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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukrainian Catholic church in Connecticut destroyed by explosion; investigation under way

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — A Ukrainian church in Colchester, Conn., was demolished by an explosion early Friday morning, September 10. Several news reports said the blast shook nearby buildings and tossed debris hundreds of feet, but no injuries were reported.

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church was "100 percent destroyed" after an explosion there left only a statue of St. Mary standing, surrounded by debris, the church's pastor told *The Ukrainian Weekly* via telephone. "A few things have been found" in the debris, but otherwise nearly everything has been destroyed, Father Cyril Manolev said.

The pastor confirmed that no one had been hurt in the blast, although he was just waking up in the rectory, some 20 to 30 feet from the church when the explosion rocked him from his sleep. The blast was "louder than anything I've ever heard in my life," Father Manolev said.

The church, located at 178 Linwood Ave., was built in 1955 and the parish serves some 70 families, the pastor said. There were a propane tank and a working kitchen in the basement of the brick building. Father Manolev said there is some speculation that the propane tank could have been the cause of the explosion.

Connecticut State Police Trooper First Class Karen O'Connor told *The*

*Ukrainian Weekly* that "at approximately 6:45 a.m., witnesses reported to Connecticut State Police Troop K, that an explosion had occurred at St. Mary's Church ... in the town of Colchester."

Trooper O'Connor also said that the scene of the explosion had been "secured as a crime scene to assist fire services, which is standard protocol." She said that detectives are continuing to collect and preserve evidence at the scene and "the case is active and under investigation." The police official also said on September 14 that there was nothing new to report in the case.

Father Manolev, who has been the pastor at the church for nearly three years, told *The Weekly* that the parish was preparing for a barbecue that weekend. He said that the parish, whose membership continues to grow, will work to rebuild the church, which stands on approximately two acres of land, but not until after the police conclude their investigation.

The parish, which is a part of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, plans to rebuild with the help of donations from people and organizations, Father Manolev said. The church is also planning to host a fund-raising dinner in two weeks and is planning to have a concert in a little under a month.

## Presidential race in Ukraine grows tighter as election approaches

by Myron V. Hirniak

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — With less than two months before Ukrainians head to the ballot box to elect their next president, recently released poll results show that the race between the two front-runners is growing tighter.

According to recent surveys conducted by several local Ukrainian organizations, 30 percent of voters are ready to cast their ballots for Viktor Yushchenko in the first round of the elections, while 27 percent would vote for Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine's current prime minister and President Leonid Kuchma's designated successor. (The polls' margin of error was +/-2 percent.)

Should a second round of voting take place, 38 percent of the electorate would vote for Mr. Yushchenko, 33 percent for Prime Minister Yanukovich and 13 percent for neither candidate, with another 16 percent opting to keep mum about their choice. Despite figures demonstrating a Yushchenko victory, a whopping 48 percent of those surveyed are certain that Mr. Yanukovich will become the next president.

The poll results come at a time when Ukraine is receiving a large number of international election monitors, including several from the European Union, Russia and other CIS member-countries. The

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is deploying 52 long-term observers and an additional 800 for Election Day proper. Other international organizations may bring in approximately 1,000 more observers for Election Day.

Surveys have focused also on the public perception of whether candidates have an equal opportunity to campaign, in particular the question of whether there is equal access to the media. According to a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Sociology Institute and the Democratic Initiatives Fund from August 25 to September 3, Mr. Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine bloc would win the presidential election if given equal access to the various mass media outlets. But if current unequal conditions prevail, this same poll sug-

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## Diplomats tour site of controversial Danube Delta canal

by Myron V. Hirniak

*Special to The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — International unease erupted on August 24 over Ukraine's construction of a deep-water canal between the Black Sea and the Ukrainian section of the Danube River Delta, due to concerns that it could cause irreversible damage to the area's fragile ecosystem, which is classified as a UNESCO and Ramsar Wetland of International Importance site.

More than 500 protesters, representing 140 non-profit organizations, petitioned the Ukrainian Embassy in Bucharest to reconsider the project, claiming that it could endanger more than 300 bird species living in and around the waterway's delta.

In response to the protests and calls for the immediate halt of all construction activities, on September 10 the Ukrainian government took representatives of 20 diplomatic missions in Ukraine on a personal, on-site tour of the canal's construction and its surrounding environment. Under the mantra of "better to see it once than hear about it a hundred times," Ukraine's ministers of Foreign Affairs, Transportation and Communications, and Environmental Protection were on hand to serve as guides and answer the many questions asked by curious diplomats.

