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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Empire State Building's lights mark Ukraine's independence

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Empire State Building, one of New York City's most prominent landmarks, paid tribute to the 13th anniversary of Ukrainian independence on August 24 by lighting the top 590 feet of the 1,453-foot building in the colors of the Ukrainian national flag.

It was the first time the building was lit to commemorate Ukraine's independence, but a mistake made earlier that day left the colors of the national flag reversed. Instead of what should have been blue, which represents the sky, on top of yellow, which represents the country's wheat fields, observers saw the building's 204-foot tall spire, as well as a number of floors under it, lit yellow with a large section of blue below the yellow.

A correction was made the following day after some 25 phone calls and four e-mail messages were left with the building's public relations office on the evening of August 24.

A spokeswoman for the Empire State Building told The Ukrainian Weekly that the lighting mix-up was an inadvertent error.

"I was very upset, angry and disappointed to learn that the colors had been reversed on the tower Tuesday evening," said Lydia Ruth, the building's director of public relations and special projects coordinator. Mrs. Ruth is the person

behind the building's lighting schemes and the one responsible for granting any specific requests.

But, in this case, the mistake was apparently made well before the lights came on for the night. It takes six of the building's staff electricians four hours to manually prepare a lighting scheme for the night. Their mistake was not known until hours after they had left for the day, when night settled on New York City and observers saw the Ukrainian national flag turned upside down – which in some instances is a signal that a nation is in distress.

"Fortunately, the tower was scheduled to be white Wednesday evening, so I was able to reschedule the Ukrainian Independence Day lighting tribute for Wednesday evening and this time the colors were displayed in the proper sequence," Mrs. Ruth said in an e-mail message sent in response to one of the original complaints. That e-mail was subsequently provided to The Weekly.

Mrs. Ruth, who has been working at the Empire State Building for 19 years, said it was the first time a lighting request to commemorate Ukrainian independence had come to her attention.

Iryna Liber, executive secretary of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), said she wanted "to do something new for Ukrainians to celebrate

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Sen. Lugar is questioned in Ukraine about stalled Famine-Genocide resolution

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Sen. Richard Lugar stated on September 1 while on a trip to Kyiv that the Senate resolution acknowledging the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine as genocide had not moved from his Senate Foreign Relations Committee because it lacks sufficient support among committee members.

"We have many resolutions that we must address. I would say that this one specifically is one that has not found widespread support among the committee members," Mr. Lugar said in response to the question posed by The Ukrainian Weekly. "It has not made it to the business committee yet, which is one of the first steps. It would probably not receive a majority for passage in any event."

When informed that a majority of members of the Foreign Relations Committee had, in fact, signed on in support of the resolution, the Republican sen-

ator from Indiana replied, "I did not know that. I'll have to review that to be sure."

After the press conference, The Weekly's correspondent was approached by a Kenneth Myers III, a senior professional staff member of the Foreign Relations Committee, who suggested that The Weekly call Sen. Lugar's press secretary in Washington for an explanation.

Andrew Nynka, an editor on The Weekly's staff in ParsIPPANY, N.J., contacted Andy Fisher, press secretary for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Asked to clarify Mr. Lugar's remarks, Mr. Fisher, said: "The issue has been that there is no support for this particular language in the Senate resolution from the White House and we're trying to work it out to make modifications to the language with the supporters" of the resolution.

Asked what particular language he was referring to, Mr. Fisher said: "The

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Ukraine concludes Olympics with 23 medals

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine finished in the first dozen in both the gold medal standings and the overall medal count at the Athens Olympics with a flurry of wins in the last two days of the Games.

First, on August 28, wrestler Elbrus Tedeyev took a gold in the 66-kilogram weight class with a convincing victory over Jhamil Kelly of the United States. Then, on the final day of competition, Ukraine finished strongly, taking three bronze medals with third-place finishes by Hanna Bezsonova in rhythmic gym-

nastics, Viktoriya Stiopina in the high jump and the women's handball team.

For Tedeyev, for whom these were the third Olympics, it was the culmination of an eight-year effort. He finally achieved a gold medal in freestyle wrestling after taking a bronze in Atlanta in 1996 and then failing to medal in Sydney in 2000.

The Ukrainian wrestler's win gave Ukraine a total of nine gold medals for these Games, equaling its best previous effort, which occurred at the Atlanta Games, where the Ukrainian Olympic squad finished in ninth place in the gold

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Ukrainian American from Detroit takes up farming in Ukraine

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

TALNE, Cherkasy Oblast – By all appearances, Roman Fedorowycz does not have farming in his blood. He grew up in Livonia, Mich., a middle-class suburb located west of Detroit, nowhere near a barn or a field of corn. His parents, Oksana and Bohdan, did not work the land for a living. He completed graduate work at the University of Michigan, not exactly cow college.

Mr. Fedorowycz, 43, a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in his youth, never particularly strove for merit badges in farming as a scout. Even today he prefers fast cars, stylized, mirrored sunglasses and Izod shirts to overalls and straw hats.

Nonetheless, he became a

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Roman Fedorowycz discusses the harvest yields with two of his farm managers outside Iowa Ltd.'s farm machinery depot near the village of Talne, Cherkasy Oblast.

Kyiv market hit by two bomb blasts

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The state militia announced the arrest of five individuals on August 27 suspected in two bomb blasts at the largest open-air market in Kyiv in which one woman was killed. Meanwhile, presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko and officials in his political organization, Our Ukraine, continued to deny that political supporters were complicit in any way in the explosion.

"These people are not associated with us," Mr. Yushchenko said on August 30 while campaigning in the Kyiv Oblast. "The incident at the Troyeschyna Bazaar is undoubtedly the handiwork of state authorities."

Four men and one woman were arrested over the course of the last week in connection with developing explosive devices and detonating them by remote control on August 20 in two separate trash bins at the Troyeschyna Bazaar, which resulted in the death of a female groundskeeper. The explosions, which occurred in the back area of the marketplace, resulted in injuries to 11 other workers, among them citizens of Vietnam, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The marketplace is well-known for the wide spectrum of foreigners who do business there.

Mr. Yushchenko is leading in national opinion polls in what is becoming a close

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ANALYSIS

A decade of Kuchma: success or degradation?

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ten years ago last month, Leonid Kuchma defeated the incumbent, Leonid Kravchuk, in the second round of Ukraine's second presidential election. Mr. Kravchuk had won in the first round of the December 1991 first presidential election, which coincided with the referendum on state independence.

This week the Ukrainian media has been reviewing the Kuchma era as he approaches the end of his second term in office in September. Not surprisingly, discussions surrounding Mr. Kuchma's presidency are impossible to divorce from the election campaign.

If, as a Ukrainian citizen, you are positive about the last decade, you may be tempted to vote for Mr. Kuchma's candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. If you are negative, then you are likely to vote for the opposition. This division has been reflected in the media, with the opposition describing the last decade as "the history of degradation" (Ukraina Moloda, July 10). Meanwhile, the pro-Kuchma media (especially television) promoted a positive spin.

Mr. Kuchma's major anniversary interview was aired on July 11 "1+1," the primarily Ukrainian-language television channel controlled by Viktor Medvedchuk, the head of the presidential administration. Mr. Kuchma used the occasion to praise Ukraine's stability and lack of inter-ethnic or religious strife, a subject common among all the presidential candidates. This

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).

argument is frequently used to imply that only centrists can maintain a stable Ukraine as they act as a "buffer" separating eastern and western Ukraine, and Communists and anti-Communists. The president praised the "evolutionary way" and castigated his left-wing and right-wing opponents for wanting a "revolution."

Mr. Kuchma also reviewed his accomplishments in building the foundations for a national economy. He said that when he was first elected the country was on the verge of economic disaster and possible disintegration (Ukrainska Pravda, July 8). He then praised the economic growth of the last four years, a claim that forms the basis of Prime Minister Yanukovich's election attempt this year.

What Mr. Kuchma very conveniently forgot to mention was that he himself was prime minister in 1992-1993, the period of hyperinflation. President Kravchuk, who oversaw the economic disaster of the early 1990s, today is the head of Mr. Medvedchuk's Social Democratic Party – United parliamentary faction.

Mr. Kuchma also ignored the huge social consequences of the past decade's "transition." Social issues will play an important role in this year's elections. In 2002, 73 percent of Ukrainians feared unemployment, 71 percent a rise in prices, 65 percent unpaid wages, and 51 percent famine (Suchasnist, April).

The Parliamentary Ombudsman for Human Rights has estimated that 5 million to 7 million Ukrainians have been forced to seek work abroad. The Ukrainian population has also shrunk by 5 million – a demographic disaster similar to that of the 1933 Famine and World War II.

As for civil society, President Kuchma is treading on even thinner ground. Western and Ukrainian surveys do not show any major advances in civil-society

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Ukrainian president argues that country should maintain its course

by **Jan Maksymiuk**

RFE/RL Newsline

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma delivered an important speech at a gala meeting in Kyiv on August 23, on the eve of the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. Taking into account that Ukraine is expected to see a new president in the next three months, this was probably the last major occasion for the incumbent to sum up the decade of his rule. Mr. Kuchma took full advantage of this opportunity to highlight what he considers to be the most important achievements of his two-term presidency. Simultaneously, he made a sort of political bequest, speculating on how "Ukraine without Kuchma" should develop over the next 10 years.

President Kuchma stressed at the beginning of his speech that, after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine's historic challenge was the "most unique" among all post-Soviet and Eastern European countries. According

to him, Ukraine's transformations in the early years of independence resembled a "wandering in the wilderness." Consequently, Mr. Kuchma credited himself with originating the determined course, after his first election in 1994, to build Ukrainian statehood, introduce a market economy, form a democratic civil society and make the Ukrainians a "self-contained political nation."

Mr. Kuchma noted that Ukraine will need a "few decades more" to reach these four ambitious goals. Therefore, he called on his successor to continue the same political course. "The length of the process of Ukraine's transformation objectively requires that we ensure continuity in the political course," the president said. "The next decade must be –

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Correction

In "Yushchenko begins people's campaign," by Jan Maksymiuk, RFE/RL Newsline, the story incorrectly identified the owner of Channel 5 as Petro Symonenko. In fact, the channel is owned by Petro Poroshenko.

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

NEWSBRIEFS

"Russian Club" opened in Kyiv

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Russian presidential administration head Dmitrii Medvedev on August 31 opened a "Russian Club" at the Premier Palats hotel in Kyiv, the only five-star hotel in Ukraine, UNIAN reported. Mr. Medvedev said the club is a "new stage" for those wanting to develop relations between Ukraine and Russia. Mr. Yanukovich said the Russian Club will "have a whole set of functions, primarily humanitarian and, of course, economic." The prime minister added that initiatives that will come out of this club will be supported at the level of the Russian and Ukrainian governments, and that he already has an agreement on this with the Russian government. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma warns of 'revolutionary change'

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma visited three industrial companies in Crimea on August 31, Ukrainian Television reported. "The country is on the right track just as these companies are," Mr. Kuchma said. "The main and most important thing that we need is stability. We need no revolutionary change because revolutions always lead to unpredictable circumstances. We have too many people who want drastic change but don't know what exactly." (RFE/RL Newsline)

EBRD loan to modernize railways

KYIV – The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has allocated a \$120 million loan for the Ukrzaliznytsia state railways to launch high-speed passenger railway services, Interfax reported on August 31. The loan money will be spent on purchasing carriages, buying equipment for railway track repairs and renovating the Bezkydskyi railway tunnel. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM seeks amendments before election

KYIV – Prime Minister and presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich told journalists on August 31 that there is a need to introduce constitutional amendments changing the political system in Ukraine before the October 31 presidential ballot, Interfax reported. "Political reform has matured and it needs to be instituted, and we will do everything to make political reform happen," Mr. Yanukovich said. Meanwhile, Viktor Yushchenko, Mr. Yanukovich's main rival in the race, said on August 30 during a campaign trip in the Kyiv Oblast that it is illegal for the Verkhovna Rada to repeatedly consider political reform. In April the government was six votes short of the 300 votes required for the approval of a controversial

political-reform bill. In June the Rada preliminarily approved another constitutional-reform bill, which, according to the opposition Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, is essentially the same as the bill rejected in April. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Government pays wage arrears to miners

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has paid the last tranche of an eight-year wage backlog to coal miners, ITAR-TASS reported on August 27, quoting Fuel and Energy Minister Serhii Tulub. The wage arrears in the coal-mining sector, which have accumulated since 1996, exceeded \$200 million. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Police arrest market bombing suspects ...

KYIV – Police arrested four people – three men and one woman – suspected of organizing two explosions at Kyiv's Troyeschynskiy market on August 20, Ukrainian news agencies reported on August 27, quoting Kyiv police chief Oleksander Milenin. Mr. Milenin disclosed that the detainees were members of "political movements" and specified that two individuals had membership cards of the Ukrainian National Party. According to Mr. Milenin, the motive behind the blasts was to "influence the political situation" and create "social tension" among the population. The explosions at the Troyeschynskiy market killed one person and injured 13 others. There were reportedly citizens of Vietnam, Pakistan and Bangladesh among the casualties. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... police accused of 'provocation'

KYIV – Our Ukraine lawmaker Viacheslav Kyrlyenko, a member of the Ukrainian National Party (UNP), told UNIAN that the police's statement about the involvement of UNP members in the Troyeschynskiy market blasts is a "provocation" intended to impact the presidential election. The UNP, which bore the name of Ukrainian National Rukh until January 25, 2003, is a member of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc. Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko told journalists on August 27 that the motive behind the blast was purely criminal. The Kyiv City Administration closed the Troyeschynskiy market on August 25, which caused a protest by market vendors who blocked several streets in the vicinity of the market later the same day and staged a picket in front of the mayoral office on August 26. The city administration reopened the market on August 26. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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IN THE PRESS: Yushchenko in the Wall Street Journal

The following article by *Our Ukraine* leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko appeared under the headline "Ukraine's Choice" in the U.S. and European editions of the *Wall Street Journal* on August 24. It is reprinted here with permission from *Our Ukraine Update*.

by Viktor Yushchenko

KYIV – Thirteen years ago today, Ukraine's Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, declared our country's independence from the Soviet Union. This historic choice, later affirmed in a national referendum supported by 90 percent of citizens, changed forever the geopolitical map of Europe.

We thought then that our national aspirations for freedom had been realized and



Viktor Yushchenko's campaign logo.

that democracy would replace totalitarianism. We believed our people would prosper from the combined rich natural resources and our penchant for hard work. We entrusted our elected leaders with a mandate to govern and integrate Ukraine into the international community.

Today, an overwhelming majority of my fellow citizens – 77 percent – believe Ukraine is heading in the wrong direction. Millions live in poverty. Corruption pervades every social institution, from education to medicine to government. Journalists and others who speak the truth are constantly harassed and persecuted. Illegal searches and seizures are common. The average Ukrainian can rely neither on protection from law enforcement officials nor an open and fair trial in the courts.

Economic indicators signaling growth this year haven't resulted in rising living standards. During the first seven months, GDP rose 13.5 percent, but budget revenues rose only 1.8 percent. People view the costs that the government earlier hid and now spends on social payments as a bribe paid to voters for their support of the candidate from the ruling regime.

Today the regime of President Leonid Kuchma has reverted to complete lawlessness. Surveillance recently organized by state officials against me and my family is a feature of totalitarianism. In democracies, this would be scandalous, but in Ukraine, the government called it common practice.

Ukrainians will face another historic choice this autumn in a presidential election due to be held on October 31. Democratic forces have brought together leading politicians, businessmen and ordinary citizens to fight for real change in Ukrainian society. Recently, I declared my candidacy for the presidency because I believe my policies will unite my compatriots to bring about the changes needed to improve life for Ukraine's 48 million people.

The choice facing voters this fall is very clear. On the one hand, my vision for Ukraine proposes a system founded on democratic European values, which will enable each citizen to realize his/her socio-economic potential in a country governed by the rule of law. On the other hand, those from the ruling regime propose preserving the current autocracy, which rules over competing financial-

industrial groups. Their corrupt government bureaucrats implement unpopular policies with no respect for individual liberties and basic human rights.

There can be no doubt today that Ukrainians want change – peacefully and democratically – just as they did 13 years ago. They want an end to government corruption, decent jobs at honest wages, and a president whom they trust. Ukrainians share European values and yearn for democracy.

During my tenure as prime minister, my economic policies, after a decade of decline, ignited growth. My government terminated barter operations between business and the state, which brought cash back to the economy. Back wages and pensions were repaid. Electricity blackouts ceased as transparent energy policies were implemented. As central bank chairman, I introduced Ukraine's first stable currency, the hryvnia.

Last month, I unveiled a plan of policy actions called "Ten Steps for the People." At the core of this plan is a vision for a brighter economic future for families, with more job, price and wage security, and a commitment to battling corruption in government at all levels. These policies will create millions of new jobs by ending tax privileges.

Government will focus on reducing taxes and stimulating entrepreneurial activity. Corporate payroll taxes will be reduced to 20 percent. Bureaucratic red tape, regulatory obstacles and useless government bodies will be eliminated. The repressive State Tax Police will be abolished. Tax revenues generated from these steps will be used to meet essential social programs.

With regard to governing, a poorly paid bureaucrat who takes bribes costs society more than a well-paid government official. Honest professionals will be appointed to government posts at all levels with good salaries.

Every state official will sign a code of honor and observe it without exception. Those who embezzled public funds and took bribes will be brought to justice. Trust in government and the courts will be restored. The main criteria for judging governing authorities at all levels will be the creation of new jobs at decent wages.

I am convinced Ukrainians will vote their conscience and choose democratic values over autocratic rule this coming fall. However, recent history has taught us that the one who counts the votes is more important than the one who casts them.

In this campaign, the Kuchma regime has created media monopolies, pressured democratic opposition parties, breached the right to free assembly, censored free speech and abused state authority at all levels. Because candidates fielded by the ruling regime cannot win free and fair elections, the entire executive branch has been mobilized to use fraud, intimidation and fear to support their candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Voters see this coercion and stay in opposition to this regime.

Official Kyiv's hollow declarations guaranteeing a free and fair election in Ukraine this fall must be matched by the mobilization of thousands of domestic and international election observers. My electoral coalition has trained more than 100,000 citizen representatives to participate in local election commissions to secure control over polling stations in an effort to prevent electoral fraud. We welcome international representatives from European countries and multi-national organizations to observe this effort. We will secure fair elections and

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ELECTION WATCH

Our Ukraine chief tours Dnipropetrovsk

DNIPROPETROVSK – Presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, who heads the opposition Our Ukraine bloc, arrived in Dnipropetrovsk on August 22 for a two-day presidential campaign tour of the region, Ukrainian news agencies reported. In Dnipropetrovsk Mr. Yushchenko was met by Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition bloc and his election ally. In Mr. Yushchenko's presidential campaign, Ms. Tymoshenko and her bloc are responsible for preparing his meetings with voters in Ukraine's eastern regions. Ms. Tymoshenko told the August 21-27 issue of *Zerkalo Nedeli* that her bloc is ready to lead a "real revolt" in the event of "large-scale falsifications" in the October 31 election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Funds allocated for balloting abroad

KYIV – The Central Election Commission on August 25 approved 700,000 hrv (\$132,000) to finance the organization of the October 31 presidential ballot for Ukrainians abroad, Interfax reported. The commission is planning to open 118 polling stations abroad for an estimated 215,000 voters. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Large exit poll is planned

KYIV – An ad hoc consortium of major Ukrainian polling agencies – the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, the Razumkov Center for Political and Economic Studies, the Social Monitoring Center, the Socis center and the Democratic Initiatives fund – are planning to hold an exit poll of 50,000 voters at more than 1,500 polling stations on the presidential election day of October 31 and another one three weeks later, during a hypothetical runoff, UNIAN reported on August 27. Results of the polls will be published after the closing of polling stations in an election-night program on Ukrainian television and at exitpoll.org.ua. Serhii Tyhytko, head of the election staff of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, said he sees no need for such polls. "All these exit polls are an attempt at influencing the public opinion," Interfax quoted Mr. Tyhytko as saying. "They are especially trusted by those wanting to cast doubt on election results," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

OSCE asked to triple its monitors

KYIV – National Deputy Borys Tarasyuk, leader of the National Rukh of Ukraine (NRU), a component of Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc, has said that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe should send at least 2,000 observers for the October 31 presidential election in Ukraine, the NRU press service reported on August 30. "We are working with a number of govern-

ments to achieve that," Mr. Tarasyuk added. In July the OSCE announced that it was planning to dispatch 650 observers for the presidential election in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Will the ballots be numbered?

