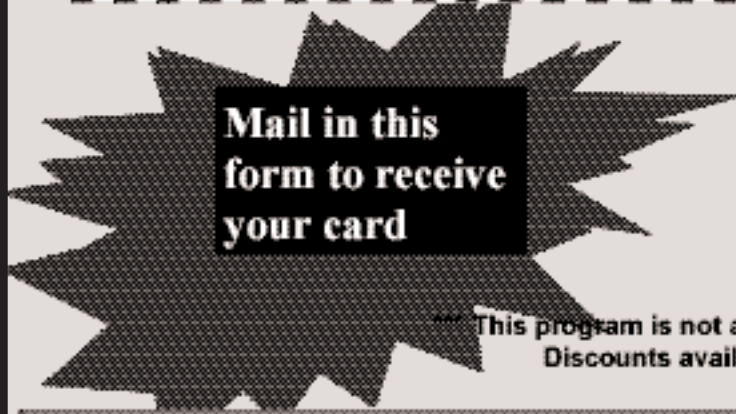


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Thirteen years...

(Continued from page 6)

growing, the Ukrainian goods strengthen their competitive capacity on the domestic market; volumes of investments and construction are growing, as do volumes of consumption and household income.

Real GDP growth in January-June 2004 reached a record level of 12.7 percent (9.2 percent last year); volumes of industrial output grew by 15.9 percent.

In the first five months of 2004 exports of goods increased by 51.3 percent compared with the same period last year; imports grew by 32.5 percent. The foreign trade surplus totaled over \$ 2 billion (almost \$409 million in the same period in 2003).

Last year Ukraine achieved considerable progress in the implementation of tax and pension reforms, resumed the privatization of big enterprises and improved legislation on mortgage and land regulation and crediting. The flat personal income tax rate of 13 percent was established; the corporate income tax rate was also reduced.

As a result of the socially oriented policy of the government in January-May 2004 nominal household income grew by 19.7 percent and real salaries by 26.7 percent.

Constructive dialogue between Ukraine and international financial institutions, the implementation of the external debt payment schedule and the considerable potential of further economic growth resulted in the upgrading of Ukraine's credit rating by leading international credit agencies.

Ukraine met in full the FATF requirements on fighting money-laundering and was excluded from the organization's "black list" in February 2004.

The country's economic achievements became possible owing to the formation of the coalition government and its backing by the parliamentary majority. The prospect of the implementation of constitutional reform, initiated by the president, which would consolidate the responsibility of the Parliament for forming of the government and its policy, is currently being discussed in the country.

One of the key priorities at government activity at present is the conduct of free, transparent and democratic presidential elections in accordance with national legislation and European norms and standards. First of all, it is about creation of equal opportunities for all candidates during the election campaign and securing the unimpeded activity of independent media.

Foreign policy of Ukraine

During recent years the necessary mechanisms for implementing the whole complex of measures in internal and external policy, that will bring Ukraine closer to integration with the European Union and NATO, have been created in Ukraine. This course toward European and Euro-Atlantic integration is based on clear awareness of Ukrainian national interests and corresponds to the realities of our country's development.

During the Ukraine-EU Summit at the Hague in July 2004 the parties agreed to continue discussions on the development of the Ukraine-EU Action Plan. The document, as both the Ukrainian side and its EU partners are convinced, should build upon the principles of joint ownership, differentiation and added value. Ukraine

confirmed its interest in the adoption of such a plan, which would define specific steps of each side, contain specific tasks and obligations, and will be aimed at securing real positive achievements for Ukrainians and qualitatively improve relations between Ukraine and the EU.

The Ukraine-NATO Commission Summit in Istanbul confirmed the strategic character of the relationship between Ukraine and NATO, and the principal support by the NATO countries of Ukraine's course toward integration into Euro-Atlantic security structures. It also recognized significant progress in implementation of the Ukraine-NATO Action Plan and annual target plans, underlying the intention to further pragmatic cooperation.