Speaking at the Bystre Estuary, where much of the heavy construction is being

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## Ruslana wows rain-drenched crowd at Toronto festival

by Maria Sochan

TORONTO — Ukraine's award-winning singing sensation Ruslana was a hit at the Bloor Street Village Ukrainian Festival. The anticipation of the public, and particularly of youths, for this performance was noticeable throughout the city, culminating during the first two days of the festival as long lines of admirers — many dressed in "Ruslana Wild Dances" t-shirts — waited for autographs.

The main festival show on Saturday, August 28, featuring Ruslana went on in the rain, as the large crowd of mainly young people listened and danced to the rhythmic music on the street, on chairs and tables, some with umbrellas, but many without.

And she did not disappoint.

The excitement and energy felt throughout was not dampened by adverse weather. Ruslana's talented dancers graced the stage with "Wild Dances," and Ruslana performed the over 90-minute fast-paced concert without a break, including her powerful signature songs from the CD of the same title.

She frequently joined the rain-soaked youths, coming to the front of the outdoor stage, which was only partially covered, and continued to sing and connect with her fans in the pouring rain. Her rapport with the audience was outstanding, demonstrating that Ruslana is truly a gracious and professional performer.

Before her return to Ukraine, Ruslana commented excitedly about the warm and enthusiastic reception she had received from the predominantly young North American audience, stating that she was thankful that she could evoke such a great

response and draw out the strong patriotic feelings from the North American Ukrainian community's youth.

But she also quickly added that perhaps the effect was as

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Detail of a poster used to advertise Ruslana's appearance.

## ANALYSIS

## Democratic revolution in Ukraine? STRATFOR report says it's possible

by **Taras Kuzio**

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Is a Georgian-style democratic revolution possible in Ukraine? While clearly refuting any similarities between Georgians and Ukrainians, the authorities are also increasingly nervous. A U.S. STRATFOR intelligence commentary that predicted Ukraine was approaching a Georgian-style revolution was widely discussed in the pro-presidential Ukrainian media. The Social Democratic Party – United newspaper (*Nasha Hazeta*, August 27) predicted that if such a revolution were attempted, it would not have widespread support. *Vasyl Baziv*, deputy head of the presidential administration, railed against the opposition for threatening to call for mass protests against election fraud (*Ukrainska Pravda*, September 3).

The authorities appear to have everything stacked in their favor: large finances, “state-administrative resources,” the security forces and organized crime skinheads. At the same time, semi-authoritarian regimes, such as Ukraine, are very vulnerable during elections. The clearest examples of this were in Serbia (October 2000) and Georgia (November 2003), when protests over election fraud led to regime change. Ukraine’s ruling oligarchs are also very aware that they have no legitimacy in the eyes of Ukrainians and the “vlada” (ruling regime) is widely discredited.

President Leonid Kuchma has himself ridiculed the idea of the “Georgian sce-

nario” taking place in Ukraine. In the last two to three years he said he had been threatened with protests of 300-400,000 (when the real figure was 20-50,000). “Therefore, I do not take such threats in a very serious way” (Den, July 20).

This is, though, only the official face of the regime. In reality, the authorities fear the October 31 presidential election might actually remove them from power in independent Ukraine. *Viktor Yushchenko*, the presidential candidate leading in the polls, believes that the authorities “have started panicking” (*Interfax*, August 23). *Serhii Tyhypko*, the head of Prime Minister *Viktor Yanukovich*’s election campaign, said (*ICTV*, August 10) there is a widely held view that, if Mr. Yanukovich wins, it would mean the elections had been rigged. “Then, the next steps will follow – a Georgian variant, a revolution,” Mr. Tyhypko warned.

The regime is showing signs of insecurity.

This explains why a relatively small-scale student protest in the northeastern city of Sumy against the politically motivated merger of three universities led to panic in Kyiv. About 100 students marched on Kyiv but were beaten and arrested along the way, leading to further protests in Kyiv and Sumy. The Internal Affairs Ministry issued a statement claiming that the student march on Kyiv was being promoted by “well-known political forces (i.e., the opposition) with

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## Is Washington sending mixed signals to Ukraine?

by **Taras Kuzio**

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited Ukraine in mid-August to discuss Ukraine’s military contingent in Iraq. Since August 2003, Ukraine has had 1,576 troops in Iraq deployed 130 kilometers south of Baghdad in the Polish-run sector. An additional 146 troops are to be rotated in during September and October (*Interfax-Ukraine*, August 2).