KYIV – Political scientist Ihor Berkut told UNIAN on August 31 that the Central Election Commission's intention to print ballots for the presidential vote with numbers is "a technique oriented toward breaking the secrecy of voting." Mr. Berkut was commenting on Central Election Commission Chairman Serhii Kivalov's statement on the ICTV channel on August 29 announcing that each ballot for the presidential vote will be given a specific number and an additional number of the polling station at which the ballot will be used. According to Mr. Kivalov, such numbering will eliminate the possibilities to rig the vote by replacing real ballots with falsified ones. "There is another danger, however," Mr. Berkut said. "Imagine that the same numbers are marked down on voting lists. Then it is easy to identify who voted for whom." (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM's camp complains about opponents

LVIV – The Regional Election Campaign Headquarters (RECH) for presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich in western Ukrainian Lviv accused the Lviv RECH for presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko of using methods "that contradict Christian and social morals" and said that petition signatures are being collected near churches. The press office of the Yushchenko RECH, in a quick response, justified the practice. During a press briefing, Yuriy Kril, head of the press office of the Yanukovich RECH for Lviv, said that people coming out after morning liturgy have previously been given special cards informing them to bring their internal passports with them. According to Mr. Kril, such methods contradict Christian and social morals. The Yushchenko RECH for Lviv said that they do collect signatures in front of churches. Ivanka Popovych, press-secretary of the Yushchenko RECH for Lviv, announced that staff of the RECH are doing this at citizens' request. She said: "People do not work on Sundays and they have no problem with taking their passports with them in order to sign their signatures [on petitions]. It is characteristic for people living in Halychyna [far western Ukraine] to stay around after liturgy and talk. At this time, they can give their signature for Victor Yushchenko if they want to. There is nothing wrong with this. I guess Mr. Yuriy Kril cannot find faults with us, so he comments on 'methods that contradict Christian and social morals.' They won't find supporters near churches." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Quotable notes

"In my original profession [as manager of a rocket-building plant], I used to launch the most sophisticated products of human genius into outer space. But it [also] has fallen to my lot to feel the greatest happiness that can be bestowed upon a man – to launch my native country into a circumterrestrial orbit of modern civilization when, following a call of history, the imperishable genes of great and proud ancestors resounded suddenly in the Russified heart of the son of a soldier from the Chernihiv region. Even today I am not indifferent to how the decade of my presidency will be recorded in history. ...

"We have raised our state from ruins, we have raised our people from their knees. It was a back-breaking task, but it has elevated us, the first Ukrainian state-builders."

– President Leonid Kuchma in a speech in Kyiv on August 23 to mark the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, as quoted by Mr. Kuchma's official website (<http://www.president.gov.ua/>) and cited by RFE/RL Belarus and Ukraine Report.

Special ceremony celebrates return of Filip Konowal's Victoria Cross

by Christopher Guly

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

OTTAWA – Claudette Wright remembers her grandfather, who died in 1959 at the age of 72, as being “a nice, quiet man” who spoke little and “seemed to be thinking a lot.”

For her, Filip Konowal was a diminutive Ukrainian Canadian man who loved gardening and playing cards, who could dance like a Kozak and who married her French Canadian grandmother, Juliette Auger, a widow who had two sons from her previous marriage.

Now married with four grown children, Mrs. Wright, 65, has begun to appreciate the significance of her grandfather's World War I heroism that earned him the British Empire's highest decoration for bravery, the Victoria Cross.

She has also learned about the journey that medal has taken when it mysteriously disappeared from the Canadian War Museum's collection in Ottawa three decades ago to its recovery by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) this past spring just prior to it being sold at an Ontario auction.

“I still don't realize how important it is,” Mrs. Wright said of Konowal's Victoria Cross in an interview from her home in the east end Ottawa suburb of Orleans.

“My grandfather never talked to me about his wartime experience and I didn't think about talking about the war. I wish I had – and I think I'd ask him what he went through, because it wasn't easy,” she mused.

On August 23, Konowal's VC was

officially welcomed back at the museum at a special ceremony attended by 90 people, including Mrs. Wright, Ukrainian Ambassador Mykola Maimeskul and Ukrainian Defense Attaché Col. Ivan Plyska.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, research director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, also spoke at the 90-minute ceremony attended by members of the Toronto-based Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 (Konowal Branch) and the Governor General's Foot Guards, the regiment Konowal first joined.

Following a minute of silence in honor of the VC winner, the Rev. Cyril Mykytiuk, pastor of Ottawa's St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, gave a blessing.

Heroism under fire

Between August 22 and 24, 1917, the Ukrainian-born Konowal, a corporal at the time in the Canadian Expeditionary Force's 47th Infantry Battalion, single-handedly took out three German positions and killed at least 16 German soldiers during the battle for a German position known as Hill 70 near Lens, France.

While recovering in a British military hospital from sniper fire that shot half his face off, Konowal received a visit from King George V, who presented him with the VC – the only one ever given to a Ukrainian Canadian.

“Your exploit is one of the most daring and heroic in the history of my army,” the king told the Canadian soldier who

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Seen above is the Victoria Cross Medal set awarded to Cpl. Filip Konowal. From left are:

- Victoria Cross: Instituted in 1856, it is the Commonwealth's highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy. The recipient's serial number, rank, name and unit are engraved on the back of the suspension bar and the date of action on the back of the cross.

- British War Medal: This medal was awarded to all ranks of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who came from Canada and served between August 5, 1914, and November 11, 1918. The recipient's serial number, rank, name and unit are indicated on the lower rim. There were 427, 993 issued to members of the CEF.

- Victory Medal: This medal was also issued to all ranks of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who served in an active unit in a theater of war between August 5, 1914, and November 11, 1918. The Victory Medal was a shared medal among the British, French and Americans, who each issued their own version. There were 351,289 British medals issued to members of the CEF. The recipient's serial number, rank, name and unit are on the lower rim.

- King George VI Coronation Medal - 1937: This medal, to celebrate the coronation of the new monarch, was issued to each surviving recipient of the Victoria Cross, as well as selected military personnel, politicians, dignitaries and nominated individuals. In all, 10,089 were issued to Canadians. This medal is not named to the recipient.

- Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal - 1953: This medal was issued under the same set of guidelines as listed for the King George VI Coronation. All surviving Victoria Cross and George Cross recipients received this medal. There were 12,500 issued to Canadians. Again, not named to the recipient.

ГРАМОТА ЧЛЕНЬСКА Membership Certificate

Highlights from the UNA's 110-year history

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

The Ukrainian National Association convened its 31st Convention in Dearborn, Mich., just outside of Detroit on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 1986, with 329 delegates and 31 members and honorary members of the Supreme Assembly participating.

The incumbent, John O. Flis, was elected to his third term as supreme president in a close race with Joseph Lesawyer, a former supreme president. The vote was 197 for Mr. Flis and 157 for Mr. Lesawyer.

(Continued on page 24)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

An appreciation: Taras Shpikula, 1904-1974

September 4 marks the centennial of the birth of Taras Shpikula, a UNA stalwart who served on the fraternal organization's Supreme Assembly for more than 41 years.

Mr. Shpikula, who was born in Kopychyntsi, Ukraine, on September 4, 1904, died on November 19, 1974, at the age of 70 in Chicago.

He was remembered in an editorial in The Ukrainian Weekly titled "A True UNA'er" published on November 23, 1974.

"The name of Taras Shpikula weaves like a golden thread through the history of the UNA and of the Ukrainian community as a whole," The Weekly wrote. "A modest, unassuming man, he was one of many stalwart leaders who came out of the Windy City. Last May's UNA Convention in Philadelphia marked the 41st year of his uninterrupted service to the UNA in the post of supreme advisor, an honor that was repeatedly bestowed upon him by the delegates in recognition of outstanding work rendered and a responsibility which he carried in an unpretentious yet ever so productive manner."

In 1922 Mr. Shpikula had arrived alone in the United States. He was all of 18 years old. He completed high school and vocational school in this country, studying nights while working during the daytime.

On his second day in the United States Mr. Shpikula joined the UNA. It was an association that spanned six decades. In 1931 he became secretary of UNA Branch 221 in Chicago; his leadership transformed that branch into one of the largest in the UNA system. He was responsible also for organizing UNA Youth Branch 22 and UNA Branch 131,



Maurice Seymour

Taras Shpikula in a photo dated December 1944.

both also based in Chicago.

In addition, he was president of Chicago's branch of the League of Americans of Ukrainian Descent as well as of the UNA Home in that city, and for many years chaired the UNA District in Chicago.

At the age of 29 Mr. Shpikula was elected a UNA supreme advisor at the 18th Convention in 1933. He was re-elected at every subsequent convention, including the 28th Convention in 1974. He was serving his 11th consecutive term as an advisor when he passed away.

He left behind his wife, Mary, two sons, Taras and Myron, and a daughter, Bohdanna-Melody.

(Continued on page 18)

INSURANCE NEWS: September is declared National Life Insurance Awareness Month

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

The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, known as LIFE, has declared September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month. Throughout the U.S., leading companies and associations are joining in this national public campaign to raise awareness of the necessity for adequate financial protection for families.

The statistics are staggering. In a recent study conducted in August 2003, only 28 percent of widows and widowers believed they had adequate life insurance coverage; 39 percent had no coverage and 33 percent had inadequate coverage.

Imagine: you are young, between the ages of 30 and 55, you have two small children, and your husband or wife dies prematurely. What do you do?

The impact on your family's financial security can be devastating. Studies show that, even years after the death of a spouse, the surviving family members' financial situation can still be reeling from the aftereffects of their loss. Consider the scenario if you have no life insurance whatsoever: You now have only one income. All the same bills are due – the mortgage, the car payment, the children's school tuitions, credit card payments, everyday living costs, plus all the last medical and funeral expenses that have accumulated. Will you sell your house? Will you sell your car? Will you get a second job? Will you borrow money from family or friends?

"But I have life insurance through my job," you say. Your employer may

indeed offer life insurance, however, is it portable? Will you be able to take the policy with you should you change employers, lose your job or decide to retire? And, unfortunately, in this day and age, job security is almost non-existent. The older one gets, the higher the premiums. And what about your health? Will you be as healthy 10 years from now as you are today?

No one can ever be completely sure of what life has in store. However, there is a way to provide your family with a measure of economic certainty: life insurance. By owning a life policy, you and your family are protected. In most cases, the death benefit is not taxable for the beneficiaries. Therefore, a \$100,000 life insurance policy pays a \$100,000 death benefit to the beneficiary.

The lack of adequate life insurance or the absence of life insurance forces families to make some hard choices in order to make ends meet. The UNA, as a fraternal organization established in 1894, has been providing life insurance products to many generations of members. The UNA offers a traditional portfolio of affordable life insurance plans and annuities up to age 90. For example, a \$100,000 10-year term policy for a 35-year-old male costs just \$11 per month.

Don't leave your family's financial future to chance. Review your life insurance coverage for the benefit of your loved ones, and call your local branch secretary or the UNA Home Office, 1-800-253-9862, for information.

The bottom line is: Can you really afford not to have sufficient life insurance?

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's third Summer Olympics

The just concluded Olympics in Athens were independent Ukraine's third Summer Games.

It was in Atlanta in 1996 that Ukraine made its Summer Olympics debut as a full-fledged independent squad. There, Ukraine fielded a team of 235 that earned a remarkable nine gold, two silver and 12 bronze medals, placing the neophyte Olympic country in 10th place in the medals count.

Four years later, in Sydney, Ukraine had 239 athletes competing. The 2000 team won only three gold medals, but 10 silver and 10 bronze, which by virtue of the relatively low number of gold medals placed Ukraine 21st on the list of medal winners.

This year, in the birthplace of the Olympics, Ukraine competed with a team of 243 athletes. The team earned medals in 16 of the 34 sports that made up the XXVIII Olympiad, earning medals in everything from swimming, judo and shooting to sailing, trampoline and handball. The 23 medals earned by Ukraine – nine gold, five silver and nine bronze – landed it in 12th place in the medals count.

Ukraine's goal for Athens was to finish in the top 15 in the Games and to win five gold medals. Thus, Ukraine well exceeded that goal and the expectations of its sports community and fans. The reaction in Ukraine to the team's performance in Athens was very positive. After the results of the first week of competition – five gold medals, a silver and a bronze – landed Team Ukraine in fifth place in the medals count, the public's attention was heightened.

So, the fans continued to watch as history was made when Iryna Melnyk Merleni of Lviv became an Olympic champion in women's freestyle wrestling, a sport that made its Olympic debut in Athens. They rooted for weightlifter Ihor Razorionov, who, after competing in two previous Summer Games, finally earned an Olympic medal – a bronze that later turned to silver (when the silver medalist was disqualified for steroid use). They cheered for a surprise silver medalist, Olena Krasovska, in the 100-meter hurdles. And, they rejoiced along with wrestler Elbrus Tedeyev when he struck Olympic gold after earning a bronze in Atlanta and leaving Sydney medal-less.

What also was notable about the 2004 results was that Ukraine's athletes – members of the first team that truly came of age in an independent Ukraine – also have well over 20 top-10 finishes in various sports, including six fourth-place results. The women gymnasts, for example, took fourth in the team scoring. Other near-medalists were divers Roman Volodkov and Anton Zakharov (synchronized 10 m platform), shooter Oleh Tkachov (25 m rapid-fire pistol), weightlifter Hennadii Krasilnikov (105 kg), Greco-Roman wrestler Oleksii Vakulenko (55 kg) and freestyle wrestler Vasyl Fedoryshyn (60 kg), all of whom finished just out of the medals. And there were so many others who competed honorably for their nation. (The one dark spot on Team Ukraine's record was the women's sculls quad, whose bronze medal was revoked when one of the foursome tested positive for a banned substance after taking a medication prescribed by the team doctor.)

For three straight Olympics now, 23 seems to be the magic number for Ukraine. It's a number of which Ukraine and its people, as well as fans beyond the country's borders – like those of us in the United States who hoped to catch a glimpse of an athlete from Ukraine – can be proud. Slava! And for the next Games: Citius, altius, fortius!

Sept.
8
2002

Turning the pages back...

On September 8, 2002, Roman Woronowycz of The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau reported on the latest sobering news in Heorhii Gongadze's disappearance: "Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun announced on September 3 ... that a

panel of medical experts who had reviewed all the evidence gathered in regards to the corpse, which was discovered in a shallow grave on November 16, 2000, two months after Mr. Gongadze disappeared, had concluded that there is no question that it belongs to the late journalist. ... He also noted that, contrary to earlier statements, the experts determined that the cause of the death was the decapitation of the body. The earlier report had indicated that the head had been severed after the person had expired."

Mr. Piskun "also said that while reviewing the work of investigators done under his predecessor, Mykhailo Potebenko, his investigative team found major flaws and errors, and discovered additional evidence at the site of the unearthed burial site, which had been overlooked for two years." Mr. Woronowycz wrote that the Procurator General's Office, "had arrested the Tarascha county prosecutor for failing to perform his duties and covering up evidence in the case."

But the discovery of Gongadze's corpse was only half the story. Mr. Woronowycz reported:

"As the fate of the Tarascha body, apparently, was finally decided, National Deputy [Hryhorii] Omelchenko, the chair of the ad hoc parliamentary committee on the Gongadze affair, announced that he had forwarded recommendations made by the committee to bring criminal charges against President [Leonid] Kuchma and several political cohorts, including Volodymyr Lytvyn, his former chief of staff, today the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada; the former head of the Security Service of Ukraine Leonid Derkach; former Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko; and current Tax Administration Chairman Mykola Azarov. In one of the documents, the officials are accused of 'collaborating to organize the kidnapping of Heorhii Gongadze, which led to fatal consequences.'"

"The evidence that Mr. Omelchenko submitted is based largely on the Melnychenko tapes, digital recordings made by Maj. Mykola Melnychenko during the first nine months of 2000 when he worked in the security detachment assigned to the presidential offices. The recordings allegedly contain scores of hours of conversations between President Kuchma and the various parties named in the parliamentary committee report."

Source: "Top prosecutor concludes Tarascha corpse is Gongadze: Parliamentary committee seeks charges against Kuchma and associates," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 8, 2002, Vol. LXX, No. 36.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: Ukrainians on U.S. stamps

Dear Editor:

It was very interesting to read Daria Markus's letter on Igor Sikorsky's Ukrainian origin. His father Ivan Sikorsky (1842-1919), a physician by profession was born in the village of Antoniv, now Skvyra raion, Kyiv Oblast, and died in Kyiv.

It has to be mentioned that two more persons of Ukrainian origin appeared on the U.S. stamps. Research by Dr. Ingert Kuzych, titled "Two Jima Ukrainian Topical" and published in Ukrainian Philatelist No. 51 of 1987, established that sergeant Michael Strank is the third Marine from the left (partially obscured) on two U.S. stamps issued in 1945 and 1995 featuring the famous image of Marines raising the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

Michael Strank (1919-1945) was born to Vasyl and Martha Strank in Conemaugh, Pa. Both his parents came to the U.S. from the Ukrainian village of Oriabyrna (Jarabina in Slovak) in the Priashiv (Presov) region of eastern Slovakia.

The second one is Andy Warhol, who appeared on a U.S. stamp released in August 2002. His father, Andrew, immigrated to the U.S. in 1914 and his mother, Julia Zavadak, arrived in 1921. Both were from the Ukrainian village of Mykiv now the Svydnyk district of the Presov region in eastern Slovakia. An Andy Warhol Museum was founded in 1991 in the village of Medzylabirtsi, near his parents' birthplace of Mykiv.

It might be noted that there are more U.S. stamps related to Ukraine and they were described in my article "The Ukrainian Connection" that was published in the journal *American Philatelist* in March 2003.

Andrij D. Solczanyk
Media, Pa.

Compliments to Zakydalsky

Dear Editors:

I compliment Oksana Zakydalska (August 8) on providing a balanced survey of what, at times, became a heated debate.

One good way of analysing the crisis in political science-Ukraine in Canada is by analyzing the 77 books and occasional papers published in the Western world on post-Soviet Ukraine. The full titles of the 77 works can be found on <http://www.taraskuzio.net/ukrainian/bibliography.html>.

Of the 77 titles published, four are by scholars living in Canada, or only 5 percent of the total. Of these four titles only two are actually published in Canada. The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies has only published one political science book on post-Soviet Ukraine (B. Harasymiw).

Of these four titles, two authors are retired (Profs. B. Harasymiw and Wsewolod Isajiw) and one has gone into government employment after failing to find an academic position (Marta Molchanov). The fourth author has a joint history-political science appointment (M. Dyczok). It is patently the case that if there is a direct link between the number of political science positions with an interest in post-Soviet Ukraine, the number of students who take classes and go on to do post-graduate work and publications on Ukraine.

To sum up, the list of four titles on post-Soviet Ukraine written by scholars living in Canada does not include a sin-

gle political scientist in a current academic position.