During the last year progress toward completion of the legal procedure of the boundary delimitation of Ukraine was achieved. Treaties between Ukraine and Russia on the Ukrainian-Russian state border and on cooperation in use of the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait were signed and ratified. A long negotiating process was completed by the signing of the treaty on the Ukrainian-Romanian state border. Transition to a new stage of preparation of the agreement on delimitation of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zones of Ukraine and Romania in the Black Sea has been secured.

Being one of the United Nations' founding states, Ukraine attaches paramount importance to U.N. activities in various fields. In particular, Ukraine remains one of the most active countries in preserving peace and security in hot spots around the globe: at present it is represented by more than 1,400 peacekeepers in nine U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Ukraine took a responsible position toward the Iraqi issue, its participation in the Stabilization Force and the rebuilding of the country. Starting from September 2003, the 1,800-strong Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent has been carrying out its mission in the Iraqi Wasit province, maintaining security in this part of the country, delivering humanitarian aid to its inhabitants and being actively involved in infrastructure reconstruction.

Ukraine made its contribution to international efforts on protection of the environment by ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by the Parliament of Ukraine in February 2004.

Ukraine gradually and confidently is moving toward joining the World Trade Organization. On the whole Ukraine has signed 24 bilateral protocols with the WTO member-states.

The global changes in the architecture of European cooperation, connected, in particular, with the EU and NATO enlargement, demand from Ukraine the intensification of its foreign policy and pragmatic upholding of its national interests on the international arena.

Ukraine will continue to give priority importance to European and Euro-Atlantic integration, integration into the world economy, strengthening its position on the external markets, strengthening of regional stability, development of bilateral relations with neighboring countries and its strategic partners.

Ukraine sees its main task at present in consolidation of European values and standards in politics, economy and the social sphere, regarding it as a pledge of its social stability and sustainable development.



The exhibit of basrelief art by
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It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: Editorial Staff, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



AP/Diether Endlicher

Ukraine's Iryna Melnyk Merleni is jubilant after defeating Chiharu Icho of Japan during the final match of the women's freestyle 48kg wrestling.

Ten days...

(Continued from page 1)

Nikitin took first place in the trampoline.

Gymnast Valerii Honcharov soon followed when he took the top spot in individual competition on the parallel bars. His win made him another in a long line of Ukrainian gymnasts to win the event, most recently Rustam Sharipov, who took gold in the event in Atlanta in 1996.

Mr. Honcharov's gold came only a couple of hours after Lviv resident Iryna Melnyk Merleni took the first-ever gold medal awarded in Olympic competition for women's freestyle wrestling. This was the sport's first appearance in the Olympic Games. To a large degree, Ms. Merleni's victory was no surprise because she is a three-time world champion in the sport.

What was much more unexpected was the silver medal that Olena Krasovska ran away with in the 100-meter hurdles, outdistancing everybody but gold medalist Joannie Hayes of the U.S.

In sailing, the Ukrainian women's trio of Ruslana Taran, Hanna Kalinina and Svitlana Matausheva also won silver in the yngling event, even though some experts had them slated for gold. Not to be outdone, the men's duet of Rodion Luka and Heorhii Leonchuk followed with their own silver in the 49er class on August 26.

Ukraine's bronze medalists of the last week included weightlifter Ihor Razorionov, who finally won a medal in the 105 kg category after unsuccessfully competing in both Sydney and Atlanta, as well as Tetiana Tereschuk-Antypova, who placed third on August 26 in the 400-meter hurdles.

Ukraine's Olympic medals

Following are Ukraine's medalists at the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, listed in chronological order. As of Thursday, August 26, Ukraine's team had earned eight gold medals, four silver and six bronze, for a total of 18 medals.