Ukraine has the fourth largest deployment in Iraq and the largest military force from a non-NATO country. Ukraine has lost eight soldiers, including four who died during non-combat accidents and one suicide.

President Leonid Kuchma decided to send Ukrainian troops to Iraq in spring 2003. Mr. Kuchma needed to repair his personal reputation after Washington had accused him of bypassing United Nations sanctions and authorizing the sale of *Kolchuha* radars to Iraq in July 2000. Mr. Kuchma and his allies also hoped the Iraq deployment would encourage Washington to turn a blind eye to any irregularities in the 2004 Ukrainian presidential elections.

During the election campaign the three opposition candidates – *Viktor Yushchenko*, *Oleksander Moroz* and *Petro Symonenko* –

have all voiced their support for withdrawing Ukrainian troops from Iraq. Channel 5 television quoted Mr. Yushchenko as saying that the presence of Ukrainian troops in Iraq was an “indulgence to the United States for tolerating anti-democratic actions in Ukraine itself.” He went on, “We do not want the renewal of democracy in Iraq at the cost of stifling democracy in Ukraine.” Touring Crimea, Mr. Yushchenko promised that if he were elected he would gradually withdraw Ukrainian forces, now that the Iraqi government can “take care of its own security” (Channel Five TV, August 10).

Kyiv is rife with speculation that a secret deal was struck during Mr. Rumsfeld’s visit to the Ukrainian capital. The *Kyiv Weekly*, a newspaper formerly owned by Defense Minister *Yevhen Marchuk*’s son but recently purchased by the Industrial Union of the Donbas, reported that a quid pro quo had, in fact, been agreed upon between Messrs. Rumsfeld and Kuchma. Under the alleged deal, what “Ukraine provides to the U.S. in Iraq is the main guarantee that Washington does not subject Kyiv to being ostracized in the event of dubious results in the Ukrainian presidential election” (*Kyiv Weekly*, August 20). Thus, official threats to withdraw Ukrainian troops made before Mr. Rumsfeld’s visit to Ukraine were simply a bargaining ploy.

Nevertheless, the *Kyiv Weekly* warned that two factors could upset this pact. First, President George W. Bush could lose the U.S. presidential election and void the deal. The Democratic Party has threatened to withhold visas to Ukrainian officials and

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### *Melnychenko tapes discredited by ‘experts’*

KYIV – *Oleksander Krut*, chief forensics expert of the Ukrainian Justice Ministry, told journalists on September 10 that an outside commission of “international experts” has examined some 36 hours of the so-called *Melnychenko* tapes it received from the Procurator General’s Office, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Mr. Krut said the commission came to the conclusion that the tapes it examined had been altered and that voices recorded on them cannot be identified. Mr. Krut did not clarify who passed the tapes to the Procurator General’s Office. Early this year the Ukrainian government allocated 850,000 hrv (\$160,000) to determine the authenticity of the tapes allegedly made by former presidential security officer *Mykola Melnychenko*, which implicate President *Leonid Kuchma* and other senior Ukrainian officials in the 2000 killing of Internet journalist *Heorhii Gongadze*. The commission consists of two Ukrainians, two Russians and one Lithuanian. The Ukrainian government did not heed requests by the international human rights watchdog *Reporters Without Borders* and other non-governmental organizations earlier this year to be allowed to take part in the examination of the audiotapes. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Tatars warn of Muslim party’s proselytizing*

SYMFEROPOL – The secular National Assembly of Crimean Tatars issued a statement on September 13 expressing concern about the recent arrival in Crimea of activists from the banned Islamic *Hizb ut-Tahrir* party, *Interfax* reported. The statement claimed that *Hizb* activists are attempting to spread among local Muslims “false teachings and objectives rejected by Islam.” *Hizb ut-Tahrir* is known to be active in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, where hundreds of its activists have been arrested and sentenced for seeking to overthrow the constitutional order. The party’s proclaimed objective is to bring about the downfall of the present secular leaderships in Central Asia and create an Islamic caliphate in their place. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Kuchma sends letter on 9/11 anniversary*