A breakdown of the 77 titles of English-language books and occasional papers on post-Soviet Ukraine is as follows:

1. Great Britain: 29 (37.7 percent)
2. U.S.A.: 18 (23.4 percent)
3. Western Europe: 13 (16.9 percent)
4. Ukraine, 6 (7.8 percent)
5. U.S.A./Britain: 4 (5.2 percent)
6. Canada: 4 (5.2 percent)
7. Australia: 2 (2.6 percent)
8. U.S.A./Ukraine: 1 (1.3 percent).

The only conclusion that can be drawn from these statistics is that Canada's contribution to the study of independent Ukraine under Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma (1991-2004) has been very low. Hopefully, in the post-Kuchma era this crisis will be faced and addressed by Canadian Ukrainians.

Taras Kuzio
Washington

The letter-writer is a visiting professor at the Elliott School International Affairs, George Washington University.

Support UUARC via U.S. campaigns

Dear Editor:

In this post-9/11 time of increased social responsibility and the presidential call for volunteerism, employers, from small corporations to the federal government, are presenting guidelines to their employees for suggested charitable donations and publicly praising their generosity. There are built-in avenues for charitable giving, including, but not limited to, the Combined Federal Campaign for federal workers, State Employees' Charitable Campaigns, the United Way and other local drives. Employers routinely process payroll deductions for charitable contributions and, at times, even match them.

The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc. (UUARC), now in its 60th year of humanitarian aid to Ukrainians in need, receives and investigates more than 300 requests for assistance each year, and, due to the generosity of the Ukrainian American community, has been able to allocate and distribute between \$500 and \$3,500 per month, in addition to funding many other long-term programs, such as a soup kitchen in Lviv, and assistance to homes for the elderly, orphanages and "internaty."

The UUARC is affiliated and listed with Human Care Charities of America (HCCA) in the Combined Federal Campaign and the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York state employee campaigns, listed as independent in New Jersey, Michigan and United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and can be written in on any United Way Campaign by just listing the UUARC's name and address (1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111). All this information is also available on the UUARC website at www.uuarc.org.

If an employer calls for charitable giving, please don't forget that the UUARC helps Ukrainians who desperately need our charity and that, by giving through your employer, you give not only funding to help them, but recognition of the UUARC as an international private voluntary organization.

Please remember to ask your employer about matching funds.

Lida Melnyk
Philadelphia

The letter-writer is administrative liaison at the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee Inc.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The story of Filip Konowal and his Victoria Cross

by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk

Too many of their grave markers are inscribed "Known unto God," placed over whatever remains could be salvaged into boneyards. Many thousands of others were taken in a flash, one moment present – alive, young, brave or not, doing their duty – then exploded into morsels, composted into the roiling battlefields of the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Ypres. When I was a boy those were places I was told we must remember. Today they are mostly forgotten.

It was called The Great War for Civilization. I have sought to know more about one of its soldiers, Cpl. Filip Konowal. For his valor during the Battle of Hill 70, he received the Victoria Cross, presented by His Majesty King George V who remarked that Konowal's exploits were among the most daring and heroic in the history of his army.

Today Konowal's Victoria Cross is being returned to its rightful owners, the people of Canada. Until this spring some claimed it was only misplaced, would yet be uncovered in the War Museum's collections. In truth, it had been stolen. How else could it end up at public auction? Who took it, when, where has it been? We don't know, for the RCMP is not laying criminal charges, is providing no public explanation. No matter, perhaps, for Konowal's VC was recovered, with verve, and will reappear in the new Canadian War Museum, a centerpiece in its World War I gallery, finally where it belongs.

But much still remains only "Known Unto God." Unscathed despite several days of close-quarter combat, dispatching 16 enemy soldiers with bayonet and grenades, Konowal was severely wounded by a sniper, on August 22, 1917, having exposed himself above the parapet wall. Suicidal, as every seasoned soldier knew. Ivan Ackery was a stretcher-bearer who took Konowal out of the line that day. Decades later he wrote how intense shelling forced Konowal's rescuers to dig a funkhole for shelter in a slag heap. There they huddled for about an hour as, in heavily accented English, Konowal kept crying: "I killed 'em, keed! I kill 'em." Ackery admitted he didn't really care what Konowal had done. He just wanted to keep the wounded corporal quiet and low, so they wouldn't all get shot. He and his mate knew if they survived until the barrage lifted and got to their aid station, a tunnel on the Lens-Arras Road, "we kids would be given a chocolate bar and a drink of pop, and our mouths were watering in anticipation. Not very heroic, our motive, but we were just regular kids, and treats were few and far between." A true tale about how war recast the

Lubomyr Luciuk is a professor of political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario.

Dominion's boys into warriors.

Despite disfigurement, Konowal's fighting was not over. He was assigned as military liaison to the Imperial Russian Embassy in London just as the Bolsheviks struggled to impose themselves throughout the collapsing tsarist empire. Officially taken on strength by the Canadian Forestry Corps, Konowal failed to show up. Inquiring what he was up to, the corps was told bluntly by the Chief of the General Staff to mind its own business. Konowal was held back for two weeks. We do not know why.

With the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force, Konowal went out to battle against the Reds, from October 1918 to June 1919, from Vladivostok to Omsk. Did he try to return to Ukraine? Perhaps, but he never made it. The Allied Intervention failed and he was repatriated to Canada, having served overseas for three years and 357 days.

He was a hero then, and honored. He led the Peace Parade through Ottawa's streets to Parliament Hill, on Saturday, July 19, 1919. But his descent began the next evening, in Hull, where he killed Wasył Artich, reportedly a petty criminal and bootlegger who attacked Konowal's friend, Leonti Diedek. Afterwards Konowal did not flee. Questioned by Constables at the scene, he incriminatingly, if cryptically, said: "I've killed 52 of them, that makes it the 53rd."

During his trial counsel advised he plead "not guilty" by reason of insanity. He was so found and held in Montreal's St. Jean de Dieu Hospital, an asylum he shared with one of Quebec's great poets, Emile Nelligan. Intriguingly, following inquiries in August 1926 by Soviet officials, who possibly requested his deportation, Konowal was spirited off to a facility in Bordeaux, away from Montreal, released several years later, during the Great Depression.

He became destitute, was cut off from his wife, Anna, who perished during the Great Famine, and from his daughter, Maria, forever lost to him. Stoic, humble, he somehow overcame these blows. He married a French-Canadian widow, Juliette Leduc-Auger, cared for her two sons and invalid brother, making ends meet as a House of Commons janitor. He returned to Europe only once, in June 1956 for the 100th Victoria Cross anniversary. In a photograph of Canadian VC winners he is seated front row center – a hero among heroes.

Konowal passed away in 1959 and was laid to rest in Ottawa's Notre Dame Cemetery, near Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a good man who opposed the internment and disenfranchisement of Ukrainians as "enemy aliens." Fittingly, Konowal's record bears a final notation: "died in service." He did. And his true story was buried with him, likely to remain forever unknown, save to God.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Remembering the Famine again and again

How often should we in the United States commemorate the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine which killed over 7 million people? Every year? Once every 10 years? Once every 20 years?

How should we remember it? With religious services? With a solemn demonstration? With a memorial observance? With a "holodnyi obid"? With publications that increase American awareness?

Who should we invite to our commemorations? Only our own people? Other ethnic leaders? Government officials?

When it comes to the "how" of remembering, the answer for The Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation – USA, Inc. is "all of above." As for how often, the reply is "every year."

This year's memorial commemoration is scheduled for Sunday, September 19, at 1 p.m. at the St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Cultural Center at 300 E. Army Trail Road, Bloomington, Ill. A community-wide event, the commemoration will be preceded by a divine liturgy and a panakhyda (memorial service) in the church.

A procession of organizational representatives, led by Famine survivors, will lay commemorative black ribbons on the Famine monument that stands on the church grounds. Remarks by Katya Mischenko-Mycyk in English and Andriy Kryvko in Ukrainian will follow.

The commemoration will end with a traditional "holodnyi obid" in the church hall.

Headquartered in Chicago, the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation was formally incorporated in 2003. People associated with the foundation, however, began working together in 1983 and were instrumental in organizing the annual commemoration that same year.

Much was done in 1983, the 50th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. A group of local activists, primarily Orthodox, came together to raise money for the continuation of the U.S. Ukraine Famine Commission's work. The late Dr. James Mace came to Chicago to help with the fund-raising.

A curriculum guide for teachers was developed and for the first time a workshop was held in the Ukrainian Village. Some 100 Chicago-area public school teachers attended the all-day session, receiving one hour of graduate credit from Northern Illinois University. Included in the package was a Ukrainian-style luncheon.

The curriculum guide was later presented to teachers in Detroit and Newark, N.J. The guide has been reproduced recently by the Ukrainian National Association and was offered to teachers for one-hour graduate credit by the University of Denver. The foundation plans to organize more workshops for teachers in the Chicago area this coming spring.

Rep. Paul Froehlich and Sen. Bradley Burzynski of the Illinois State Legislature have been approached with requests to sponsor legislation that would make teaching about the Ukraine Famine-Genocide part of the state curriculum.

A permanent memorial/monument fund also was initiated in 1983. Ten years later, the monument, the work of Kyivan sculptor Anatolij Kush, was unveiled. All segments of Chicago's Ukrainian American community contributed to the fund.

A well-known Ukrainian who has worked closely with the commemoration committee is Ukrainian activist-patriot and former ambassador to Canada Lev

Lukianenko. He was the Ukrainian speaker at the commemoration in 2001 and the foundation has since sponsored the printing of Mr. Lukianenko's book, "Nuremberg II," some 6,000 copies of which have been distributed throughout Ukraine. Currently the foundation is funding the printing of 100,000 pamphlets on the Famine-Genocide for distribution in Ukraine prior to the election.



Artist's rendition of button to be distributed at the 2004 commemoration of the Ukraine Famine-Genocide.

This year the foundation has also sponsored a Famine-Genocide essay contest for students at the National University of Ostroh Academy. Student names were withheld so that the essays could be judged on their merits by members of the Foundation. Winners will be announced at the September commemoration. A suggestion has been made to sponsor the top essayist for a fund-raising tour of the United States in the spring.

The work of the foundation is only the beginning. More needs to be done by Ukrainian communities throughout America to acquaint Americans with Ukraine's Famine/ Genocide. A good beginning is to contact local universities and colleges to generate interest in a Famine-Genocide workshop. There's a good fit here. Teachers are always looking for ways to upgrade their credentials, and universities are always interested in helping teachers do so.

We have some good examples to emulate in this regard. Thanks to Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky, the New York State Department of Education included material on the Ukraine Famine-Genocide in Volume III of its Holocaust curriculum. Before this happened, however, Ukrainians had to overcome strong resistance from left-wing scholars and various Jewish groups who were outraged at the very idea of a Ukrainian inclusion in a Holocaust curriculum that did not mention Ukrainian "war crimes." The Ukrainian American community launched an intensive and ultimately successful letter-writing campaign to the Board of Regents to have the Famine-Genocide curriculum approved.

That is the kind of dedication and perseverance that will get our community to where it needs to be. What was done in the state of New York can be done elsewhere with the right people leading the way.

We're making inroads. Go to the Google search engine and type in Ukrainian Famine and you will find a number of websites, most accurate, others produced by Famine deniers who call our efforts a "hoax." Our detractors are still out there.

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

Want to see your name in print?

Then why not become a correspondent of The Ukrainian Weekly in your community?

We welcome submissions from all our Ukrainian communities, no matter where they are located. Let the rest of us know what you're up to in your corner of the Ukrainian diaspora!

Any questions? Call The Weekly, 973-292-9800, ext. 3049.

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 1)

farmer because he saw opportunity and was willing to take a risk, which is what is needed to succeed in today's highly commercialized international agricultural market.

"It was difficult at the beginning. The government had its hands on everything: grain pricing, grain storage, transportation, the rail, the ports and the export price. But in the late '90s they finally begin liberalizing the market," explained Mr. Fedorowycz.

He added that a transformative moment came with the presidential edict of 1999 that formally ended collectivization and allowed villagers to take parcels of the land they had farmed and to lease them out, including to foreigners.

Today Mr. Fedorowycz has 20,000 acres of some of the world's richest agricultural land at his disposal in Cherkasy, and another 12,400 in Kirovohrad, farther south of here. He is using the land to cultivate sev-

projected to reach more than \$2 billion.

While the country's growth has been strongest in light industry, wood, furniture and construction, agricultural development has played no small part in the country's economic development. In 2004 Ukraine is expected to gather some 36 million tons of grain, nearly half for export. The amount is second only to the 40 million harvested in 2002.

As any good businessperson would know, you need to know your product to profit from it. So, Mr. Fedorowycz went looking for a partner with agricultural expertise who had the same optimistic outlook about Ukraine's agricultural future and the same determination to do successful, large-scale farming in the country. He found him in Jeff Rechkemmer, a third-generation Iowa farmer who had been in Ukraine for several years and who was looking for just the sort of adventure and opportunity that Mr. Fedorowycz offered.

In 2003 Mr. Fedorowycz quickly hired



Workers air dry wheat after a heavy rain at the Iowa Ltd. main depot.



Roman Fedorowycz with a farm manager near a U.S.-made Massey Ferguson combine, with the rolling landscape of the Cherkasy Oblast in the background.

eral money crops, including soybeans, lupins and corn, not the typical products produced by the Ukrainian farmer.

Mr. Fedorowycz is also unusual in that he is that rare type of foreign investor in Ukraine: a Ukrainian American who has taken a financial risk and is working his craft in the country of his forefathers to help develop the "new economy" and to reap the benefits it can provide.

Few Ukrainian Americans have been willing over the years to ride the roller coaster called the Ukrainian economy. Many left quickly after the international finance crisis of 1998-1999. Fewer still have shown the persistence and determination to succeed at business in Ukraine that Mr. Fedorowycz has. Since arriving here in 1991 to test his business acumen he has dabbled in commodity trading in Lviv, held an interest in an oil and gas-wholesaling firm, had investments ripped off, then became a farm machinery leaser before moving into agricultural production.

Now, he is preparing to ride the tide of a strongly developing Ukrainian economy as a producer and seller of various agricultural commodities in the heart of Ukraine's "chornozem" (black earth) region. More importantly, today he finally looks well-placed to reap the benefit of more than a decade of learning how to run a profitable business in this former Soviet republic.

In the last five years Ukraine's economy has grown dynamically, reaching 12 percent growth in the first half of this year. Foreign investment, relatively dormant in Ukraine until last year, finally has begun to enter the country – last year to the tune of \$1 billion, and this year

Mr. Rechkemmer as his director of agricultural development. The two decided on their first planting that year – a successful venture that produced plenty of corn, soybeans and lupins for export, and resulted in a business partnership they have called Iowa Ltd.

Mr. Rechkemmer, who arrived in Ukraine in 1994, is outspokenly upbeat on Ukraine. "I think that this is the last frontier for large-scale agriculture. American farmers have looked at Argentina and Brazil, but we found that most of the lands are already developed," explained Mr. Rechkemmer.

Mr. Fedorowycz began gathering his farmland in 2000, after the presidential decree allowing individual villagers to lease their land parcels was issued. He knew the Cherkasy region because he had leased combines to farmers in the area. So the new farmer from Detroit painstakingly began stitching together the land plots owned by villagers of five villages in the western Cherkasy Oblast to eventually come up with a land quilt that today stretches over 20,000 acres of some of the most fertile black loam on the face of the Earth. At first the process was far more complicated than simply signing over pieces of paper.

"Of course there was much opposition," explained Mr. Fedorowycz. "A lot of the people looked at it as an outsider, an American, taking their land. They didn't understand why the old kolhosp system couldn't work again."

Mr. Fedorowycz convinced local officials to call town meetings to explain to the villagers that he was not out to rob them of what any farmer holds dearest. He offered them a fair price to lease their land.

Since then, he and his firm have given

them many additional benefits as well, including free busing for the school children and textbooks for the elementary schools. Iowa Ltd. has initiated a doctors-on-wheels program to provide medical services to the five villages from which his company has leased land. Iowa Ltd. plows and harvests the land of the lessors and provides hay and straw for their livestock. In addition, it pays for funerals for them and their closest relatives.

Mr. Fedorowycz and Mr. Rechkemmer both retain a strong belief that farming can succeed only on a large scale. Mr. Fedorowycz holds the opinion that in the current global marketplace only economies of scale that is, large production volumes, bring an acceptable profit at the end of the annual business cycle and allows farmers to survive.

Mr. Fedorowycz also said that Ukrainians must begin to modernize not only their farming technology but their attitude toward crops historically grown on Ukrainian lands – a country that for two centuries was known as the "breadbasket of Europe."

Today the Ukrainian breadbasket can barely feed its own after years of bad farming practices, erosion and soil neglect. Mr. Fedorowycz explained that he found it ironic that one of the common sayings among Ukrainian farmers is: "Feed the soil, and it will feed you," when Ukraine's soil had in fact been deprived of proper fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides for decades.

Mr. Fedorowycz believes that now the tide has turned. He sees many new farmers, mostly large associations and companies, initiating modern agricultural practices and

beginning to take the necessary steps to diversify the crops they cultivate and choose those that will provide the best yields.

"We do not want to compete with millions of other farmers struggling to grow wheat and barley," explained Mr. Fedorowycz. "Ukraine is extremely short on protein crops – corn, soybeans and lupins – for example. These are world crops."

He also noted that the Ukrainian farmer must overcome wastefulness in the harvest process and obtain the technology to gather as much harvest as quickly and efficiently as possible. Mr. Fedorowycz said old Soviet and newer Belarus tractors and combines just cannot compete with American makes such as Massey Ferguson, International Harvester and John Deere, which are slowly appearing in Ukraine. Over the years Mr. Fedorowycz has purchased many imported combines and tractors capable of harvesting and threshing an assortment of seed bearing cultures.

The broad-shouldered Detroitier said that, inasmuch as Ukraine's ecology in general and the soil in particular had been so devastated by decades of abusive policies, only farmers who are able to inject massive investment would be able to undertake the necessary steps to rejuvenate and nurture the soil to its full potential.

Mr. Fedorowycz is an optimist. He has had to be, otherwise he would have long ago left Ukraine for tamer lands: the South Pole, Kosovo and the Congo come to mind.

He has stuck it out in Ukraine because he always thought that the opportunities existed, even if latently. While he realizes that now his time has come – he is preparing to add another 15,000 to 20,000 acres by the end of the year and to begin developing an irrigation system on the Cherkasy farm – he remains cautious and reserved about his accomplishments. For example, he would not reveal any individual or corporate profit or investment figures for this story. But he remains optimistic about doing business in Ukraine and is very excited about how Iowa Ltd. is developing.

"This country and this economy have given me the ability to build a company on a scale that would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, in the United States," explained Mr. Fedorowycz.

While wildly optimistic about Ukraine's farming future, nonetheless he advises would-be entrepreneurs to enter the Ukrainian market carefully because, while the opportunities are great, there still remain large obstacles and old mindsets to overcome.

"You have to do your homework. And, no question, you have to have good local lawyers and accountants who know how to work the system. Preferably they should be from the younger generation," advised Mr. Fedorowycz. "The tide has changed in Ukraine. The investment climate is still difficult, but it is rewarding."

Jack Palance rejects award offered during “Russian Nights”

by Stephen Bandera

NEW YORK – A week of “Russian Nights” held recently in Los Angeles culminated with an awards ceremony at the prestigious Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood. The gala event on April 22 was held at the end of a weeklong festival that “celebrates Russian contributions to the world of art.” The program of cinema, theater and music visual arts was sponsored in part by the Russian Ministry of Culture and enjoyed the support of Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Scheduled to receive “narodnyi aryst” awards (cleverly translated as “the Russian People’s Choice Award”) were two Oscar-winning actors: Dustin Hoffman and Jack Palance – both of whom trace their roots to Ukraine.

In accepting his award, Mr. Hoffman noted that his grandparents came from “Kiev, Russia” and expressed gratitude to the “Russian people” for helping defeat Germany. He thanked them for saving his grandmother, who otherwise “may have ended up as a bar of soap.”