Vladyslav Tretiak	fencing, individual saber	bronze
Yana Klochkova	swimming, 400 individual medley	gold
Olena Kostevych	shooting, 10-meter air pistol	gold
Roman Hontiuk	judo, 81 kg	silver
Yana Klochkova	swimming, 200 individual medley	gold
Yuriy Bilonoh	track and field, shot put	gold
Natalia Skakun	weightlifting, 63 kg	gold
Andrii Serdinov	swimming, 100 butterfly	bronze
Dmytro Hrachov, Viktor Ruban, Oleksander Serdiuk	archery, team	bronze
Yurii Nikitin	gymnastics, trampoline	gold
Ruslana Taran, Hanna Kalinina, Svitlana Matausheva	sailing, yngling	silver
Serhii Hrin, Serhii Bilouschenko, Oleh Lykov, Leonid Shaposhnikov	rowing, quadruple sculls	bronze
Valerii Honcharov	gymnastics, parallel bars	gold
Iryna Merleni	wrestling, freestyle, 48 kg	gold
Olena Krasovska	track and field, 100 hurdles	silver
Ihor Razorionov	weightlifting, 105 kg	bronze
Tetiana Tereschuk-Antypova	track and field, 400 hurdles	bronze
Rodion Luka, Heorhii Leonchuk	sailing, 49er	silver

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Connecticut committee preps for 37th Ukrainian Day Festival

STAMFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut State Ukrainian Day Committee will sponsor its 37th Ukrainian Day Festival on Sunday, September 12, on the grounds of St. Basil's Seminary on Glenbrook Road in Stamford, Conn.

The day will begin with a pontifical divine liturgy at 11 a.m., celebrated by the Bishop Basil H. Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford.

After liturgy and throughout the day, Ukrainian food such as varenyky, holubtsi, (stuffed cabbage), kovbasa and kapusta, picnic food and liquid refreshments will be available.

At 2:45 p.m. a program featuring up and coming Ukrainian American songwriter and performing artist Sonia (Sonia Tratch) from Nashville, Tenn.; the singing and music of the Lvivany Ukrainian Ensemble, who will also provide music for dancing after the program; Ukrainian folk dancing by the Zoloty Promin dance ensemble of Greater Hartford, the Chervona Kalyna SUMA Dance Ensemble of Yonkers, N.Y., the Kalynonka Children's Dance Ensemble from Stamford, Conn.; and the Ukrainian Barbershop Quartet of Stamford.

Tours will be given of both the Ukrainian Diocesan Museum and the Diocesan Cultural Center. During the day visitors can browse through the outdoor Ukrainian arts and crafts exhibits of over 15 vendors who will offer a kaleidoscope of Ukrainian souvenirs such as ceramics, wood, shirts, books, embroidery, pysanky, paintings, CDs, novelties and more.

The festival continues because of the steadfast support and devotion of people from the 10 Ukrainian Catholic parishes of Connecticut. The parishes are Ss. Peter and Paul, Ansonia; Holy Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bridgeport; St. Mary's, Colchester; St. John the Baptist, Glastonbury; St. Michael's, Hartford; St. Josaphat's, New Britain; St. Michael's, New Haven; St. Vladimir's Cathedral, Stamford; St. Michael's, Terryville; and

St. Mary's, Willimantic.

Over \$350,000 has been raised by the Connecticut State Ukrainian Day Committee since its inception in 1965. Last year \$16,000 was raised with \$500 each being given to the Catechists of the Sacred Heart the Brazil, St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, Eucharistic Marian Congress, Stamford Diocesan Museum and Library, Diocesan Charities Fund, Missionary Sisters of the Mother of God (Stamford) and St. Basil's College Seminary (for the needs of the students). A sum of \$1,000 was given to Patriarchal Sobor in Kyiv and \$11,500 to the St. Basil's College Seminarian Fund (totaling \$103,000 since 1994).

Five general chairmen have led the State Committee since its establishment in 1965. With support from the late Bishop John Stock, Roman Hezzey of Ipswich, Mass. (formerly of Mt. Carmel, Conn.), initiator and organizer of Connecticut State Ukrainian Day Committee, was its first general chairman for three years. He was followed by the late Myron Dmyterko of Hamden (two years); the late Michael Rudy of East Hartford (five years); Donald Horbaty of Wallingford (10 years); and Lubomyr Czubytyj of Milford (since 1987).