KYIV – President *Leonid Kuchma* sent a letter to President *George W. Bush* on the occasion of the third anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks on the United States. The letter noted: “Today,

when the third anniversary of the terrible terrorist attack on the U.S.A. is being mourned, the people of Ukraine once again commemorate with your nation and with the families of the tragedy’s victims.” The letter recalled “the American people’s courage” in the face of the terror attacks. “The cruel terror attacks on the U.S.A. were a challenge not only to your country, but also to the entire civilized global community. The recent tragic events in the Russian town of *Beslan* have once again underscored the dire need for consolidating the international community and mustering its effort in combating against this global evil, with a view of eliminating threats, which terrorism poses,” wrote Mr. *Kuchma*. “Our state will continue making its weighty contribution to strengthening international security for the sake of preserving our civilization and peace on the planet, for the sake of securing the supremacy of law and respect for human rights. Ukraine will remain true to its commitments as an active participant in the anti-terrorism coalition and will do its best to counter terrorism.” (*Action Ukraine Report*)

### *PM signals change of tack toward EU*

KYIV – Prime Minister and presidential candidate *Viktor Yanukovich* told the *Financial Times* on September 10 that Kyiv has ceased urging Brussels to pledge unambiguously that Ukraine will become a member of the European Union and has proposed instead developing relations through two- or three-year agreements covering specific issues like trade or the free movement of labor. Mr. *Yanukovich* said he hopes this new step-by-step approach will still lead to Ukraine “one day becoming a European Union member.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

### *Yushchenko warns of ‘neo-Soviet revival’*

KYIV – Opposition presidential candidate and *Our Ukraine* bloc leader *Viktor Yushchenko* wrote in the *International Herald Tribune* on September 10 that Ukrainians are anxious about Brussels drawing a new division line between European Union member-states and non-EU countries and thus creating “a bipolar Europe.” According to Mr. *Yushchenko*’s piece, titled “Plotting Europe’s Eastern Border,” non-EU countries in Eastern Europe are witnessing the emergence of “rampant capitalism, Soviet authoritarianism and even a dose of medieval feudalism.” Specifically Ukraine is seeing “ominous signs of a neo-Soviet revival,”

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## Young violinist continues to realize his dream, enters music academy



Oleksii Usachov

Ihor Lobok during a violin lesson at Gliere Academy. He is wearing the suit and playing the violin that were purchased with funds donated by the Ukrainian American community.

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ihor Lobok, the diminutive, shy, 15-year-old street violinist who won a street musician competition in Kyiv last year and captured the hearts of dozens of Ukrainian Americans with his story, may be on his way to a professional career in music and the realization of his dream.

On September 1 the wunderkind musician began studies at the world-renowned Gliere Music Academy in Kyiv, a music school associated with such historically regarded names as Horowitz, Rubinstein, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky.

“I am thankful and I am happy that I am going to continue to play,” commented Mr. Lobok on September 7.

The young violinist, who completed an elementary school that put an emphasis on music studies, received word that he had been accepted to Gliere Academy in early August after having done well in his entrance examinations.

It was evident even before the testing was over that matters were well in hand when the director of Gliere Academy wondered aloud during a meeting with The Weekly what was it with this boy, who had somehow spurred letters of support for his ambitions to study at Gliere from the City of Kyiv and the Office of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, as well as The Weekly. It was The Weekly that first published the story of how Ihor had played a school-issued violin on Kyiv’s streets in his off hours for money to support himself, his sick mother and his older sister.

In the end it was Ihor’s talent – not political support in an election year or trans-Atlantic moral and financial support from the diaspora – that opened the doors to the prestigious academy. Yet, the way destiny seems to have taken charge and events have unfolded in support of Ihor’s ambitions has been quite striking.

Ihor’s story began when he responded to a call by the Union of Humanists, a loosely bound organization of college students and journalists, to street musicians to take part in a festival in March 2003 in support of their way of life, which was called “Songs of the Underground.”

The 15-year-old, who was “discovered” by Oleksii Usachov, a college student and member of the Union of Humanists who had taken notice of Ihor’s playing on the streets of Kyiv and convinced him to enter the competition. Ihor ended up winning first prize in the event.

His victory in the competition, along with his story, was documented in The Weekly. It was then that the Ukrainian American community learned how the young violinist played for hours on the historic Andriyivsky Uzviz to support his sister and himself; how his mother had died two years earlier of cancer and how Ihor had played to gather the money to buy the medicine that prolonged her life; and, finally, how his father could not properly support the children because of his own chronic illness. Readers also learned that Ihor’s dream was to own his own violin and play professionally.