Next in line for the Russian government’s highest artistic award was Mr. Palance. Born Walter Palahniuk in Pennsylvania in 1918, Mr. Palance won the Academy Award in 1992 for his memorable portrayal of Curly in “City Slickers.” Mr. Palance, proud as a Kozak of his Ukrainian heritage, is chairman of the Hollywood Trident Foundation.

After being introduced, Mr. Palance related that he said “I feel like I walked into the wrong room by mistake. I think that Russian film is interesting, but I have nothing to do with Russia or Russian film. My parents were born in Ukraine. I’m Ukrainian. I’m not Russian. So, excuse me, but I don’t belong here. It’s best if we leave.”

Mr. Palance and his entourage proceeded to get up and go. He was accompanied by four other guests, including his wife, Elaine, and the Hollywood Trident Foundation’s president, Peter Borisow. Mr. Palance refused to accept the award, even in private, or to view “72 Meters,” the movie being screened as the festival finale.

Speaking from Los Angeles, Mr. Borisow commented on Mr. Hoffman’s statements: “I don’t think it’s necessarily Mr. Hoffman’s fault. I think it’s tragic that he doesn’t even know his own family history. His ignorance of the basic facts is shocking. That Mr. Hoffman lends himself, hopefully unwittingly, to denigration of Ukrainians (and thus of himself), as he did by endorsing a festival that featured the highly offensive and racist movie ‘72 Meters’ is very disappointing.”

Mr. Borisow was referring to Vladimir Khotinenko’s 2003 film “Siemdesiat-Dva Metra.” A drama surrounding events on the submarine Slavianka, the film portrays Ukrainians as bumbling fools and repeat-

edly refers to Ukrainians with the racist pejorative “khakhol” word. As part of the film’s plot development, the Ukrainian submarine’s Russian officers refuse allegiance to newly independent Ukraine, steal the ship and sail it to Russia.

“This is a continuation of a centuries-old effort to invent a history and culture for Russia by hijacking, first, the Ukrainian church, then Ukrainian history and finally Ukrainian culture,” Mr. Borisow said. The HTF president said he considered the festival to be part of a “coordinated, worldwide campaign to promote Russia and Russian culture and, in so doing, to make Ukraine seem part and parcel of Russia.”

“I’m certain that in Russia, Jack’s acceptance of the mislabeled award would have been sold as his accepting being a ‘national artist’ of Russia, not a ‘people’s choice’ – much like they sell ‘Russia’ as a derivative of Kyivan ‘Rus’ instead of the Ukrainian word ‘rossiyane,’ meaning, ‘the scattered ones, the nomads.’ Jack is very proud to be Ukrainian and will not let anyone hijack his name or persona,” Mr. Borisow observed.

Twenty films were screened at the Pacific Design Center’s Silver Screen Theater, including Ukrainian filmmaker Oleksander Dovzhenko’s “Aerograd” (1935). The festival program did not mention that Dovzhenko was Ukrainian, and instead described him as “the son of illiterate peasants” who “incorporates elements of peasant lore and pastoral tradition.”

“This latest incident is just another part of a long history of genocide that killed 10 million Ukrainians in 1933 and continues in more subtle form to this day – all of it still actively promoted and financed by Russia,” Mr. Borisow said. “Putin knows there can be no Russian empire without Ukraine, so he is pushing the assault from all angles: military, industrial, energy, economic, religious and cultural.”

In addition to Russia’s Ministry of Culture, other sponsors of “Russian Nights” included East-West Foundation for Culture and Education, LA Weekly, Panorama Media, 7 Arts, Adelphia, Rodnik Vodka, Samuel Adams Beer, MovieLine’s Hollywood Life, IN! Magazine and the National Bartenders School. The festival was organized by the Stas Namin Center.

The festival’s website includes letters of greeting from actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Liv Tyler and producer-director Francis Ford Coppola. Previously held once in Germany in 2003, “Russian Nights” are scheduled to descend upon New York between October 23 and 30 later this year.

The article above was originally published in the June 21 edition of the New York-based newspaper Natsionalna Trybuna. It is reprinted here with the author’s permission.



Jack Palance (right) with Peter Borisow (center) of the Hollywood Trident Foundation and Yuri Shapoval, researcher of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide.

OPINION: Ukraine faces a “cultural Holodomor”

by Peter Borisow
with Jack Palance

Jack Palance rejected the Russian award he was slated to receive during the “Russian Nights” recently organized in Los Angeles because it was just another step in the ongoing Russian Empire’s genocide of Ukraine – this time cultural – one of many efforts throughout history to pass off as Russian what they can and then to destroy the rest. Mr. Palance will have no part of this cultural Holodomor.

Mr. Palance’s rejection was more than a personal statement that he is Ukrainian and not Russian. Like so many Ukrainians in “the (film) business,” Mr. Palance is tired of hearing Ukrainians mislabeled and slandered as a matter of course. His statement was, in fact, his declaration to the world that he is joining the battle to save the Ukrainian identity from complete destruction by the Russian Empire.

Just like every Russian knows there can be no Russian empire without Ukraine, every leader of the “Evil Empire,” be it the tsar, Stalin or Putin, knows well that Ukraine will never meld into the Russian empire as long as the Ukrainian identity exists. For them, it was and is of utmost importance to continue the cycle of destruction of the Ukrainian language, culture and history, while taking useful bits of the Ukrainian heritage and passing them off as Russian.

Hence the fraud of Kyivan Rus’ being the antecedent of Russia, the fraud of Kozaks being Russian cavalry (except during pogroms, when they’re conveniently Ukrainian), the fraud of the Ukrainian genocide being passed off as a “famine,” the fraud of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church being just a subset of the Russian Church, the fraud of brilliant and successful Ukrainians (from Gogol to Sikorsky to Dovzhenko and countless others) being passed off as Russians. Mr. Palance will not be part of this fraud.

Ukraine has gone through so many cycles of genocide that it’s hard to keep track of them all. Cycles of killing and physical destruction are intermingled with cycles of destruction of the language, the literature, the physical history, the traditions, the family structure – all calculated to destroy the very essence of the Ukrainian soul. While words speak for the brain, it is language that speaks for the soul. Kill the Ukrainian language, and the Ukrainian Soul will no longer have its voice.

Today, despite the siren song of a free and independent Ukraine, all evidence points to a full court press by the Russian empire to buy and control everything Ukrainian and then guarantee its destruction. Nowhere is this more evident than in “the business,” both here and in Ukraine. While the Russian empire spends lavishly to finance the fraud overseas – the festival was co-sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Culture – back home in Ukraine, the last vestiges of Ukrainian film and television are being deliberately starved to death in a cultural Holodomor.

While Ukrainians in the United States reveled to see “Mamai” as Ukraine’s first submission for the Academy Awards, back in Ukraine, it was a different story. Hanna Chmyl, the vice minister of culture, who supported both Yuri Illienko’s “Mazepa” and Oles Sanin’s “Mamai,” was fired. No distributor would touch “Mamai,” while “Mazepa” was bought by Russian money and buried. Theater owners would not even rent theaters for a guaranteed flat rate if the film to be shown was “Mamai.” Having no

possible outlet in Ukraine, “Mamai,” which was submitted for the 2003 Academy Awards, is popular at international festivals, but few Ukrainians will ever see it.

While Ukrainians in the U.S. applauded the Ukrainian Parliament’s vote mandating certain minimum hours of Ukrainian language on Ukrainian television, back in Ukraine the manipulation is evident to anyone who watches Ukrainian television. Only a minimum of popular shows are actually in Ukrainian. The dominant voice is overwhelmingly Russian. The legal requirement is met in some tricky ways. If you want to see something in Ukrainian, better watch in the middle of the night. Or, watch an American movie dubbed into Russian and accompanied by Ukrainian subtitles that are so tiny and flash by so fast that no one can see or read them – viewers just listen to the Russian.

While Ukrainians in the U.S. await the next Ukrainian film to be presented to the Academy, the Russians are preparing a big surprise for them. The next Ukrainian submission for the Academy Awards may well be a Russian movie. “Vodii Dlia Viry” (Driver for Vera) is being promoted as Ukraine’s submission. The film was made by Alexander Rodnyansky, an international businessman who found fame and fortune in Ukraine running 1 + 1 TV and then moved his business to Moscow and became a Russian film-maker. “Vodii Dlia Viry” is a Russian movie, filmed entirely in the Russian language, while using locations in Crimea and some hired talent from Ukraine.

According to the producers, that’s only fair since Russian is the real everyday language of Ukraine. They claim hardly anyone speaks Ukrainian anymore, that Ukrainians now speak Russian. Besides, no Ukrainian-language films were even made this year, so there’s nothing to submit in Ukrainian anyway.

Those in “the business” in Ukraine claim the reason no Ukrainian-language films were made last year was purely economic – no one wants to see them. Never mind that it’s virtually impossible to get financing for them (even willing investors are afraid of business repercussions) and equally impossible to get them shown in motion picture theaters in Ukraine, at any cost. Ukrainians have no influence over distribution – it’s all controlled from Moscow.

The major studios sell film and television products to Ukraine as part of a Russian-language package, including Belarus and other bits of the Russian empire. They argue that it’s cost effective and there is no demand for Ukrainian-language distribution. If the government required films in Ukraine to be shown in Ukrainian, the distributors would do so. Today, films play only in Russian. In time, the people get used to Russian and it becomes O.K., even fashionable. To a large extent, that is why Russian has become so popular with the youth of Ukraine, especially in the large cities – it’s what their heroes speak on film and TV.

The Ukrainian market is about the size of France or Germany. Can you imagine films being shown routinely in France exclusively in German? What is happening in Ukraine is that the Russian empire is taking back what it considers its own. The empire is striking back, everywhere.

The submission of a Ukrainian film for the Academy Awards will be made by the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture. “Vodii Dlia Viry” stars Bohdan Stupka, himself a former minister of culture. If the government does decide to submit a Russian film as Ukraine’s candidate, then the Ukrainian government and symbolically its people

Peter Borisow and Jack Palance are, respectively, president and chairman of the board of the Hollywood Trident Foundation based in Los Angeles.

(Continued on page 18)



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Ingerit Kuzych

Ukraine's rarest stamps - Part II

counterparts, only two examples of 40/20-hryvni CFP stamps are known. These stamps have, to my knowledge, never been offered at a major auction.

How the CFP stamps came about

Alliances and situations can change abruptly – particularly in times of war.

fight off the specter of Bolshevism that threatened them both. Early victories in the spring of 1920 were followed by reverses that saw the UNR expelled from most Ukrainian territories and the UNR government moved to temporary exile in Tarnow, Poland.

Although it will likely never be established with certainty, the creation of the



Figure 1. A complete set of shahy issue stamps.

The 40/20-hryvni courier field post stamps

Ukraine's other rare stamps – the 40/20-hryvni values from a Courier Field Post (CFP) set issued in 1920 – are not nearly as well known as the Western Ukraine 10-

hryvni Stanyslaviv values described in the previous article. As a matter of fact, Ukraine's Courier Field Post stamps are not even listed in some catalogues and the Scott Catalogue (the most widely consulted in North America) did not include them until 2002. Similar to its Western Ukrainian

The same Polish government that had fought and defeated the Western Ukrainian National Republic (WUNR) in 1919 (described in the previous article), one year later found itself allied with the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR; eastern or greater Ukraine) to

CFP may well be related to the Bolshevik defeat at the Battle of Warsaw, the so-called "Miracle on the Vistula" (August 13-18, 1920), which decisively turned the tide of the struggle against Bolshevik

(Continued on page 11)



Figure 4. Quite possibly the only complete set of CFP stamps in the world. The only other known 40/20-hryvni stamp (bottom) is on cover.



Figure 2. The 20-hryvni issue stamp.

Ukraine's rarest stamps...

(Continued from page 10)

forces. The Poles and their Ukrainian allies now planned to resume the offensive against the Soviets in late August of 1920.

It was at this time that the Ukrainian Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs issued two orders, Nos. 22 and 23, establishing a new temporary Courier Field Post service to carry official and semi-official



Figure 3. The CFP overprint.

military mail. A "Central Office" was set up by the Postal Ministry to handle mail between it and the "headquarters" of the chief Otaman (commander-in-chief). Besides official letters, private correspondence (both registered and unregistered) from institutions and persons serving the UNR also was accepted.

The CFP service began to function on the day the orders were promulgated, May 26, 1920. Existing postal regulations were to be followed and prevailing postal rates remained in force. The only exceptions were the correspondence of the chief otaman, his office, and the president of the Council of Ministers and his office, which were exempt from paying any postal fees.

The CFP's ability to speed messages may have aided the combined Polish-Ukrainian rout of Bolshevik forces at the Battle of Zamostia on August 29-31, 1920. The service remained in use for only about two months. The latest-known CFP cover dates to October 15, 1920.

On October 12, 1920, the Polish government – in contravention to its treaty with Ukraine – signed a preliminary

peace treaty with Soviet Russia. This action subsequently led to the internment of the Ukrainian Army in Polish-held territory on November 10, 1920, thus eliminating any further need for the field post.

CFP stamp details

Stamps of the shahy issue (Figure 1; released in 1918) and the 20-hryvnia stamp (Figure 2; from 1919) were overprinted with the three values needed for the CFP service: 10, 20 and 40 hryvni (for official, regular, and registered mail respectively). CFP postage was designed for internal use only, i.e., it was not intended to be used on mail going to foreign countries. When letters were sent overseas, additional regular postage had to be applied.

The overprint consisted of four lines that simply stated Courier Field Post and the new value (Figure 3). Each of the five shahy issue stamp types received one of the three new value designations (Figure 4). A total of 13,000 shahy issue stamps were thus overprinted. Only 15 of the 20-hryvni stamps received an overprint (all of the 40 hryvni). About half of the stamps (6,400) were revalued to the ordinary (semi-official) letter rate of 20 hryvni; 1,000 stamps were reserved for paying registration fees (40 hryvni), while the remaining 5,600 stamps were designated for official mailings. Although the 15 revalued 20-hryvni stamps were originally considered proof or specimen copies meant simply as collectibles and to raise extra funds, some of them ended up being used to post mail.

A number of special cancellation and postmark devices were even created for the new service. Two circular metal cancels indicated the point of departure and destination, while a hexagonal rubber marking showed registration numberings (Figure 5).

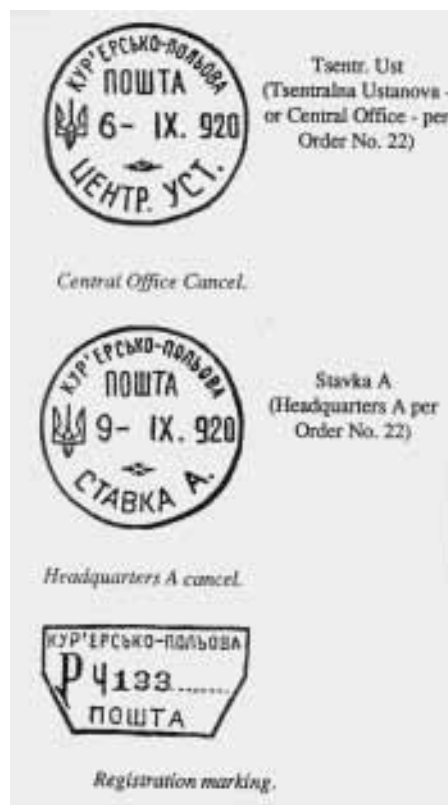


Figure 5. CFP cancellations and registration marking.



Figure 6. An example of a CFP cover.

Scarcity

CFP stamps are definitely not cheap – most prices range between \$30 and \$40, but can go up to \$300 for some scarcer values. Recent estimates place the number of stamps that have survived at no more than 1,000 (of the original 13,000), or about 8 percent. This rather appalling rate is due to a number of factors, including their short period of usage, chaotic battlefield conditions, the subsequent devastation of World War II, and more than seven decades of Communist persecution when it was unsafe to possess anything that might hint of Ukrainian nationalism. To date, only 37 covers bearing CFP stamps have been chronicled (Figure 6). Needless to say, these items are very expensive, going for \$500 and up.

Of the 15 20-hryvni stamps that received a 40-hryvni overprint, only two are known to have survived: one mint and one used on cover. These are the two rarest postal items that remain from the UNR and they are apparently equal in scarcity to the two Western Ukrainian items described in the previous article. The CFP cover, owned by a famous col-

lector from Britain, was damaged during the V-2 bombing of London in World War II. The building housing the collection was hit and began to burn. Although the fire was doused, the collection suffered additional water damage. The present whereabouts of the cover are unknown.

I am fortunate to be able to report that I own the other (mint) 40/20-hryvni stamp (Figure 7). It is difficult for me to place a value on this item since I was able to obtain it many years ago through a private sale. Since it has not appeared at auction (which can be helpful in establishing some sort of benchmark value) and since it was for so long unlisted in the Scott Catalogue, its value is undoubtedly below the \$32,300 the Western Ukraine stamp recently went for. But how much below? Scott does not give it a value, meaning that only a few copies are known and that the stamp is worth whatever a buyer is willing to pay for it. Hmm, anyone willing to make an offer!?)

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Figure 7. An enlargement of the 40/20-hryvni CFP stamp.

UNWLA part of Combined Federal Campaign's 2004 fund-raising drive

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) will participate for the first time this year in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) as a national/international organization.

The Combined Federal Campaign is the annual fund-raising drive conducted by the federal government for federal employees each fall. Federal employees, including military personnel, raise millions of dollars each year through the CFC, thereby benefiting thousands of

non-profit charities. Federal employees are encouraged to designate their charitable donations to organizations participating in the CFC.

Iryna Kurowyckyj, president of the UNWLA, is urging all federal employees of Ukrainian descent who are committed to preserving the cultural values of their heritage to designate UNWLA No. 2669 when making their annual payroll contribution pledges this coming fall. Federal employees, their families and friends are also encouraged to urge other federal workers to do likewise.

"This campaign is an excellent opportunity for the thousands of federal employees of Ukrainian descent to support the cause of preserving the cultural values of their Ukrainian heritage," said Mrs. Kurowyckyj.

The funds that are raised will go toward: promoting Ukrainian national identity and cultural heritage; informing the American public about Ukrainian culture, including Ukraine's literature, art, ideals and aspirations; providing financial assistance to Ukrainians within and outside the United States, specifically

through humanitarian aid, educational studies, and research in Ukrainian history and culture; forging effective alliances with other Ukrainian, as well as American and international, organizations for educational and charitable purposes; and supporting The Ukrainian Museum in New York City.

For more information readers may visit www.unwla.org, or contact Oksana Xenos, parliamentarian of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, at ooxenos@cs.com.

Embassy reception celebrates 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian Embassy celebrated the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on August 24 with a reception at the Embassy that included a surprise segment in its official program. In addition to the greetings and the now almost customary accompanying art exhibit, this year's event saw the return of a painting that may have been taken from a Ukrainian museum during World War II.

Oleksa Budnyj, a Ukrainian American architect in Washington, presented Ambassador Mykhailo B. Reznik with the painting with the request that it be returned to its rightful home – to Ukraine.

The painting, on wood, measuring about 12 by 18 inches, depicts members of aristocracy enjoying a picnic in the country. Mr. Budnyj said the unsigned painting may well date back to the 16th century.

Mr. Budnyj, 81, an architect, came to the United States in 1950. Two years later he settled in Washington, where he bought the painting for \$50 in 1954 from the brother of a Ukrainian artist, Alexander Deyneka, who told him that it was taken from among those less significant artworks discarded by the German military teams that looted Ukrainian museums during World War II. Since then, the painting has been hanging on the wall of his Washington home.

Mr. Budnyj stressed that he was not "donating" the painting but "returning" it

to its real owner, Ukraine, and he called on Ukrainians in the diaspora to follow his example if they have works of art that rightfully belong in Ukraine.