The Connecticut State Ukrainian Day is a shining example of what inter-parish cooperation should be. Behind the scenes, a contingent of older and younger adults in each parish, days before the festival, prepares the thousands of varenyky, holubtsi, tortes, etc. consumed at this event.

Admission to the festival, which includes free parking, is \$5 (age 12 and over) at the gate and \$3 for advance tickets, which can be purchased at one of the 10 parishes listed above or by contacting ticket chairwoman Helen Rudy of East Hartford, Conn., (860) 568-5445. The festival will be held rain or shine.

For more information or to volunteer to help during the festival, call (203) 269-5909.

"Ukrainian-American Citadel..."

(Continued from page 5)

"As an enlightened Ukrainian, I know 10 reasons why one should belong to U.N. Soyuz. These are 10 reasons which are peculiar to no other organization in the world. ... For your own good don't let yourselves be fooled by evil people. ... The UNA is the only organization to which all Ukrainians should belong. Look at it with your own eyes and ask yourselves: is there anywhere such truth, strength and will as in the UNA? No, nowhere, and that is because:

"1. The UNA is the only Ukrainian organization which is neither socialist nor clerical but nonpartisan and all-Ukrainian.

"2. The UNA belongs to all the members, where everyone has the same right and where no clique, not Bolshevik, nor clerical, nor business, is in charge.

"3. The UNA is strongly national and does not look at Ukraine with love through one narrow window. The UNA is a lighted beacon with many windows, illuminated by the sunshine of patriotism. ...

"4. Within the UNA one finds the most enlightened individuals who are moving towards the unification of our national vitality. They have rejected partisanship in order to achieve liberty for all the people.

"5. The UNA has the strongest financial base, one not enjoyed by other organizations. ...

"6. The UNA has the best management. ...

"7. The UNA has developed the kind of respect enjoyed by no other organiza-

tion. It is truly an honor to belong to the UNA because it is a mark of an intelligent and wise person. ...


"8. The Supreme Assembly has not erected a wall of aloofness and formality around itself. The leaders are intelligent people who are responsive to the membership and try to honor all intelligent desires and proposals.

"9. The UNA is always in the front line regarding all freedom efforts of our people. It always was, is and will be for the total independence of the Ukrainian state ... The motto of the UNA is Ukraine for Ukrainians and for no one else!

"10. The UNA has the means and the capability to unite all Ukrainians who want the best for Ukraine, and who believe that we need to build Ukraine with our own strength, our own ideas, and our own people.

"It is for that reason that every wise Ukrainian must be a member of the Ukrainian National Association."

In an editorial titled "Non-members of U.N. Soyuz," the paper declared "Every UNA member knows a few Ukrainians who are not members of the UNA. That means that 12,000 members know thousands of non-members. ... Today we are writing to all 12,000 members together, as well as each one separately." Calling for a campaign to have each UNA member enroll one new member by the end of the year, Svoboda concluded that if "we all work day by day, week by week, and month by month without stopping, then most certainly on December 31 there will be 12,000 more of us."



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|---|---|
| September 3, 2004
Zabava - Luna - 10 pm | Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion
Plast Sorority Rada -
"Ti Shcho Hrebli Rvut" |
| September 4, 2004
Zabava - Fata Morgana & Tempo | September 11-12, 2004
Plast Sorority Rada -
"Lisovi Mavky" |
| September 4-5, 2004
Lisi Jewelry Exhibit and more | September 13-16, 2004
Regensburg Reunion |
| September 4-6, 2004
Exhibit of basrelief art by
Zenon Holubec | September 18, 2004
Wedding - Michelle Wynarczuk and
Michael Ritz |
| September 5, 2004
Zabava - Tempo & Vorony | September 24-25, 2004
Plast Sorority Rada - "Spartanky" |
| September 10-12, 2004
KLG Weekend - General Meeting
& 80th Anniversary Banquet | |



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A Festival of Ukrainian Folk Music and Dance on the occasion of the

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3:30 - Soccer Match
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Featuring:

"Voloshky" Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
"Obrij" Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
First Evangelical Ukrainian Baptist Choir
"Harmonia" Orchestra
"Prometheus" Male Choir
"Accolada" Folk Choir