Ukrainian Americans spontaneously reacted to the moving story and began sending donations in support of Ihor’s dream to The Weekly offices in Parsippany, N.J. In all, more than a dozen individuals contributed nearly \$1,200 to Ihor’s cause. The young boy’s immediate dream – his own violin – quickly became a reality and a German-made model was purchased for him in Kyiv soon after the story was published.

The second part of the dream, however, would require more initiative on Ihor’s part. As it turned out, he was quite up to the task. At the beginning of 2004 Ihor took up with a professor at Gliere Academy, Leonid Shuchmann, to prepare for the highly competitive entrance examinations.

At first Mr. Shuchmann had reservations about Ihor’s extreme shyness, which he said could manifest into an inability to express the music fully, and was concerned with his technique, which had some shortcomings due to the frequency he played without supervision. Nonetheless he agreed that the young boy definitely had talent. Most notably, Mr. Shuchmann, who initially had agreed to work with Ihor as a paid instructor, soon decided that he would do it pro bono as a gift to the boy.

Another major break came Ihor’s way when he was introduced as the previous year’s winner during the 2004 Music of the Underground Festival, which was noted by the Kyiv press. The event registered a response in the Cultural Affairs Office of the City of Kyiv, headed by former Ukrainian actor Oleksander Bystriushkyn.

Mr. Bystriushkyn fired off a letter to Gliere Academy, where Ihor had just applied, suggesting to the institution that “if Ihor dreams of entering Gliere Academy, we can only hope that his

(Continued on page 10)

## ELECTION WATCH

### Government accused of planning to spy

POLTAVA – National Deputy Valerii Asadchev, head of Viktor Yushchenko’s campaign headquarters in Poltava, said on September 13 that he has obtained a document from the Poltava Oblast State Administration ordering that foreign observers of the presidential elections be placed under surveillance, UNIAN reported. The document reportedly tells regional authorities to collect information on visits and meetings of foreign election monitors in the regions, as well as on their comments and assessments of the election campaign. According to Mr. Asadchev, the instruction refers to the entire executive structure in the country and originates from relevant decisions made within the Cabinet of Ministers in July and August. “The election headquarters of Prime Minister [Viktor Yanukovich] is in the Cabinet of Ministers, which is against the law,” Mr. Asadchev said. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Yushchenko recovers from poisoning

KYIV – Our Ukraine head and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko will resume touring Ukrainian regions later this week, UNIAN reported on September 13, quoting Yushchenko spokeswoman Iryna Heraschenko. According to Ms. Heraschenko, Mr. Yushchenko recently fell ill because of what doctors said was “acute poisoning.” Ms. Heraschenko added that the candidate is now in good physical shape and ready to continue his election campaign trips. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Our Ukraine warns of provocation

KYIV – Our Ukraine official Taras Stetskiy warned on September 8 of an upcoming rally by a radical nationalist group that he suggested is aimed at tainting Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko by associating his presidential bid with extreme nationalism, Interfax reported. Mr. Stetskiy told journalists that the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNAssembly) party plans to stage a rally

and a march in Kyiv on September 9 at which assembly members are to shout anti-Russian and anti-Semitic slogans and express unsolicited support for Mr. Yushchenko. “The [Ukrainian National Assembly’s] goal is obvious: to discredit presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko,” Mr. Stetskiy said, according to Interfax. He added that Our Ukraine has notified foreign embassies in Kyiv of the assembly’s purported plans. National Deputy Yurii Kliuchkovskiy of the Our Ukraine bloc on September 9 called on the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Procurator General’s Office to prevent the UNAssembly action. “This is their last chance to prove that they are law enforcement bodies, not a department in the [presidential-campaign] staff of [Prime Minister] Viktor Yanukovich for the organization of provocations,” Mr. Kliuchkovskiy added. He also appealed to the Verkhovna Rada to pass a resolution on counteracting “fascist manifestations” in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Authorities working against opposition?