"In the '60s and '70s," Mr. Budnyj said in an interview, "Soviet Embassy personnel sold many significant works of art – 'na lievo' (on the side) – including many icons from our churches."

"People have them. They've grown accustomed to them. But they may not have thought about what would happen to that art after they die," he said, adding that their children or grandchildren, who may not appreciate its significance, may well sell them off in a rummage sale.

"We should call on them to do the magnanimous and patriotic thing and return these items to Ukraine," he said.

An Embassy spokesperson said that Mr. Budnyj's painting will be authenti-

cated by a representative of Ukraine's Ministry of Culture who will be in Washington within a few weeks. They will also have to determine from which museum it was taken.

During the Independence Day reception, the guests had an opportunity to view an exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Ukrainian artists Iryna Dankevych and Yevhen Prokopov. They could also talk to travel writer Andrew Evans and obtain a copy of his newly published "Ukraine: the Bradt Travel Guide."

The August 24 reception at the Embassy, attended for the most part by Ukrainian Americans, was the first of two events scheduled to mark Independence Day. A second reception will be held at a Washington hotel on September 8.



Oleksa Budnyj (center) presents Ambassador Mykhailo Reznik with an old painting, requesting that it be returned to a museum in Ukraine, from where it was taken during World War II. He had bought it in Washington in 1954. Standing behind them during the Independence Day reception at the Embassy is Cultural Attaché Natalia Holub.

Empire State...

(Continued from page 1)

independence." She said that after getting the all-clear sign from her organization, she asked the Empire State Building if they would light the building with the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Mrs. Liber personally paid for a helicopter ride that night to photograph and videotape the building.

"When Ms. Liber first contacted me about the lights for Ukrainian Independence Day, I was so pleased to be able to accommodate the request," Mrs. Ruth said in her e-mail message.

Yurko Pylyp, one of the first people to notify the Empire State Building of the error, said he called because he was very disappointed with what he saw that night. He called the mistake "representative" of other issues he has faced, saying Ukrainians, for whatever reasons, "get 98 percent done but can't get that last 2 percent right."

"Well, I just thought that this time we needed to get it a 100 percent right," said

Mr. Pylyp. He is the person to whom Mrs. Ruth sent her e-mail apology after she received his phone call on August 24.

The following night the building was properly lit after electricians corrected the error.

Mrs. Ruth told *The Weekly* that the top portion of the building – the tall thin mast which is actually a lightning rod – can be lit by switching on panels of fluorescent tubes containing five colors (red, yellow, green, blue and white). But on the setback roofs, there are large white spotlights with metal frames and large color gels in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange, lavender, purple, pink and aqua) that cover the frames; the lights are then pitched toward the building's facade so that the colors are projected onto the building, Mrs. Ruth said.

Mrs. Ruth plans to honor Ukraine every future August 24 by lighting the building with blue on top and yellow on the bottom. "Since one of my best friends from Harrisburg, Pa., my hometown, is Ukrainian American, this lighting tribute is special to me as well," she said.

2,500-year-old city of Balaklava holds many secrets

by Danylo Kulyniak

KYIV – There is much that impresses in Balaklava: a dramatic 300-meter drop off into the sea at the Cape of Aya; the ruins of a nearby castle, and waves the color of bright emeralds that slap at your feet at the base of the rocky quay.

When you find yourself on Balaklava's streets it's as if you are walking in some enchanted town described in fairy tales, for the city is one of the most ancient in Ukraine, having also been known as Chymbalo and Yambol.

This year Balaklava is 2,500 years old, an event that will be officially celebrated on September 8-9 in conjunction with another notable moment in this region's rich history: the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War and the battle made famous by Alfred Tennyson's epic poem, "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

Invitations have gone out to many countries including Russia, Great Britain and France. London has said that it will send a member of the royal family. Balaklava is preparing. The British cemetery where the earl of Marlboro, a relative of Winston Churchill, was killed and

buried during the war in 1854 is undergoing restoration. Other cemeteries and the city as a whole are undergoing a general facelift.

Yet, for all its renown as the site of the great battle of the Crimean War, few people realize that Balaklava also played a significant role in the Soviet Union's defense structure. During the Soviet era it housed the empire's nuclear submarine repair facility for its Black Sea and Mediterranean fleets. Until 1991 it was among the most secret places in the world with special permits needed to enter the city. Now plans call for it to be transformed into an international center of tourism.

In July 2002 President Leonid Kuchma ordered the development of the State Naval Museum devoted to the 10th anniversary of Naval Forces of Ukraine. The Balaklava Naval Museum has been receiving visitors for almost a year now. There is no other place like it in the world, inasmuch as it includes the underground bases and submarine repair and maintenance centers that were vital for maintaining Soviet power in the Black and Mediterranean seas.

The repair facility, housed partially in natural underwater caves and tunnels, and partially constructed in a mammoth project, was called "object 825 GTS." It was built incrementally beginning in 1954. Today it is open to visitors, who are attracted by the grandiosity and mag-

nitude of its natural dimensions. Here is a whole city built underground with merely two exits for submarines into the sea.

During construction of the facility, workers excavated 200,000 square meters of rock from the western slope of Tavros Mountain to create a deep-water channel about a kilometer in length, as well as dry docks, repair facilities, underground roads, arsenals and depots, a command post and submarine berths. The first part, finished in 1961, was the repair center for submarines. The second section, finished in 1963, included fuel storage tanks that could hold 9,500 tons of oil and an ammunition depot that held nuclear warheads. A special underground climate control system was created to maintain stable atmospheric conditions.

The facility was reinforced with materials of the highest standards for radiation protection. The two-lane channel for the submarines, along with the entire underground infrastructure, was built to withstand a nuclear attack from a 100-kiloton atomic device. It was stocked with supplies and provisions for several thousand men who would be able to maintain and repair up to 10 nuclear submarines for several months.

In 1994 the underwater facility was taken out of operation. In 1995 the last Russian submarine was moved out, and the underground harbor of submarines came under the jurisdiction of Ukraine. Today, in the huge room that was the

storage facility of the fleet's nuclear devices, the largest exhibition of weapons and ammunition in the world – from antiquity to modern times – is being created.

The Balaklava Museum is devoted to more than simply the underground submarine repair facility. Its role is to identify and commemorate the many historical aspects of the city and the region, from the time of its founding and including its role in Byzantine history, the Crimean War and its key role in the creation of the Ukrainian navy in 1992.

The range of the projects is extensive and grandiose. It not only includes the reconstruction of the large underground Soviet military fortress, but also the restoration of remains of the ancient Roman Temple of Jupiter Dolichenus, which were discovered and excavated some years ago under the auspices of the Khersones Tavriisky Reserve, located nearby in Sevastopol.

This archeological find is of worldwide importance because it is the best-preserved Jupiter Dolichenus Temple ever found in Europe. The mystery cult of Jupiter Dolichenus was very popular among the Roman legionnaires. In Balaklava, where a Roman Legion subsection known as the First Italian Legion was located, a temple was built in the later part of the second century, ascer-

(Continued on page 27)

Dmytro Kulyniak is a Ukrainian journalist whose articles have appeared in the magazine *Ukraine* (found on *Aerosvit flights*), as well as in *Nadzvychna Sytuatsia*, a magazine of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

Two special tributes to an extraordinary dance teacher

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Scores of Ukrainian dancers from the United States and Canada will converge on Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall on November 13 to mark the illustrious 40-year history of the School of Ballet and Ukrainian Folk Dance founded by teacher/choreographer Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky. They'll be observing the anniversary in the way they know best, with Ukrainian folk dancing – either performing, helping out backstage, or in the audience, applauding and tapping their toes in time to the rhythms on stage.

The concert, in preparation for almost a year, will also be a heartfelt memorial to their beloved "Pani Roma," their teacher, choreographer and mentor, who passed away in May after a serious illness.

Members and alumni of the New York-based Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers will make up the major part of the dance roster, with dancers from Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky's schools in New York and Whippany, N.J., strutting their stuff in a couple of numbers.

The two-hour Lincoln Center program, set for 8 p.m., will showcase regional Ukrainian folk dances and works choreographed by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky, such as "Ikona," an elo-

Hopak dance and a special tribute choreographed by Boris Bohachevsky.

The event will include the bestowal of the Ukrainian Institute's first Lifetime Achievement Award. The luncheon is slated for 1 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the world-famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel and will have Lydia Kulbida, news anchor for WNYT Television in Albany, as mistress of ceremonies. Marta Zielyk, senior diplomatic interpreter with the State Department, will offer reminiscences of early dance classes and participation in Pani Roma's original "Popeliushka" ballet.

Luncheon chairwoman Stephanie Dobriansky, whose committee consists of Roma Kekish Hrechynsky, Ulana Kekish, Oksana Kinal and Olya Rudyk, says that New York Gov. George Pataki has issued a proclamation in honor of Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky, and letters of commendation have come in from New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey and several Ukrainian religious leaders.

Principals and speakers at both events are expected to laud the talents, dedication and gracious, smiling demeanor of a Ukrainian woman who began to study dance at the age of 3, became a member of the corps de ballet of the Lviv State Opera Company at 13 and the company's youngest soloist a year later. She went on to become prima ballerina at the State



Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky in one of her many dance roles.



A view of ballet classes conducted by Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky in New York City in the early 1970s.

quent piece dedicated to the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine, to be performed on this occasion by dance alumni.

Designed by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky and artistic director Andriy Cybyk, the program will also include the Syzokryli ensemble's traditional "Pryvit" (Welcome) and its rousing Hopak dance, the "Ivasiuk Suite," which she choreographed to the music of the late composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk, and what planners describe as "a very large Hutsul suite." The New York school will contribute more Hutsul dances, while the Whippany school will trot out a Transcarpathian number choreographed by Ms. Bohachevsky's son, Boris.

Singer Olya Chodoba-Fryz will appear as guest artist, providing original Ivasiuk compositions as accompaniment for the "Ivasiuk Suite," and will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

In another, separate tribute to the dance diva that takes place on Sunday, September 12, the Syzokryli ensemble will make a guest appearance at a gala Waldorf Astoria luncheon hosted by the Ukrainian Institute of America. The group's performance will include the

Opera House in Innsbruck, Austria. She toured Europe extensively, then moved to Canada and became a guest artist with the Winnipeg Royal Ballet and later with the Ruth Sorell Dance Company in Montreal.

Solo appearances brought her to New York City and led to studies with such leading dance exponents as Martha Graham and Agnes DeMille. During an international tour that took her to Europe, the United States, Canada and Central America, her program of Ukrainian dances in varying styles, all based on Ukrainian themes, drew audience acclaim.

In 1961, deciding to dedicate all her energy and taken to teaching Ukrainian dance, she opened her School of Ballet and Ukrainian Folk Dance in New York. Ten years later she founded the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers and began to teach a Ukrainian dance camp and workshop at the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y., with John Taras of the American Ballet Theater and Valentina Pereyashavets of the Kyiv Theater of Opera and Ballet among the guest teach-



Pani Roma with John Taras at the 1981 dance workshop at Verkhovyna.



The dancer-choreographer-artistic director with her dancers during their 1992 tour of Ukraine.

(Continued on page 15)

Ukrainian National Association resort crowns its Miss Soyuzivka for 2005

by Sonia Semanyszyn

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – On August 14, precisely at midnight, a new Miss Soyuzivka was crowned here at the Ukrainian National Association's upstate New York resort.

To give readers a flavor of the event, we won't announce the name of the winner right at the top of this story, but will keep you in suspense.

The weekend got into gear on Friday evening, August 13, starting out with the traditional Odesa Night seafood buffet on the Veselka Patio. Later in the evening patrons were entertained by the Luna band playing tunes on the Tiki bar deck.

The next day, Saturday, brought perfect weather, which Soyuzivka guests enjoyed by being outside, whether by hiking, or swimming, or just lounging around on the Veselka Patio. Everyone's spirits were flying high.



First runner up Anya Rayko with judge Orest Kyzyk.

As the day progressed, Miss Soyuzivka contest coordinator Stephanie Hawryluk, a former UNA advisor, received applications from some beautiful young ladies. By the start of the judging session there were six applicants.

The judges revealed that they had a difficult time reaching a verdict, as all the applicants were very highly



Maya Woloshyn, Miss Soyuzivka 2005, dances with Soyuzivka's general manager, Nestor Paslawsky.

qualified and beautiful young ladies with dean's list or National Honor Society credentials. After much deliberation, the scoring numbers were tallied and placed into a secret location until such time as the winners were announced.

During the deliberation period Luna played for the guests' enjoyment, while the students and counselors from the dance camp entertained everyone with a rousing kolomyika.

There was some nostalgia in the air as all remembered that the grande dame of Ukrainian dance, Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, had passed away earlier this year, and she was dearly missed at this time. "Pani Roma," as she was known, was an ardent supporter of the Miss Soyuzivka pageant every year.

The judges for this year's event were: Orest Kyzyk, who in his younger years was an employee of Soyuzivka, and today, having achieved financial success, still supports Soyuzivka; Bohdanka Puzyk, director of the Children's Day Camp at Soyuzivka; and Zenia Matkiwsky Olesnycky, a former Miss Soyuzivka.

Meanwhile, back at the zabava, after the resounding kolomyika, Sonia Semanyszyn called upon the outgoing Miss Soyuzivka, Dianna Shmerykowsky, to give her farewell speech, which she did in both Ukrainian and English. At this time, some of the former Miss

Soyuzivkas who were present in the hall were announced, including Anya Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, and Lydia Chopivsky-Benson

Then, as midnight approached, Ms. Semanyszyn proceeded to announce the finalists of the Miss Soyuzivka pageant:

- second runner up – Sophia Panych, a dance camp counselor (who received a free weekend stay at Soyuzivka); and

- first runner up – Anya Rayko, a current Soyuzivka employee (who received a free week's stay at Soyuzivka).

Finally, the name of Miss Soyuzivka for 2005 was announced: Maya Woloshyn. It is interesting to note that Maya's mother also had also been a Miss Soyuzivka – 25 years earlier.

The new Miss Soyuzivka received a \$300 stipend and a free week's stay at the UNA resort.



Second runner-up Sophia Panych enjoys the dance.

The management and staff of Soyuzivka and the UNA concluded the evening's contest by taking the opportunity to thank all the young ladies for their participation, the judges for their deliberations and Mrs. Hawryluk for her preparatory work in making this year's Miss Soyuzivka contest a successful event.



Seen at the conclusion of the Miss Soyuzivka contest are (from left) Anya Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, Lydia Chopivsky-Benson and Zenia Matkiwsky Olesnycky, all three former Miss Soyuzivkas; Miss Soyuzivka 2004 Dianna Shmerykowsky, Miss Soyuzivka 2005 Maya Woloshyn, Soyuzivka Manager Nestor Paslawsky, second runner-up Sophia Panych and first runner-up Anya Rayko.

2004 dance camp recital at Soyuzivka showcases Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky's legacy

by Karen Chelak

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The indomitable cultural legacy left to the community by Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky was in full glorious display on Saturday evening, August 21, as the 26th annual Ukrainian Dance Camp recital was performed by students, counselors and teachers at the Ukrainian National Association's resort, Soyuzivka, nestled in the beautiful Shawangunk Mountains.

The Veselka Hall buzzed with excitement as parents, family, friends and guests, laden with video cameras, took their seats. At 8 p.m., the lights dimmed and the storyteller for the evening, Bohdana Puzyk, the children's camp coordinator at Soyuzivka, began to relate the romantic story of "The Frog Princess." This "kazka," or tale, was one of Pani Roma's favorites to produce because it is a perfect foil to showcase the various regional dances of Ukraine.

The show opened with a romantic couple's dance that included three princes, sons of a regal queen from a far-away kingdom. The Queen, performed by Kristine Izak, an associate artistic director of workshop and the dance camps, gathers her sons and tells them it is time for them to take a bride. Each prince shoots an arrow and follows its path, vowing to marry the woman who finds it.

The first prince's arrow falls in Zakarpattia. The wedding dance from this region is crisp and joyful as it culminates in the bride draped in a "rushnyk," or ritual cloth, head covered with an elaborate "vinok," waving a beribboned maypole, while held up high by her beloved. Sonia Gargula, who traveled from Adelaide, Australia, to participate in the workshop as well as the dance camps, performed the bride's role with a seamless blend of character and technical ability. Her prince, Zenon Borys of Rochester, N.Y., was equally outstanding.

The next handsome prince, Yarko Dobriansky of New York City, finds his arrow has fallen in Bukovyna. His bride, Larissa Pagan of Queens, N.Y., and six other couples, performed this fast-paced, aerobically challenging dance with sharp footwork and bold character. The distinctive, fascinating female costumes of this region are characterized by striped skirts and headpieces adorned with grass. The visual effect was stunning.

But, alas, the third prince, Andrij Cybyk, an associate artistic director of workshop and the dance camps, finds his arrow has fallen in a mysterious swamp. He encounters delicate water lilies, playful nymphs, mischievous fireflies and then the strangely beautiful Frog Princess. Performed en pointe by ballerina Sophie Panych of Albany, N.Y., the Frog Princess tells the prince how the evil Baba Yaga has put a spell on her. The only way for it to be broken is for her to be truly loved for what she is. The duet was performed with lyrical grace and character. The Frog Princess tells her prince she will meet him in the kingdom for their wedding.

But who is naive enough to think that the evil Baba Yaga would let the beautiful princess go to her beloved without a

fight? As the princess arrives at the kingdom, she is kidnapped by the old witch and taken to her lair. Baba Yaga, performed by Orlando Pagan of Queens, N.Y., an assistant artistic director of workshop and dance camps, was a mixture of dread, doom and a hint of the absurd. With eyes blazing, he forces the poor princess to stir his cauldron filled with spiders and nasty potions. With make-up that truly sent shivers down the audience's spines, this was an outstanding performance by a truly versatile dancer.

As the prince embarks on his journey to save the princess, he passes through the Hutsul region in search of her. This dance is always a rousing crowd pleaser with its criss-crossing lines, high-kicking steps and the warm rich costumes finished off by the bright "keptar" or vest. The prince also encounters charming "berry pickers" in the fields and young children celebrating spring.

When it seems that all hope of finding the princess is lost, the prince meets a wise old man who presents him with a magical crystal ball that will lead the him to his bride's location.

Since all great fairytales have happy endings, the prince finds the lair and saves the princess after he fights with the evil Baba Yaga. The power of good magic in the crystal ball overcomes the witch. Upon a triumphant return home to the kingdom, everyone celebrates with the inspirational national dance of Ukraine, the Hopak. The entire camp performed this show-stopper in a swirling flash of color, gravity-defying leaps and dizzying spins.

The choreography for the ballet was created by Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky and adapted by Mr. Pagan. The dance from Zakarpattia was choreographed by Boris Bohachevsky, associate artistic director. The other regional folk dances were created by Pani Roma. Ms. Izak choreographed the Hopak this year, while also creating the costumes, scenery and props for the show. This talented woman also was the "old man" in the ballet, plus she found the time to choreograph the berry picker dance, as well as the delicate dance of the water lilies.



Dance camp participants in a lively dance from Bukovyna.



The Hutsulka, as performed by the 2004 Ukrainian Dance Camp at Soyuzivka.



A scene from an intricate dance from the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine.

During intermission the audience was treated to a wonderful performance by the beautiful and talented Olya Chodoba-Fryz, who sang a medley of Ukrainian songs, accompanied on the piano by Andrij Stasiw.

The true stars of the show, of course,

were the campers. Children ranging in ages from 8 to 16 – from veteran campers of eight years to some who were first timers – accomplished something that made them proud, made their parents proud and made the community proud.