Other Attractions:
Authentic Ukrainian Food
Drinks & Refreshments

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 4

JEWETT, N.Y.: The final concert of the "Music at the Grazhda" summer concert series will feature pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, music director of the series, in a program of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt. The concert is dedicated to the memory of Oscar Newman (1935-2004), internationally known architect and city planner, and author of "Creating Defensible Space" (1966). Mr. Newman was a benefactor of Music and Art Center of Greene County (MACGC) and esteemed friend of the Ukrainian community. The concert is being held as a benefit performance for MACGC. Performance time: 8 p.m. The Grazhda is located on Route 23 A, five miles west of Hunter, N.Y., in the Catskill Mountains. Tickets, at \$15 for general admission; \$12 for members and senior citizens; free for students, are available at the door. For additional information call (518) 263-4335.

Saturday, September 11

CARTERET, N.J.: The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral is sponsoring an end-of-summer "zabava" featuring the music of Fata Morgana. The zabava will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret, N.J., just off exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$20 for students under age 21. Admission includes a Ukrainian dish, cake, coffee, beer, wine and soda. There will be a cash bar. Doors open at 7 p.m. and dancing starts at 8 p.m. For tickets and table reservations call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452.

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian Heritage School at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa., will begin the school year with opening ceremonies at 9 a.m.; afterwards classes will be held until dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Parents may enroll their children from kindergarten through 12th grade including English-speaking classes. Books may be purchased on the same day. For more information call (215) 663-5322 or visit the website at www.ukrheritageschool.com.

YONKERS, N.Y.: Three- and four-year-

olds may be registered for the Ukrainian pre-school (Svitlychka) of the Ukrainian National Woman's League of America (UNWLA), Branch 30 of Yonkers, N.Y. The Svitlychka meets on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at St. Michael's Church on Shonnard Place at North Broadway, starting Saturday, September 11. For additional information or to register call Nadia Cwiach at (203) 975-8388.

Saturday, September 11-12

CHICAGO: Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago invites the entire community to the "Ukrainian Village Oktoberfest." Located in the heart of the Ukrainian Village at Chicago Avenue and Oakley Boulevard, the neighborhood festival will feature a beer garden, live German and Ukrainian music, a performance by the Hromovytsia Ukrainian dance ensemble, great food, raffles, games and much more. The festivities begin Saturday, September 11, at 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday at 1-10 p.m. On Saturday evening there will be a "zabava" in the church hall starting at 9 p.m. An entrance fee donation of \$5 for the festival and \$5 for the zabava go to the ongoing support of the parish. For festival vendor applications contact the parish office, (312) 829-5209.

Sunday, September 12

ASTORIA, N.Y.: Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church of Astoria will hold its annual Ukrainian Heritage Day Festival on the grounds of the Holy Cross Church located on 31st Avenue and 30th Street beginning at 1 p.m. Festivities include music, games, prizes and homemade Ukrainian food. A 3 p.m. concert will feature folk dances, songs and instrumentals. Free admissions; donations accepted. Come, join us. For information call the parish rectory at (718) 932-4060.

Advance Notice

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum's raffle drawing has been changed from Wednesday, September 1, to Wednesday, September 29. Ticket holders need not be present at the drawing. For information call (212) 228-0110. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 203 Second Ave.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$20 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

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

Ruslana headlines Toronto festival

TORONTO – The eighth annual Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival – Canada's largest Ukrainian festival – will be headlined by Ruslana, winner of Eurovision 2004. Ruslana's appearance is sponsored by the Ukrainian Credit Union Limited and Aerosvit Airlines.

Slated for three days, Friday, August 27, Saturday, August 28, and Sunday, August 29, the festival kicks off on

Friday at 6 p.m. with the opening of the beverage and Ukrainian food gardens. The festival stage shows begin on Friday at 7 p.m. with entertainment from Ukraine, Canada and the United States.

For further information readers may log on to the festival website at www.ukrainianfestival.org. Last year 250,000 people attended the festival.