KYIV – National Deputy Taras Stetskiy told journalists on September 8 that the Internal Affairs Ministry has created regional groups of police officers from departments dealing with economic and organized crime to support the presidential campaign of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and counteract the campaigns of opposition candidates, the Ukrainska Pravda website reported. Mr. Stetskiy alleged that such groups are coordinated by the ministry with unsigned faxes bearing secret directives sent to the provinces. “Only members of these groups know about the existence of such directives,” Mr. Stetskiy added. He showed one such purported fax to journalists. The document included instructions to monitor election meetings in the regions, prevent opposition candidates from placing their campaign advertisements on commercial billboards, spot those officials in local power bodies who

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## Delegation of former legislators on election monitoring trip to Ukraine

by Miriam Bates

WASHINGTON – The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress on September 13 announced the visit of a third delegation of presidential election observers to Ukraine during the period of September 18-25. The delegation of former members of the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag will hold meetings in Kyiv with U.S. Embassy officials, representatives of candidates and political parties participating in Ukraine’s presidential election campaign, news media, international organizations and observers of the political process in Ukraine, before traveling to the Kherson region on September 21-23.

The delegation is a fact-finding mission and will report its findings to Ukraine’s Central Election Commission, the U.S. government, European governments, international organizations and the public through releases to the mass media. The delegation does not support any candidate or political party and is interested only in helping ensure that the presidential election is free and fair.

Members of the delegation are: former Congressmen Robin Beard (R-Tenn.), Lawrence DeNardis (R-Conn.), Lou Frey (R-Fla.), Don Ritter (R-Pa.) and Peter Torkildsen (R-Mass.) and former member of the German Bundestag Dr. Helga Otto. The delegation is certified as official election observers by the Central Election Commission of Ukraine.

This project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF). The goal of the project is to strengthen democracy in Ukraine by helping to ensure free and fair elections. The government of Ukraine has invited election observers from throughout the world to observe its fourth presidential election since the country declared independence in August, 1991.

At least one more delegation of former legislators will observe this year’s presidential election in Ukraine before the first round of voting takes place on October 31.

Since 1992, USAID has provided over \$1.9 billion worth of technical and humanitarian assistance in support of Ukraine’s democratic, economic and social transition.

## Union County Prosecutor Romankow focuses attention on human trafficking

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

NEWARK, N.J. – Theodore J. Romankow, prosecutor of Union County in New Jersey, was an invited guest at the National Conference on Human Trafficking held in Tampa, Fla. by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from July 15 to July 17. Invited guests included Attorney General John Ashcroft and other senior administration officials, along with Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Mr. Romankow stated: "The U.S. government estimates that between 18,000 and 20,000 men, women and children are trafficked into United States annually from Asia, Central and South America and Eastern Europe. Victims of this modern-day form of slavery are predominantly women, teenagers and young children – many with lives of abject poverty. They are lured from their homes with promises of good jobs, marriage and a better future for themselves and their families only to find themselves entrapped in a nightmare of violence and brutality."

"Many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in the sex trade," Mr. Romankow continued, "while others are subject to involuntary servitude as domestics, in prison-type factories or forced to perform migrant agricultural work. Victims are kept as slaves, suffering extreme physical and mental abuse including rape, sexual exploitation, torture, beatings, starvation, death threats and threats to their family members. Most do not speak or understand English and are therefore unable to com-

municate with law enforcement and other agencies who might otherwise help them."

Human trafficking, which includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking, is the second largest source of profits for organized crime, second only to illegal sales of drugs and guns in generating billions of dollars to the criminal industry.

"The program was a multi-jurisdictional approach geared toward educating state and federal law enforcement and representatives from non-governmental areas about the true extent of this insidious threat, the legal remedies available and of the means to reach out and help its victims," Mr. Romankow explained.

For the past several years Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) has been interested in the problem of human trafficking and has lobbied the U.S. Congress for involvement in fighting this crime. A sum of \$95 million has been allocated by U.S. Congress to investigate and prevent this scourge on society. Former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton spoke on this subject to people of Ukraine during their visit there. AHRU representatives spoke with Gov. James McGreevey and Prosecutor Theodore Romankow on this issue and encouraged them to act on it.

For fighting these problems, Mr. Romankow advised:

"If you believe you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking, call the Department of Health and Human Services Trafficking Information

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## Bozhena Olshaniwsky named to N.J. Ethnic Advisory Council



Gov. James McGreevey with Bozhena Olshaniwsky.

by Walter Bodnar

NEWARK, N.J. – Bozhena Olshaniwsky once again has been appointed to serve on the New Jersey Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council. She had served from 1991 to 1993 under New Jersey Gov. James Florio and in June she was appointed to this position by Gov. James McGreevey. (During Gov. Christine T. Whitman's term of office the Ethnic Council was terminated.)