Although this was a bittersweet summer due to the passing of Pani Roma this spring, the newly formed Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation has taken the torch from Pani Roma and proved that it is truly committed to continuing her legacy. The foundation's aim is to continue to teach this wonderful part of Ukrainian culture to future generations and to expand the number of schools in the community.

The Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation is under the executive direction of Anya Bohachevsky-Lonkevych. Its artistic advisors are Mr. Bohachevsky, Mr. Cybyk, Ms. Izak and Mr. Pagan. It has also been announced that Mr. Cybyk has been named artistic director of the Syzkryli Dance Ensemble and Mr. Pagan its ballet master.

The evening ended with an exciting "zabava" (dance) to the tunes of Fata Morgana at which the dancers still had enough energy to perform a rousing kolomyika.

Two special...

(Continued from page 13)

ers. A dance workshop at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., and dance groups in Bridgeport, Conn.; Albany, Hempstead and Astoria, N.Y.; and the New Jersey communities of Whippany, Newark, Passaic and Perth Amboy were added

later.

Undaunted by the demands of travel and exhausting rehearsal schedules, Ms. Pryma-Bohachevsky considered her greatest achievement to be teaching Ukrainian young people from the United States and Canada the art of dance and training students in various techniques so that Ukrainian folk dance in a stylized

form could be shown to the public on the highest possible artistic level.

Of the thousands of students who graduated from her classes, several have become successful professional dancers, among them Roma Sosenko, formerly of the New York City Ballet and now ballet mistress for the Miami Ballet; Orlando Pagan, a member of the Dance Theater of

Harlem; Markian Kopystianskyj of the Atlanta Ballet; and Roksolana Babiuk, who performs with the H.T. Chen Company. Mr. Cybyk, a former dancer and choreographer with the Duquesne University Tamburitzans, has toured extensively with the Allnations Dance Company and other dance groups.

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A decade...

(Continued from page 2)

activities during the past 10 years. Any growth of civil society has been in the face of official hostility and Soviet-style suspicion that NGOs are linked to Western intelligence agencies. Polls show that Ukrainians have become increasingly atomized during the last decade, further hindering the growth of civil society. Ukrainians have turned away from the government and now place their faith in their family (from 87 percent in 1994 to 97 percent today), friends (38 percent to 52 percent), and the Church (36 percent to 43 percent) (Suchasnist, April 2004).

The Freedom House "Nations in Transit" publication annually surveys all 27 post-Communist states. Since the evaluations began in 1997, Ukraine's scores for electoral process, independent media, governance, constitutional-legislative-judicial framework and corruption have all dropped.

Mr. Kuchma's recent claim that "All the legal foundations needed for free mass media to function had been created" throughout independent Ukraine (Kyiv Post, July 1), is a judgment directly at odds with the views of the opposition, Western governments and think-tanks. The ranking for independent media in Ukraine "Nations in Transit," is 5.5 out of 7 (with 7 being the worst ranking).

Mr. Kuchma and the first deputy chief of the presidential administration, Vasyl Baziv, have praised the president's role in state-building, including the adoption of the 1996 Constitution (Ukrainska Pravda, July 9). Again, what they both failed to remember was that Ukraine's semi-presidential system was a compromise with the Verkhovna Rada. Mr. Kuchma's draft would have created a Russian-style super-presidential system.

Trust in state institutions is very low. A survey by the Academy of Sciences' Institute of Sociology found that people trusted astrologists more than state institutions (Suchasnist, April 2004). Astrologists polled at 16 percent while only 13 percent trusted the president.

Two areas that Mr. Kuchma ignored in his 1+1 TV interview were – not surprisingly – the rise of the oligarchs and the growth of corruption. Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn told a recent Agrarian Party congress that, "Ukraine is close to becoming a totally corrupt country ruled by oligarchs and party-clan groups" (Kyiv Post, July 1). What Mr. Lytvyn neglected to mention was that the oligarchs and corruption had grown on President Kuchma's watch and when he (Lytvyn) was head of the presidential administration from 1997 to 2002.

In his first speech as a presidential candidate Prime Minister Yanukovich also denounced the ineffectiveness of countless decrees and programs designed to fight corruption (Ukrainska Pravda, July 5 and 12). It is doubtful that a Yanukovich victory would change anything. Mr. Kuchma's 1994 promise to reduce the size of the shadow economy came to naught; 10 years later it still accounts for half of the GDP. Likewise, despite Mr. Lytvyn's criticisms of oligarchic clans, the Agrarian Party he leads will be supporting the head of Ukraine's largest Donbas clan – Mr. Yanukovich – in this year's elections.

The twin issues of oligarchs and corruption will remain major themes in this year's presidential election. Opinion polls show that Ukrainians believe that the "mafia, organized-crime world" is the most influential group in society (Suchasnist, April). The left and right opposition candidates will denounce the oligarchs and corruption. Meanwhile, the authorities praise the rise of a "pragmatic and patriotic" "national bourgeoisie" that has allegedly come to realize that Ukraine's era of "wild capitalism" is over (temnik.com.ua, July 12).

Ukrainian president...

(Continued from page 2)

and I am convinced that it will be – a continuation and not a change, not a rejection of the decade that is ending. I repeat, not a rejection and not a change, but a continuation.”

It is no secret that Mr. Kuchma sees such a continuation in a Viktor Yanukovich presidency, rather than in that of opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko or any other hopeful challenging Prime Minister Yanukovich's presidential bid. Indeed, Mr. Kuchma denigrated the Ukrainian opposition in his speech as “political Pygmies,” jeering that it is striving to come to power under the “Ukraine Without Kuchma” slogan, which was adopted by the opposition for a string of anti-Kuchma rallies in 2000-2002. “They expose themselves to ridicule, as a minimum because the incumbent president is not participating in the elections,” Mr. Kuchma said. “But I can assure all of my compatriots on one point: there will never be Kuchma without Ukraine.”

As on many earlier occasions, Mr. Kuchma credited himself with laying a basis for Ukraine's European integration. “Europe-ization has already become a national idea [in Ukraine],” he emphasized. He upbraided the EU for proposing the European Neighborhood Policy rather than associate membership for Ukraine. “The status of a geographical neighbor of unified Europe – which is persistently proposed to us by some Europeans – contradicts our interests,” Mr. Kuchma said. “I am deeply convinced that the development of our relations under the principles of association [with the EU] will meet both Ukrainian and EU interests.”

In this European context, Mr. Kuchma defended his policy of developing a strategic partnership with Russia. “The stable relations with our strategic partner Russia, which are built on friendly, partner-like principles, are not a minus in our relations with Europe, as we are reproached by our opposition from the right wing, but a fat plus, and its real meaning – I am convinced – will soon be realized by politicians not only in Kyiv, but also in Brussels and Washington,” Mr. Kuchma said.

Traditionally, Mr. Kuchma has praised his government for achieving and maintaining impressive economic growth. He said the country's GDP increased by 13.5 percent in the first seven months of 2004 compared with the same period in 2003, which entailed a 15 percent increase in the real incomes of the population. According to Mr. Kuchma, the average monthly wage in Ukraine stands now at 600 hrv (\$113) versus 181 hrv in 2000,

while the average monthly pension is equal to 220 hrv (66 hrv in 2000).

Many, if not all, of Mr. Kuchma's self-gratulatory assertions in his August 23 address have been or are being questioned by the Ukrainian opposition and independent Ukrainian observers, as well as ordinary Ukrainians.

As regards the country's economic boom, it is necessary to mention here the opinion of Mr. Yushchenko, former prime minister and former chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. According to Mr. Yushchenko, the 13.5 percent growth in 2004 has not translated into rising living standards in Ukraine – during the first seven months budget revenues rose only by 1.8 percent. Mr. Yushchenko admits that Ukrainians are now experiencing some improvement in their financial situation, but adds that this has been achieved primarily owing to the 2003 budget's “hidden revenues” that are now being spent by the government as a “bribe” to voters for their support for Mr. Yanukovich's presidential bid.

Mr. Yushchenko also questions President Kuchma's claim that Ukraine has already laid a basis for a viable democratic system. “The choice facing voters this fall is very clear,” Mr. Yushchenko wrote in the international edition of The Wall Street Journal on August 24. “On the one hand, my vision for Ukraine proposes a system founded on democratic European values, which will enable each citizen to realize their socio-economic potential in a country governed by the rule of law. On the other hand, those from the ruling regime propose preserving the current autocracy, which rules over competing financial-industrial groups. Their corrupt government bureaucrats implement unpopular policies with no respect for individual liberties and basic human rights.”

Moreover, a recent poll by the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies found that nearly half of Ukrainians – 48.7 percent – believe that their country is not independent, while only 38.1 percent think it is otherwise. Further casting doubts on Mr. Kuchma's picture of Ukraine under his rule, 50 percent of respondents said the country's level of economic development has declined since 1991. An even larger number of respondents, 61.5 percent, admitted that living standards in Ukraine have worsened during the 13 years of independence.

In other words, a majority of Ukrainians may not desire the political continuity President Kuchma spoke of in his Independence Day speech. But it is anybody's guess whether they will identify Mr. Yanukovich as an agent of such continuity and Mr. Yushchenko as a new, better start for Ukraine on October 31 when they go to the polls.

In Memory Of



Mr. John (Iwan) Pich

May 21, 1921 (Staryava, Ukraine) – August 8, 2003
Beloved son of the late Stepan and Katerina

Beloved husband of Mrs. Anna Pich
Beloved father of Maria, Ihor and Oksana, Jaroslaw, Elizabeth, Orest and Bohdanna, and Oleh
Beloved brother of Maria, Ewa, Katerina and Anna
Beloved uncle of Maria, Nadia, Wlodko, Mishko, Oksana and Taras
Beloved friend of many

You are loved and missed very much by your family and friends.
May you rest in peace in Heaven.



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в понеділок, 30 серпня 2004р., відійшов у Божу вічність на 78-му році життя наш найдорожчий МУЖ, ТАТО і ДІДО

бл.п.

ПЕТРО МЕЛЬНИК

ПАНАХИДА відбулася у вівторок, 31 серпня 2004 р. в Parker-Gray Funeral Home, Port Jervis, NY.

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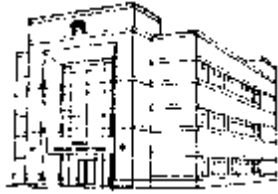
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Ukraine faces...

(Continued from page 9)

will be declaring Russian the language of Ukraine. Mr. Stupka has so far failed to say that he is Ukrainian and not Russian, and is apparently content to sing whatever song the Muscovites pay him to sing. So far, Mr. Stupka has been silent on this issue.

Submitting a Russian film as Ukraine's candidate for the Academy Awards would be disastrous for Ukrainian identity and yet another victory, brilliantly manipulated and financed, by the Russian Empire. It would be a replay of the old fraud at the United Nations, when Ukraine supposedly had its "own" vote.

If there is no Ukrainian-language film to submit, then Ukraine should submit nothing. It is better to pass one year than to suffer the humiliation of submitting a film in a foreign language. Not every country submits a film every year; it's O.K. to skip a year. And, then, Ukraine should help make Ukrainian-language films for 2006.

There is, however, no indication that this will happen. While everyone looks in the other direction, the back lots of Dovzhenko Studios are being sold off for apartments Dovzhenko Studios and other elements of the Ukrainian film and television industries are converted to nothing more than cheap places to make Russian movies. Sort of like Mexico is to Hollywood – only Hollywood does not submit its movies as Mexico's candidates for the Academy Award.

At Dovzhenko and other studios in Kyiv, no one speaks Ukrainian. Even transplanted Ukrainian Americans from New York and Philadelphia speak either Russian or "surzhyk," a bastardized jargon of Russian mixed with Ukrainian. They say, "Hey, what do you want from me? It's business!"

The Russian empire is succeeding in buying Ukraine because so many Ukrainians are willing to sell. They're happy to see Russians coming to Ukraine with cash. They must think that Judas came to the Last Supper with a bag of silver coins because he was going to pick up the check.

Another troubling aspect of the cultural Holodomor in Ukraine is the apparent indifference to it by U.S. government officials, just like the Holodomor of the 1930s. At a recent conference on Ukrainian media, a senior Voice of America official suggested that Ukrainian as the dominant language in Ukraine may not be realistic, that Ukrainians may need to start considering "the Irish solution." Another speaker suggested there was really nothing wrong with a "bilingual Ukraine," citing Canada as an example.

The problem, however, is not with the bilingual bit itself. If there was a movement for English to become the second language of Ukraine, it wouldn't be such a problem. The problem is that Russian was

the language of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide – a genocide for which Russia still refuses to apologize. It's like proposing that Armenia adopt Turkish as its second language or that Israel adopt German.

In other areas of "the business," the onslaught on Ukraine is equally offensive (if that's possible). When being Ukrainian is acknowledged, it is usually a negative. In 2003 Ukrainians were linked to nuclear terrorism in Ben Affleck's "The Sum of All Fears." Now, Elijah Woods has some blatant rabidly Ukrainian-hating lines in Liev Schreiber's "Everything is Illuminated."

Explaining why his grandmother hates Ukraine, Jonathan, the lead character played by Woods, says, "The Ukrainians were terrible to the Jews. They were almost as bad as the Nazis. At the beginning of the war, a lot of Jews ran to the Nazis for protection from the Ukrainians."

Contacted by several Ukrainians, Mr. Schreiber and his financier/producer, Marc Turtletaub, have refused to remove the hate-baiting lines. Driven by ignorance and distorted history, unfounded hatred is once again the winner. The movie, currently filming in Prague, is set to be distributed by WIB, part of Warner Brothers.

Instead of gathering sympathy for the victims of Chernobyl, another producer, Anatoly Fradis, has teamed with director Ellory Elkayem to film parts of "Necropolis: Return of the Living Dead, Part 4" using Chernobyl as the backdrop. Far from becoming a battle cry against blatant disregard for Ukrainian life by the Russian empire, Chernobyl is becoming "cool" among those who pimp low-end entertainment to kids.

The September issue of GamePro magazine (page 90) reviews a new game called "S.T.A.L.K.E.R.: Shadow of Chernobyl," developed by GSC Game World. "As a Stalker, your job is to get into the Zone, the area around the site of the disaster, and scavenge artifacts for fun and profit." To do this the player must shoot his way through Ukrainian guards and deal with the zombies who now inhabit the Zone. The game's target release date is winter 2004, just in time for Christmas.

Mr. Palance's rejection of the Russian award was intended to make a statement. It was to stand up and say, "Damn it, I am Ukrainian. I am proud to be Ukrainian and I won't take this c--- any more!"

The genocide of Ukrainian culture and identity is relentless. History has shown that those who fight genocide can survive it. Those who fail to resist go down the dustbin of history. On this, at least, our fate is in our hands. It is up to each and every Ukrainian, each and every one of us to stand up and say, "I'm Ukrainian. I'm proud to be Ukrainian and I will fight for Ukraine, for its voice and for its soul."

Then, live what you say.

An appreciation...

(Continued from page 5)

The Weekly's editorial noted: "... in the true spirit of fraternalism and in line with the salutary tradition of Soyuz, Mr. Shpikula's activity extended far beyond the confines of the UNA. As a director of the United Ukrainian American Relief

Committee, in association with the League of Americans of Ukrainian Descent, Mr. Shpikula will long be remembered by the hundreds of Ukrainian refugee families who found a haven in this country and started a new life with his help."

"Mr. Shpikula's was a rich, active, useful and rewarding life. Let his memory serve as an example for others to follow," The Weekly editorialized.

Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 3)

make sure that these are the last that require international monitoring.

I am convinced this presidential election in Ukraine will be an important milestone in the history of our young democracy and will be watched by our neighbors in Moscow, Warsaw and Brussels. By staying the democratic course chosen 13 years ago,

Ukraine will ensure that a potentially new dividing line based on differing systems of values does not appear on Ukraine's western border. Democratic forces in Ukraine are ready to ensure that European values take hold in our country. This could set the example for other countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

I believe restoring trust in government, capitalizing on economic opportunities and achieving a democratic victory this fall are all within Ukraine's reach.



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Ukraine's Olympic medals

Following are Ukraine's medalists at the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens, listed in chronological order. Ukraine's team finished with nine gold medals, five silver and nine bronze, for a total of 23 medals. Ukraine came in 12th in the overall medal count.

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	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	silver
Tetiana Tereschuk-Antypova	track and field, 400 hurdles	bronze
Rodion Luka, Heorhii Leonchyk	sailing, 49er	silver
Inna Osypenko, Tetiana Semykina, Hanna Balabanova, Olena Cherevatova	kayak fours 500	bronze
Viktoria Stiopina	track and field, high jump	bronze
Elbrus Tedeyev	wrestling, freestyle, 66 kg	gold
Tetiana Shynkarenko, Hanna Burmystrova, Liudmyla Shevchenko, Natalia Borysenko, Anastasia Borodina, Maryna Vergeliuk, Iryna Honcharova, Larysa Zaspas, Natalia Liapina, Halyna Markushevska, Olena Radchenko, Oksana Rayhel, Hanna Siukalo, Olena Tsygitsa, Olena Yatsenko	handball	bronze
Anna Bessonova	gymnastics (rhythmic)	bronze



AP Photo/David Guttenfelder

Winners of the men's 66kg freestyle wrestling show their medals: (from left) Jamil Kelly of United States, silver; Elbrus Tedeyev of Ukraine, gold; and Makhach Murtazaliev, of Russia, bronze.

Ukraine concludes...

(Continued from page 1)

medal count and 10th overall.

Ironically, Ukraine has totaled 23 medals in each of the three Summer Olympic Games in which it has taken part as an independent national squad. Its worst showing occurred in Sydney, Australia, when it could muster only three gold medals, along with 10 silver and 10 bronze medals and finished in 21st position.

Ukraine started the Athens Games strongly with wins in Olympic swimming, shot put, weightlifting and shooting, putting it in fifth place after the first week of the 16-day games, which began on August 13. While Ukraine continued to take medals during the second week, larger and stronger teams that had lingered behind, such as Great Britain, Italy and South Korea, began to pick up wins, surpassing Ukraine. In the end, Ukraine came just behind Cuba, which finished strong with a series of medals in boxing, its traditional strong sport and one of the final competitions of the Games.

Following the Ukrainian Olympic team in the medal count were Hungary and Romania with eight gold medals each, Greece with six gold medals, Norway with five, the Netherlands, Brazil and Sweden with four each and Canada and Spain with three each. Thirty-six other countries followed with one or two gold medals each.

Ukraine's showing was all the more impressive because Ukraine failed to medal in several sports in which it traditionally has been strong, including boxing, Greco-Roman wrestling and diving.

Some controversy developed on the last day in the rhythmic gymnastics event, one of the very final competitions of the Olympic Games, when Bezsonova, a favorite to take the gold, finished third. Her coach, Iryna Deriugina, complained bitterly to no avail when judges consistently gave higher scores to performances by the two Russian competitors, Alina Kabayeva and Irina Chashina, who ended up taking the gold and silver, respectively.

The controversial final performances followed an earlier complaint filed by the U.S. team with the International Gymnastics Federation seeking a review of the routines of American competitor Mary Sanders, who was upset with the technical marks given to her the previous day. Sanders finished 18th in a field of 24 competitors and did not qualify for the finals.

Meanwhile, Ukraina Moloda reported that the Ukrainian women's handball team expressed disenchantment with the fact that, while Ukrainian medal winners would receive individual monetary awards of \$100,000 for a gold, \$70,000 for a silver and \$50,000 for a bronze from the Ukrainian government, their 15-member team would have to share the government prize for their third-place finish.



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Attention, Students!

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

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

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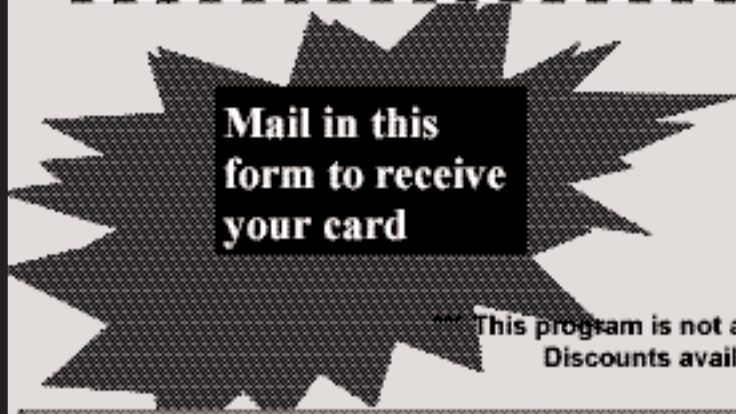


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Professor from Ukraine teaches language and culture at Iowa State

by Barbara McManus

AMES, Iowa – Mariya Shymchyshyn, a visiting professor from Ternopil, spent the spring semester teaching students at Iowa State University Ukraine culture and language.

Ms. Shymchyshyn is an English professor at Ternopil Academy of National Economy and Ternopil State Pedagogical University. She received a one-year grant to teach in the United States from the Junior Faculty Development Program, which is sponsored by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. She said she enjoyed the experience and encourages scholars and students from both countries to participate in professional and student exchange programs.



Mariya Shymchyshyn, a visiting professor from Ternopil, received a one-year grant to teach in the United States. This spring she taught Ukraine language and culture to students at Iowa State University.

“It is an opportunity for scholars to improve, not only their professional level, but also considerably increase their knowledge about the United States,” Ms. Shymchyshyn said. “Also, the best way to study language is to go to the country where it is spoken. You may know how the language functions, but you gain the practical skills and comprehension with practice and speaking with people,” she explained.

Ms. Shymchyshyn taught courses on Ukraine language and culture to prepare U.S. students who plan to visit Ukraine. The program is sponsored in part by the Ukraine-Iowa State University Student Exchange fund, which was initiated by Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak. The Dwojaks donated \$350,000 to the fund last November.

Ms. Shymchyshyn said the exchange programs helps students prepare for globalization.

“I really appreciate the work led by the Dwojaks and the support of the American Ukrainian community. Such activities really broaden the educational borders in both countries. I believe, with the strong support of the American Ukrainian community, the exchange program will reach its goal of bringing 1,000 Ukrainian students to the United States. I also hope that more universities will be included in the exchange program with Iowa State University,” Ms. Shymchyshyn said.

Ms. Shymchyshyn said the program also helps students better understand the educational system in the United States. She said that is important for students who plan to take classes using the Internet.

“For Ukraine students who have never been to the United States it would be difficult to understand what professors want because the educational systems are very different,” Ms. Shymchyshyn observed.

Ms. Shymchyshyn returned to Ukraine on July 14 with her husband, Mykola, and daughter, Solomiya.

New journal *Ukrainian Literature* debuts

by Vasyl Lopukh

NEW YORK – The birth of a new journal of English translations of Ukrainian literature was announced on the Internet on the day when Ukraine was celebrating its 13th anniversary of independence. The sponsor and publisher of this journal is the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S.

Ukrainian Literature: A Journal of Translations first made its appearance on the Internet on two sites: www.shevchenko.org and www.UkrainianLiterature.org. The journal will also be published in hard copy.

This is the first English-language journal devoted to Ukrainian literature and the first Ukrainian literary periodical publication on the Internet. The editor of the journal is Maxim Tarnawsky, professor of Ukrainian literature at the University of Toronto.

The international editorial board consists of Profs. Marko Pavlyshyn (Australia), Taras Koznarsky (Canada), Michael M. Naydan and Askold Melnyczuk (both from the U.S.). All are also members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Ulana Pasiecznyk serves as the journal's manuscript editor.

The first issue of Ukrainian Literature encompasses 263 pages and presents the prose works of Valerii Shevchuk, Volodymyr Dibrova, Spyrydon Cherkasenko, Ievheniia Kononenko, Yuri Pokalchuk, Borys Antonenko-Davydovych, Vasyl Gabor, Lenid Mosendz, Emma Andijewska and Olexandr Irvanets; six of these are con-

temporary living writers of Ukraine.

Poetry is represented by selections from Taras Shevchenko and Pavlo Tychyna. Translators whose works appears in the issue are: Olha Rudakevych, Uliana Pasiecznyk, Michael M. Naydan, Anatole Bilenko, Svitlana Kobets, Mark Andryczyk, Yaryna Yakubyak, Taras Koznarsky, Marta Baziuk, Marta D. Olynyk and Maria Kachmar.

This volume concludes with Marta Tarnawsky's selected bibliography of translations from Ukrainian literature published in book form since 2000. In his introduction, Prof. Tarnawsky, the editor, notes the uneven history of translation from Ukrainian literature, commenting that “the establishment of a forum for translations of Ukrainian literature into English is an important development reversing a pattern of neglect.”

This journal of translations will be published biennially, both in electronic form and in a paper edition. It is likely not only to find thousands of new readers for Ukrainian literature in the English-speaking world, but also to exert an influence on the Ukrainian field of translations and even on the development of Ukrainian literature in general.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society is planning a major public presentation of the new journal in New York City after the first volume is published in a printed edition. Until then, the readers can become acquainted with Ukrainian Literature by reading it on the Internet at either of the two addresses given above.

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Kyiv market...

(Continued from page 1)

October 31 presidential election race with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Mr. Yushchenko and members of his political organization have repeatedly accused supporters of Prime Minister Yanukovich and the administration of President Leonid Kuchma of using illegal

tactics to hinder and upend his election campaign.

Mr. Yushchenko said during remarks to the press in the town of Borodianka that the incident at the Troyeschyna Bazaar was the first in a series of provocations that pro-government officials were planning for the next two months to discredit his campaign.

Oleksander Milenin, chief of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the city of

Kyiv announced the arrest of the first four suspects on August 28 and disclosed that the individuals were carrying in their possession plans for constructing explosive devices, which he called "a manual for terrorists."

"The motive for the explosions was to kindle political passions and cause social tension," Mr. Milenin charged.

First Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Mykhailo Kornienko announced the fifth arrest later that day. Mr. Kornienko said that two of the suspects were carrying membership cards of the Ukrainian National Party (formerly the Ukrainian National Rukh Party) when they were apprehended. The political party, led by National Deputy Yurii Kostenko, makes up a sizable portion of the Our Ukraine coalition.

Mr. Kostenko immediately denounced the assertions made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and noted that a review of the party's membership rolls determined that none of the four suspects were now or had ever been members.

"If the militia found membership documents on those arrested, then someone forged them," explained Mr. Kostenko, who called any presumption that his party was involved in the blasts an "absurdity." He said the statements by the state militia were more "provocations."

Mr. Kostenko charged that the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in conjunction with the Procurator General's Office and the State Security Service, laid the groundwork for a series of orchestrated attempts aimed at discrediting Mr. Yushchenko's presidential campaign when the three law enforcement agencies issued a joint statement on August 23 stating that the opposition forces, which today consist of the Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko blocs, were preparing mass protests and provocations in the

run-up to Election Day.

"The authorities are preparing for violent scenarios and are preparing to use violence of their own in the guise of a war on terrorism," stated Mr. Kostenko, according to Interfax Ukraine.

Mr. Kornienko of the Internal Affairs Ministry rejected Mr. Kostenko's assertions. He explained that it was the responsibility of law enforcement officials to warn of possible political unrest during an election season and that there were grounds to do so in the current election.

Mr. Kornienko also stated that the fifth person arrested by the state militia was an assistant soundman for Channel 5 Television. The television station is considered pro-Yushchenko and is owned by National Deputy Petro Poroshenko, a member of the Our Ukraine faction in the Verkhovna Rada.

Interfax-Ukraine reported that Roman Bezsmertnyi, chief of the Yushchenko campaign staff, said that an investigation by Our Ukraine officials had determined that one of the five detainees was actually a worker in the campaign office of presidential candidate Bohdan Boiko. Mr. Boiko broke with the National Rukh of Ukraine Party several years ago to form an alternative National Rukh for Unity Party.

Mr. Bezsmertnyi said his investigation had found that another suspect, Dmytro Savchenko, was formerly a bodyguard for the paramilitary organization Bratstvo, whose leader is Dmytro Korchynskyi, an announced presidential candidate who is vehemently anti-Yushchenko in his political positions.

The Bratstvo organization denied the allegation in a statement issued on August 28, according to Interfax-Ukraine. It noted that Mr. Savchenko was a member of an organization called the Russkaya Druzhyna, which has no connection to Bratstvo.

Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Named Conservationist of the Year for 2003

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Charlie A. Stek was named the 2003 Conservationist of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Mr. Stek, 49, is the projects director for U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and has spent nearly 20 years working for the senior senator from Maryland.

“This award means a great deal to me and today is a day I will always remember,” Mr. Stek said in an acceptance speech during the awards ceremony, which was held in Washington on January 21. The Conservationist of the Year award, first bestowed in 1980, has previously gone to members of Congress and other prominent individuals.

Mr. Stek received the award for a number of reasons. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation cited his work as the principle author of the Chesapeake Restoration Act of 2000, which authorized \$40 million annually to aid the work of the Environmental Protection Agency’s Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as his efforts to expand funding for conservation programs in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Additionally, the foundation cited Mr. Stek’s writing of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Removal Assistance Act to provide \$660 million over five years to support installation of nutrient removal technologies at major wastewater treatment plants; and his development of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Act.

According to the foundation, the Conservationist of the Year award acknowledges, encourages and promotes environmental stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay region and “recognizes superlative service and commitment to the restoration and protection of the Bay watershed.”

Mr. Stek, born and raised in New



Charlie Stek

Jersey’s Woodbridge Township, attended church at Ukrainian Assumption Parish in Perth Amboy. He began his career in Washington as a volunteer in 1978 and was hired the following year. He joined Sen. Sarbanes’ staff in 1985.

During the awards ceremony, Mr. Stek was introduced by Sen. Sarbanes. “I am truly overwhelmed both by that generous introduction and by even being considered for this award,” Mr. Stek said during his acceptance speech. “He is not only a great boss, but one of the most principled, intelligent, effective and hard working individuals I have ever known.”

“The accomplishments for which I am being feted today are really his accomplishments and I know, first hand, that the vast majority of the Federal Bay restoration programs that are in place today – and practically every congressional legislative initiative to restore the Bay for the past 18 years would not have been possible but for his leadership,” Mr. Stek said of his boss.

Mr. Stek is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 155. News of Mr. Stek’s award was forwarded to The Weekly last week by fellow UNA’er Tom Hawrylko.

Elementary school grad gets presidential award



Andrew Kuchta

HOUSTON – Andrew D. Kuchta recently graduated from Shadowbriar Elementary School and was presented with the Presidential Academic Excellence Award during graduation ceremonies.

This award is presented to those students who have achieved an overall A average, a 95 percent or higher in mathematics national testing, and a 90 percent or higher in reading national testing during their elementary school years.

Andrew received the award, which is signed by President George W. Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige, and a letter of congratulations from the president.

Andrew is the son of Eugene and Irene Kuchta, and the grandson of the late Ihor and Josephine Kuchta of Hillside, N.J., and Maria and the late Petro Majnich of North Port, Fla., formerly of Willimantic, Conn.

The Kuchta family is active in Houston’s Ukrainian community and they are all members of the Ukrainian National Association. Andrew is a member of Branch 368.

Notes on People is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association.

All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person’s UNA branch number.

Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt, when space permits.

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Highlights...

(Continued from page 4)

Among notable convention decisions was the delegates' approval of a separate budget and office for the UNA's Canadian operations, as well as the adoption of an amendment to the UNA By-Laws which gave the Supreme Assembly authority to establish a board of directors for the UNA in Canada that "will conduct UNA activities under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Executive Committee."

A major highlight was discussion of the UNA's plan to open a Washington office of its Ukrainian Heritage Defense Committee, whose goal was to preserve the Ukrainian American identity and protect the Ukrainian heritage. Addressing the

delegates, Nadia Komarnycky McConnell, deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Legislative Affairs at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), noted that the Ukrainian heritage is threatened by "ignorance, disinformation and Russification."

The UNA's Washington office, she noted, would be able to track issues such as the use of Soviet evidence in the case of John Demjanjuk, who was being prosecuted by the Office of Special Investigations (OSI); the investigation of the case of Myroslav Medvid, the Ukrainian sailor who jumped ship in New Orleans only to be returned to Soviet authorities; developments in regard to the Chernobyl nuclear accident that happened just over a month before the UNA convention began; as well

as human rights issues, information related to the Great Famine of 1932-1933, the upcoming Millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine and the victimization of Ukrainians during World War II.

"It is proper for the largest and oldest Ukrainian organization to have a presence in Washington," Ms. McConnell emphasized. The office, she said could work with the Ukrainian National Information Service, which is the Washington office of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, as well as with other ethnic organizations on issues of mutual concern.

Delegates also heard a report on the ongoing negotiations with the Ukrainian Fraternal Association regarding a merger with the UNA, after which they overwhelmingly approved a resolution calling for further steps toward a merger.

The convention was addressed by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense William H. Taft IV, who said that "Ukrainians and Americans both stand as an obstacle to the Kremlin's path toward subjugating free people around the globe." He spoke of Ukraine as "the home of people whose resistance to Soviet domination reached heroic proportions" – a reference to the millions who perished in the Great Famine. The deputy secretary also spoke about U.S. defense issues and the efforts of the administration of President Ronald

Reagan to bolster the country's defense.

During the convention's final day, May 30, delegates approved resolutions which directed the newly elected Supreme Assembly to: request the U.S. and Canada to pressure the Soviet government to open channels of assistance to victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident and to help establish direct contacts with evacuees; demand that the U.S. and Canadian governments, respectively, investigate the work of the OSI and the Deschenes Commission as regards the use of Soviet-supplied evidence in cases against persons suspected of crimes during World War II; insist that the Helsinki Commission investigate the Medvid case; and engage the services of a professional demographer to conduct a study of UNA membership and the entire Ukrainian community in the U.S. and Canada to determine potential sources of new membership.

Source: "31st UNA Convention opens in Dearborn; Flis leads Lesawyer in close race for supreme president," by Roma Sochan Hadzewycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 1, 1986; "31st UNA Convention concludes with re-election of Flis; Deputy defense secretary addresses UNA delegates," by Roma Sochan Hadzewycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 8, 1986. The border used for this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.

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Special ceremony...

(Continued from page 4)

was born in Kutkivtsi, Ukraine.

Mrs. Wright witnessed some aftereffects of that chapter in her grandfather's history. She remembers how his wartime injury left him speaking out of one side of his mouth and how the bullet lodged in his head was never removed.

She also saw his revered VC, many times. "My grandmother had it with her when she lived with me," Mrs. Wright recalled.

Konowal also regularly wore the brass cross and maroon ribbon, and was known to use it to get free bus rides around Ottawa. Mrs. Wright said she believes her grandfather's practice of wearing the VC also helped get the attention of the late Mackenzie King, a former Canadian prime minister.

An encounter with the PM

Widowed when his first wife, Anna, died during Ukraine's Great Famine, Konowal took a job in Ottawa during the Depression as a junior caretaker at the House of Commons. But one day King noticed him scrubbing floors and re-assigned him to become "special custodian" of the prime minister's office, a job Konowal held until his death.

"My grandfather must have been wearing his Victoria Cross, otherwise Mackenzie King wouldn't have known about it, and my grandfather wouldn't have told him because he was a humble man who never bragged," said Mrs. Wright, a retiree who once worked as a secretary for the Department of National Defense.

But Mrs. Wright remembers her grandfather more as a family man than as a decorated soldier. "He let my grandmother's brother, who couldn't talk and didn't walk, live with them," she noted. The Konowals' homes in Ottawa and Hull were also always open to guests, with adults and children piling in every weekend, said Mrs. Wright. "They always had a happy house."

Konowal even learned to speak his Québécois wife's first language. "He spoke very good French, but I don't know where he learned it," said Mrs. Wright.

Historic medal sold

After Konowal died, his widow sold his VC for \$2,500 (Canadian) in 1969 to Joseph Shkwarek, a Saskatchewan-born, 83-year-old World War II Ukrainian Canadian veteran who lives in Ottawa. He then presented it to the Canadian War Museum, which gave him a \$1,000 finder's fee.

"I promised Juliette that the cross would go to the museum," said Mr. Shkwarek in an interview. "I didn't want that medal to go to a private collection in the States."

Though she still has the cancelled check cashed by Mrs. Konowal as proof of purchase, Mrs. Wright claims that her grandmother gave the VC to a cousin, who then sold it for \$2,000 to a collector.

Mr. Shkwarek did not attend the recent ceremony at the museum.

"I was not even invited," he said angrily, adding that he believes the reason is that he has always maintained the medal's disappearance around 1973 was the result of an "inside job."

Explained Mr. Shkwarek: "I know the two people who were involved. One was an employee and one had the run of the museum and he was ex-RCMP."

He said he received an invitation to the August 23 ceremony celebrating the return of Konowal's VC after it was held but did not get an acknowledgment for the role he played in the medal's journey.

However, museum spokesperson Christina Selin said an invitation was sent to Mr. Shkwarek prior to the event. Nevertheless, Mr. Shkwarek is pleased that Konowal's VC is back in the Canadian War Museum's museum's national collection where it will "once again able to bear witness to a young man's bravery," said Joe Geurts, director and chief executive officer of the museum at the recent ceremony.

When the museum opens its new location during the first weekend of May 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, Konowal's story will be told in the First World War gallery, which will also look at the internment of thousands of Ukrainian Canadians during that period of history.

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THE NEWS FROM HERE

This week's installment of "The News from Here" reflects the ever-expanding contacts between Ukrainians in the diaspora and Ukrainians from Ukraine.

First, from Saskatoon, comes news of the fulfillment of a young Ukrainian Canadian woman's dream: dancing with the famed Virsky dance ensemble of Ukraine.

Then, from New York City, comes news of a new endeavor that aims to help immigrants from Ukraine adjust to life in a new country and to learn the English language. Most recently, the program also took a step in another direction: instituting courses of Ukrainian for Ukrainian Americans.

SASKATOON: Dancer earns a spot with Virsky troupe

In September 2003 Lana Kubin traveled to Ukraine to dance with the Virsky Ensemble, a Ukrainian dance troupe that many consider one of the best. From the beginning Ms. Kubin knew that hard work awaited her in Ukraine – both to earn a spot in Virsky, and how to make a life in Ukraine.

Ms. Kubin's dancing career began with her first ballet classes at the age of 5 at Lusya Pavlychenko's Saskatoon School of Ballet, now called School of Dance, according to The Star Phoenix. Ms. Kubin enjoyed dancing so much that she took jazz and tap lessons as well. Not until Ms. Kubin was 12 years old, however, did she begin Ukrainian dancing.

Ms. Kubin shared her feelings about Ukrainian dance with The Star Phoenix: "It's so unlike any other dance form. You fall in love with it." Ms. Kubin pursued her passion and became involved with the Pavlychenko Folklorique Ensemble in Canada. While the troupe was in Ukraine



Lana Kubin

in July 2003 on a performance trip the dancers had a workshop with Virsky. Ms. Kubin then shared with Pavlychenko's artistic director, Serhij Koroliuk, her desire to one day return to Ukraine and live there for a time. After he told her that she had a future as a dancer, she auditioned for Virsky Ensemble.

Virsky Ensemble Director Myroslav Vantukh finally informed Mr. Koroliuk that Ms. Kubin was accepted to the Virsky Ensemble on a probational basis – she had a great amount of dance ensemble repertoire to master before being given a spot in the highly competitive group, of which Ms. Kubin was well aware. "One learns early on that you'd better know what you're doing because there is a line-up of people

to take your place if you don't," she said.

The Ukrainian dancing that she learned in Canada differed from that taught in Ukraine, but with studio classes Ms. Kubin was able to dance with the ensemble.