Ms. Olshaniwsky joins fellow Ukrainian American Camilla Huk, who was named to the Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council by Gov. McGreevey in 2003. Ms. Huk was recently elected vice-chair of the council and serves on the council's Education Committee. She previously served on the Ethnic Advisory Council in the late 1970s under Gov. Brendan Byrne.

It was on August 24, 2002, during ceremonies marking the 11th anniversary of Ukraine's independence that Gov. McGreevey pledged that he would restart the Ethnic Council.

Ms. Olshaniwsky is a well-known activist in the defense of human rights in the United States and in Ukraine. She headed Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) and the Ukrainian National Center: History and Information Network (UNCHAIN) since 1986.

Ms. Olshaniwsky actively and vigorously propagated the defense of human rights by speaking publicly in the United States and Canada and at international conferences in Europe, including Ukraine.

She visited major Ukrainian communities in New Jersey, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Washington, Hartford, Minneapolis, Toronto and other cities to disseminate information and raise funds for the defense of the persecuted.

Some of the international conferences

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**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's centennial convention took place on May 6-10, 1994, in Pittsburgh, with officers and delegates alike pledging to keep the best of the UNA's deeply rooted traditions, while looking toward its younger ranks to secure a promising future for the oldest Ukrainian fraternal organization in the world.

The 242 delegates representing 247 UNA branches from throughout North America commemorated the 100th anniversary of the founding of

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# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## OUR BRANCH SECRETARIES: Lubov Streletsky, top organizer



Lubov Streletsky and her husband, Vasily, with their granddaughter Daniela.

by Lev Khmelkovsky

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Lubov Streletsky, secretary of Ukrainian National Association Branch 10 in Philadelphia, doesn't have any language problems while communicating with others. She speaks English with Americans, and Ukrainian with Ukrainians; she is also fluent in Russian and Moldovan.

She says that the best teacher for her was life. She was born in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, and spoke Ukrainian at home, but communicated in Polish as well because her father and grandparents were fluent in the language. Her father, together with his family, was sent to Siberia as he was an adherent of the Church. It was in far-off Siberia that he learned Russian. Later the family was allowed to return not to Ukraine, but to Moldova. So, Ms. Streletsky had to study the Moldovan language to get a job.

Then, 14 years ago, the Streletsky family moved to the United States. The family was sponsored by Ukrainian Evangelical Church in Union, N.J., whose pastor at the time was George Dawydiuk. Very soon Mrs. Streletsky understood that she would not get a good job without knowing the English language. So, she started learning English at the age of 35.

The results of her hard work are obvious: she graduated from a medical college, took several professional courses and became a nurse. Today she is the chief manager at a medical practice that has several offices.

Though the beginning of her work in this country was rather ordinary as the experience of most Ukrainian newcomers goes – she made “varenyky”, cleaned houses and took care of children – now she has many achievements of which to be proud. Once when she applied for the position of secretary in a medical office, the doctor replied: “There are plenty of secretaries, but where would I find such a good nanny for my children?”

Reflecting on her knowledge of languages, Mrs. Streletsky said: “Before, I was always thinking in Ukrainian, but recently I understood that I think using

the language people around me speak.”

Her husband, Vasily, also is from Chernivtsi. Immediately after arriving in the U.S. he started working at a company that manufactured hearing aids. At the time he was the only Ukrainian worker there, but he served as a good example. Today more than 50 of his compatriots work there. In fact, the owner of the company now is the only American in the company. And the business owner came to love Ukraine, so much so that he organized several tours for American specialists to visit Ukraine where they made hearing aids for children for free (if the hearing aid prescription was too complex, they took it to the U.S. to fill).

Today the entire Streletsky family lives in Philadelphia. The father, Carol Sedletsky, serves as the pastor at the Lifeway Baptist Church (he, too, was persecuted for his religious beliefs in Soviet Ukraine).

The Streletskys' daughter, Nadia has become a nurse like her mother. Nadia is married to Pastor Benjamin Mishin. The couple has two children.

The Streletskys' son, Alexander, graduated from a college of computer sciences. Now he's continuing his studies on the university level, while working at the same company as his father as a computer specialist.

Mrs. Streletsky is active in her Church as well. She takes care of newcomers (“novoprybuli”) and provides them with the information they need to begin new lives in this country. Pastor John Kovalchuk, who is also the secretary of UNA Branch 95, noticed the great deeds accomplished by Mrs. Streletsky and her desire to help people.