Not only has Ms. Kubin learned more about Ukrainian dancing, she has also learned the Ukrainian way of life. She first discovered that most people do not speak Ukrainian, but Russian. Her first successful solo trip to the bazaar to buy groceries excited her, though it seemed commonplace to her dormmates. The native Canadian's trip to the "dirty, loud, overcrowded" market helped her realize how "spoiled" she and others are in Canada.

Ms. Kubin has enjoyed living and dancing in Ukraine where, she said, "there is a spirit ... that is unexplainable." Though she leads an extremely demanding lifestyle – dancing "from sun-up to sun-down, six days a week," Ms. Kubin is grateful for her opportunity.

Not only has 26 year-old Ms. Kubin achieved great success for a Ukrainian dancer – to dance with the Virsky Ensemble – she also has a degree in sociology and an advanced certificate in psychology from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Ms. Kubin has signed a contract to spend the next season with Virsky, but she is currently spending the summer in Saskatoon. She recently appeared with the Pavlychenko ensemble at the 39th edition of Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba.

NEW YORK: Center's programs aimed at new immigrants, Ukrainian Americans

Nearly two years ago the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

(UCCA) opened "Ukrainian Svitlytsia," an information and education center for new immigrants from Ukraine, in New York City.

Experienced instructors from Ukraine – Larissa Goulovich, Nelya Mykhayliv and Nadia Toderika – help newcomers study English, with a selection of four levels of ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.

Students at the center can also prepare for their citizenship tests under the instruction of Natalia Turchak, and gain computer experience with the help of computer

(Continued on page 27)



Michael Buryk studies Ukrainian in the class of Nelya Mykhayliv.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Opposition staffer lambastes police

KYIV – Ihor Hryniv, deputy head of the presidential campaign staff of Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, told journalists on August 27 that police resorted to a “planned provocation” and a “manipulation technique” in linking recent blasts at a market in Kyiv to the Ukrainian National Party (UNP), a member of Our Ukraine, Interfax reported. “There is a large distance between UNP members and [Yushchenko], the candidate who joined [the presidential race] by way of self-nomination,” Mr. Hryniv added. Last week police arrested five suspects in the blasts and claimed that two of them had UNP membership cards. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Pope greets Ukraine on Independence Day

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma received a greeting on Ukrainian Independence Day from Pope John Paul II. The text of the telegram reads: “I wish unity and solidarity, prosperity due to legitimate economic progress, and respect for the spirituality of every person for Ukrainians and other peoples living in your country. With an open heart, I bless you and all the people of Ukraine.” (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Bush sends congrats to Ukraine

WASHINGTON – U.S. President George W. Bush sent a letter of congratulations on the occasion of Ukrainian Independence Day to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Dated August 20, the letter noted: “On behalf of the people of the United States, I extend congratulations on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence on August 24. Ukraine has made great strides in the 13 years since independence.

Nothing can secure that legacy more than the holding of free, fair and transparent election this fall, and turning your high office over to a successor who embodies the democratic choice of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine’s many friends in United States will continue to watch Ukraine’s democratic development with great interest.” Mr. Bush concluded his letter with “best wishes for peace, freedom and prosperity for Ukraine and its people.” (Action Ukraine Report)

President opens Danube delta canal

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on August 26 officially inaugurated navigation on the newly built Bystraya Canal in the Danube River Delta, Interfax reported. “I give the command to restore navigation in the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta,” Mr. Kuchma said. “In the future, the estuary of Europe’s longest river may transform into a large European transport intersection,” he added. Since its start in May, Ukraine’s Bystraya Canal project has been subject to international criticism, primarily because of fears that it may damage the Danube Delta’s unique ecosystem (see “RFE/RL Newsline,” 25 August 2004). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Romania to sue Ukraine over canal

BUCHAREST – The Romanian government said on August 26 that it will file a lawsuit with the International Court of Justice in The Hague against Ukraine’s opening of a shipping canal in the Danube delta, Reuters reported. Construction on the Bystraya Canal was officially inaugurated the same day by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, and the foreign affairs, transport, environment and justice ministers met to discuss the issue. Environmentalists claim that changes to the delta’s water table will harm the extensive flora and fauna in the area, which is a UNESCO world heritage site.

President Kuchma, however, dismissed the criticism as politically and economically motivated. He said that “all the international ecological requirements were met.” Both the European Union and the United States have asked Ukraine to halt construction until a more complete environmental-impact assessment can be completed. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kuchma blasts critics of canal

KYIV – Following the official inauguration of the Bystraya canal project in the Ukrainian part of the Danube River Delta on August 26, President Leonid Kuchma told journalists that international criticism of the Ukrainian canal project was motivated by “political and economic” reasons rather than environmental, Interfax reported. “You all know well how many skeptical accusations and even open provocations there have been that set the entire international community against this project,” Mr. Kuchma said. “But we know very well whose interests stand behind these attempts to stir the waters around the canal, while in fact all international ecological requirements were met during its construction.” International criticism of the Bystraya canal project primarily focused on its potential damage to the Danube Delta’s unique ecosystem. By opening the Bystraya canal, Ukraine has broken Romania’s monopoly on navigation in the delta. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv mayor says leaflets are bogus

KYIV – The press service of Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko said on August 25 that the leaflets distributed by unknown individuals in the city the previous day and signaling an intention of “certain destructive forces” to move the Ukrainian capital from Kyiv to Donetsk are fakes, Interfax reported. “The leaflet, allegedly signed by the Kyiv mayor, informed Kyiv residents about plans of certain destructive forces to move the cap-

ital from Kyiv to Donetsk and [included] an assurance that this [move] will be prevented,” the press service said. “The falsified leaflet was apparently intended to inflame antagonism between the presidential candidates representing the above-mentioned regions and sow discord between Kyiv and Donetsk.” Mayor Omelchenko is one of the 26 candidates for the October 31 presidential ballot. Another presidential candidate, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, was chairman of the Donetsk Oblast in 1997-2002 and is widely seen as the most important promoter of Donetsk’s regional interests at the central-government level. (RFE/RL Newsline)

New bishop named for UOC-KP in Odesa

KYIV – Patriarch Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), on August 6 appointed Bishop Yakov (Makarchuk) as bishop of Odesa and Baltia and head of the southern Ukrainian Odesa Eparchy of the UOC-KP. Bishop Yakov was formerly the bishop of Cherkasy for the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. The decision to appoint Bishop Yakov was made at a session of the Holy Synod of the UOC-KP. Bishop Paisii (Dmokhovskiy), who headed the UOC-KP’s Odesa Eparchy until recently, was removed from the episcopate of the UOC-KP by a decision of the Synod. Bishop Yakov was admitted to the episcopate of the UOC-KP after he forwarded a petition to the Synod. He also participated in the work of the National Sobor (Assembly) of the UOC-KP of July 14-16 as a guest. Bishop Yakov (secular name Yaroslav Ivanovych Makarchuk) was born in 1952. In 1987 he entered the Leningrad Seminary of the Russian Orthodox Church. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1990 and he was received into the UAOC’s Lviv Eparchy. In 1998 he was ordained bishop. In 2002-2003, conflicts arose among UAOC bishops, resulting in a schism. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 28)

564-2466, or UABA Chairman Andrew Pidgirsky, (713) 308-0138.

Saturday - Sunday, September 25-26

SILVER SPRING, Md.: The Washington Ukrainian Festival, sponsored by the Festival Committee with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine and local organizations, will be held on the grounds of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 5100 New Hampshire Ave. The festivities will be opened by Archbishop Antony and Mykhailo Reznik, ambassador of Ukraine. The program will feature Ukrainian singers, dancers and other performers from the U.S., Canada and Ukraine. It will also include the well-known violin virtuoso Vasyl Popadiuk from Canada. All are invited to view a variety of vendors featuring and selling Ukrainian crafts, arts, paintings, ceramics, jewelry and much more, as well as Ukrainian and American food concessions and the now famous Kozak Beer Garden with its selection of Ukrainian beers and liqueurs. There will be a dance (zabava) on Saturday in the St. Andrew Founders Hall with a Ukrainian band. For further informa-

tion contact Val Zabijaka, (301) 593-5316, or visit www.StAndrewUOC.org.

Friday-Sunday, October 8-10

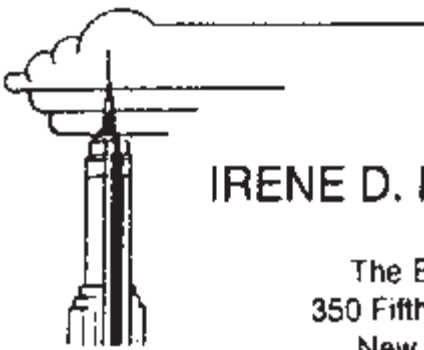
SOMERSET, N.J.: The League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC) will hold its 66th annual national convention. The Garden State Council is hosting the convention at the Holiday Inn, 195 Davidson Ave., Somerset, N.J. Registration begins Friday, October 8. The national board will conduct its general business meeting and planning sessions. The evening will be celebrated with a welcome reception – “A Ukrainian Luau.” Saturday, October 9, will begin with a prayer session followed by a breakfast with a keynote speaker which will lead into afternoon workshops. A banquet and ball will be held in Alexanders at the hotel. On Sunday, October 10, there will be a divine liturgy followed by a communion breakfast with closing remarks from the national board. During the course of the weekend the LUC will honor Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, marking the 60th anniversary of his death. For more information contact John Kost, (973) 471-1874, or Marion Hrubec, (201) 843-3960.

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 of no more than 100 words; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

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



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Sen. Lugar...

(Continued from page 1)

dispute is about who makes the determination on genocide.”

He added that “these are all resolvable issues” and that “some language changes need to occur.” He also said that, overall, Sen. Lugar supports the issue.

The Senate resolution, sponsored by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), was introduced in July 28, 2003, at a time when the Great Famine was receiving considerable world attention in conjunction with commemorations of its 70th anniversary. The bill, Senate Resolution 202, which puts the Senate on record as calling the Great Famine an act of genocide as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention, has been stalled in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since then, even though 10 of the 19 members of the committee are co-sponsors.

By Senate rules, a committee chairman has considerable authority in controlling the movement of bills out of his committee. A total of 33 senators have signed on as supporters of S.R. 202, including 12 Republicans and 21 Democrats.

Sen. Lugar, who has been a strong proponent of close ties between Washington and Kyiv and is an author of the Nunn-Lugar Threat Reduction Act, that financed the removal of nuclear missiles from

Ukraine’s territory, thanked those in Ukraine who had helped with the country’s de-nuclearization. He also expressed his gratitude to the nation and its leadership for the role Ukraine is playing in the Iraq Stabilization Force.

“I am an enthusiast of Ukraine because I believe in the country. I believe the future of Ukraine lies in NATO and the European Union,” Sen. Lugar said during a short press conference on the back lawn of the U.S. ambassador’s residence in Kyiv.

However, Sen. Lugar warned – as have a number of other U.S. diplomats and politicians who have trekked here in the last few months – that Ukraine must hold free and fair presidential elections to continue on its path toward democracy and the West. He reminded the ruling elite that a large number of international observers would be on hand to make sure that the will of the Ukrainian people was observed on October 31.

“Thousands of citizens who believe in democracy from Europe and around the world will be here to celebrate free and fair elections,” noted the senator.

Sen. Lugar, who had a telephone discussion with President Leonid Kuchma and met with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn during his one-day stop, commented that Kyiv had changed considerably since his last visit, including a dynamic transformation in the look, the pace and the amount of traffic in the city.

The News...

(Continued from page 25)

specialist Yuriy Babych. Ukrainians can also attend seminars at the center addressing problems that new immigrants face while adjusting to life in the U.S.

Recently “Ukrainian Svitlytsia” started a new program targeted to Americans with Ukrainian roots who would like to learn or improve their Ukrainian oral or writing skills. Qualified teachers and

Ukrainian students at the center interact with Americans learning Ukrainian, and help each other reach their respective linguistic goals.

Readers who are interested in these programs or others offered at “Ukrainian Svitlytsia” may visit the center located on the first floor of 203 Second Ave.; or call (212) 674-7414 (center) or (917) 558-2998 (Ms. Mykhayliv).

– compiled by Roxolana Woloshyn

2,500-year-old...

(Continued from page 12)

tained from the Latin inscriptions on upturned stone plates. Archeologists have also found statues of Hercules, Diana and other cult figures at the site.

In the second century the independent state of Khersones Tauria fell upon hard times and turned to the Roman Empire for military help. One of the divisions sent by Rome was dispatched to Balaklava not far from Khersones. An inscription in Latin on a stone plate at the

Jupiter Dolichenus ruins states: “to Jupiter, the best and the biggest Dolikhen.”

Antony Valenti, the military tribune of the First Italian Legion, built this temple with the help of Novia Ulpian, a centurion of the same legion. The two almost exclusively used locally available materials. While essentially a fortress, the Jupiter Dolichenus ruins also contain features of typical cult temples of that era.

Future plans call for the restoration of the site to its original design and for adding it to the historical and archeological preserve of Khersones Tavriyskiy in Sevastopol.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

September 4, 2004

Outside concert featuring Chornozem, 1-4 pm
 Outside concert featuring Stefko Stawnychy, 4-6 pm
 Mamai Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Concert, 8 pm
 Zabavy featuring Fata Morgana and Tempo
 Exhibit - Lisi Jewelry
 Exhibit - Wood Carvings by Zenon Holubec

September 5, 2004

Mamai Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Concert, 1 pm
 DASH-4-CASH Paintball Tournament, 2 pm; \$35 per person
 Outside concert featuring Stefko Stawnychy, 2-5 pm
 Zabava featuring Tempo and Vorony
 Exhibit - Lisi Jewelry
 Exhibit - Wood Carvings by Zenon Holubec

September 10-12, 2004

KLK Weekend - General Meeting & 80th Anniversary Banquet
 Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion
 Plast Sorority Rada - "Ti Shcho Hrebli Rvut"

September 11-12, 2004

Plast Sorority Rada - "Lisovi Mavky"

September 13-16, 2004

Regensburg Reunion

September 18, 2004

Wedding - Michelle Wynarczuk and Michael Ritz

September 21, 2004

Noon Day Club Banquet

September 24-25, 2004

Plast Sorority Rada - "Spartanky"

September 25, 2004

Wedding - Catherine O'Connell and Peter Zielyk

October 2, 2004

Ellenville High School Reunion, Class of '49
 Ellenville High School Reunion, Class of '84

October 3, 2004

Republican Fundraising Banquet, 4:30 pm

October 9, 2004

Wedding - Tanya Blahitka and Michael Jadlicky

October 15, 2004

Ellenville Retired Teachers Luncheon

October 16, 2004

Wedding - Alexandra Anastasia Holubec and David Scott Nischl

October 29-31, 2004

Halloween Weekend with children's costume parade, costume zabava & more

November 5-7, 2004

Plast Youth Organization, Orlykiada Weekend

November 25-28, 2004

Thanksgiving Weekend Packages Available



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, September 11

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a lecture by Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak of Ivan Franko University of Lviv on the subject "Ivan Franko and the Women in His Life." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

CARTERET, N.J.: 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 please call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J.: St. Andrew's Brotherhood at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Memorial Church invites the Ukrainian communities of New Jersey and New York to their annual picnic on the church grounds, located on Main Street in South Bound Brook. Cost of food and drinks: \$15 for adults; \$5 for children. For more information call Ihor Savon, (908) 231-7266, or Wasył Doroshenko, (732) 356-6866.

Saturday - Sunday, September 11 - 12

CHICAGO: Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago cordially invites the entire community to the "Ukrainian Village Oktoberfest." Located in the heart of the Ukrainian Village at Chicago Avenue and Oakley Boulevard, this 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 are on Saturday, at 3-10 p.m., and Sunday at 1-10 p.m. On Saturday evening there will be a dance in the church hall starting at 9 p.m. An entrance fee donation of \$5 for the festival and \$5 for the dance go to the ongoing support of the parish. For festival vendor applications please contact the parish office, (312) 829-5209.

Sunday, September 12

NEW YORK CITY: The life and legacy of the late Roma Pryma Bohachevska, the renowned prima ballerina, and teacher and promoter of Ukrainian folk dance, will be celebrated at a tribute luncheon sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America at 1 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The event is a unique opportunity to honor an extraordinary person who taught the beauty of Ukrainian dance to generations of Ukrainian Americans. Luncheon tickets are \$120 per person and be purchased by check or credit card through the Ukrainian Institute, 2 E. 79th St., New York, NY, 10021; telephone, (212) 288-8660; or fax, (212) 288-2918.

HORSHAM, PA.: The Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub celebrates the 25th anniversary of its center, "Tryzubivka" on Sunday starting at noon. The festival will feature Ukrainian folk music, dance and food. The day also marks the start of the 25th soccer season,

so the season opener will begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by more games. Admission is \$10 per person; children age 13 and under are admitted free of charge. For more information contact Eugene Luciw, (610) 868-1400 or (215) 362-5331.

Tuesday, September 14 and Thursday, September 16

IRVINGTON, N.J./NEW YORK: Muzychne Doshkillia - Music & Me, will hold its first session at the Ukrainian Community Center on 140 Prospect Ave. in Irvington on Tuesday, September 14, and at the Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc., at 2 E. 79th St in New York City. For more information call Marta Sawycky, (908) 276-3134.

Thursday, September 16

WASHINGTON, DC: The Washington Group Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, invite all to attend a lecture by Prof. Radoslav Zuk on "Stylistic Transformations in Ukrainian Architecture." The lecture will take place at 7 p.m. at the Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M St. NW. A reception immediately following will open the accompanying exhibit, titled "Radoslav Zuk: Tradition and the Present," which will be on display until October 15. RSVP by September 10 by telephone, (202) 349-2961, or by e-mail, nholub@ukremb.com.

Thursday - Sunday, September 16 - 19

BOSTON: The 57th Ukrainian American Veterans Convention will take place at the Holiday Inn in Dedham, Mass. The annual Commander's Banquet and Ball will be held on Saturday, September 18, starting at 6 p.m., with music provided by the New York band "Vechirka." The banquet/ball is open to the public. Banquet/dance tickets are \$45 per person; dance-only tickets sold only at the door are \$20 per person. For more information contact Stephen Kostecki, kosteckisj46@aol.com.

Saturday, September 18

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites the public to a program of two lectures, one by Dr. Jaropolk Lassowsky on "Contemporary Musical Culture of the South of Ukraine," and the other by Dr. Hanna Chumachenko on "Contemporary Folk Culture of the South of Ukraine." These lectures, accompanied by video and audio illustrations, will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

Wednesday-Sunday, September 22-26

SOUTH BEACH, Fla.: The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) invites attorneys and law students to its 2004 convention, to be held concurrently with that of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel. Keynote Speaker is Orest Deychakiwsky, senior staff advisor to the Helsinki Commission, who will speak on "The Turning Point: Ukraine's Upcoming Election." For hotel reservations call (877) LOEWS-MB. Visit the website www.uaba.org for registration, convention agenda or other UABA information, or call UABA President Andrew Stecki, at (215)

(Continued on page 27)

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Holubec exhibits artwork at Soyuzivka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — An exhibit of bas-relief art by Zenon Holubec of Glen Spey, N.Y., will take place Saturday through Monday, September 4-6, at Soyuzivka in the Main House library.

Mr. Holubec is perhaps best known for his bas-relief sculptures in wood, which are characterized by flexible linearity and emphasis on composition. Mr. Holubec's artwork consists of carving and sculpting wood, then painting and

preserving the piece.

As a post-war refugee, the Ukrainian-born artist entered the University of Innsbruck to study architecture and fine arts. After immigrating to the United States, Mr. Holubec enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago and specialized in interior design. He then taught design at the International Academy in Chicago.

Mr. Holubec has traveled all over North America to exhibit his art works.