At the same time Konstantyn Chilczenkowski, the head of another UNA branch in the area, Branch 10, had developed vision problems that made it difficult for him to handle his work. So, Pastor Kovalchuk visited Mrs. Streletsky and told her about the history and the goals of the UNA. He also suggested that Mrs. Streletsky could head the two UNA branches and have them merged into one.

(Continued on page 22)

## UNA announces new benefit to members: the Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan

by Christine E. Kozak  
UNA National Secretary

The Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal organization founded in 1894, is proud to announce a new benefit for its members: the Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan.

The Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan is a way for the UNA to show appreciation to its members for their continued support during the past 110 years, by offering a no-questions-asked policy.

The Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan is available to UNA members for \$3,000 or \$5,000 of coverage. It's simple, easy and stress-free. Members between the ages of 35 and 90 who already have an active premium-paying policy, a single-premium policy, a paid-up policy or an annuity, are eligible to purchase the Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan regardless of their past or current health status. No questions asked.

The Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan is a permanent insurance plan. As with all permanent insurance, there is an accumulation of cash value. The premiums on this plan will not increase; the benefits will not decrease as long as premiums are paid; and the benefit cannot be cancelled.

It is important to realize that, although as a UNA member you may already have a policy, a death benefit of \$500 or \$1,000 has not kept up with inflation, and most certainly will not provide the same economic support and will not have the impact it would have had 20 or 30 years ago. So, you would be well advised to take advantage of this newest offer to members.

For information regarding rates and an application for the Guaranteed Issue Whole Life Plan, members can contact their branch secretaries or call the UNA Home Office at 1-800-253-9862.

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Is there a U.S. policy toward Ukraine?

In recent months there has been a flurry of visits to Ukraine by various U.S. officials, both from the executive and the legislative branches of government. Among the visitors were Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in March, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and a Senate delegation led by John McCain in August, Sen. Richard Lugar at the beginning of September and, most recently, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs John Tefft, later in the month.

After reviewing the news reports about these visits, we clearly see that there consistently are only two issues regarding Ukraine with which the United States seems to be concerned: 1. that Ukraine's presidential elections be democratic and fair; 2. that Ukraine keep its military contingent in Iraq – the fourth largest sent by any country and the largest from a non-NATO country – as part of President George W. Bush's much-vaunted "coalition of the willing" (in Sen. John F. Kerry's construct this is "the coalition of the coerced and the bribed"). Hmmm. Sort of reminds us of the days when there was only one issue driving U.S.-Ukraine relations: in the early years of Ukraine's independence that was the dismantling of nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory, while later the primary issue was the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

To make matters worse, oftentimes it seems as if the United States today is returning to the much-criticized "Russia first" policy of the past – expressions of which were found during both Democratic and Republican administrations.

That today there are only two Ukraine-related issues about which the U.S. is concerned has been brought home by the most recent reports that President Leonid Kuchma and his cohorts "hoped the Iraq deployment would encourage Washington to turn a blind eye to any irregularities in the 2004 Ukrainian presidential elections." (See "Is Washington sending mixed signals to Ukraine?" on page 2 of this issue.)

Dr. Taras Kuzio notes that "Kyiv is rife with speculation that a secret deal was struck during Mr. Rumsfeld's visit. ... Under the alleged deal, what 'Ukraine provides to the U.S. in Iraq is the main guarantee that Washington does not subject Kyiv to being ostracized in the event of dubious results in the Ukrainian presidential election' (Kyiv Weekly, August 20). Thus, official threats to withdraw Ukrainian troops made before Mr. Rumsfeld's visit to Ukraine were simply a bargaining ploy." He goes on to state that these rumors are probably false, but notes that Washington "continues to send mixed signals to Kyiv."

And, that, of course, is the main problem with current U.S. policy toward Ukraine.

Washington, it seems, is content to focus on two issues, but without thinking through all the possible ramifications and results. In this simplistic formulation, there is no room for nuance. Nor is there room for other issues. What happened, for example, to permanent normal trade relations, to the continuing aftereffects of Chernobyl, to trafficking in women; why is immigration from Ukraine not an issue to be addressed? And that's just scratching the surface of what should be considered within the framework of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Which leads us to ask a simple question: Does the United States even have a "Ukraine policy"?

Sept.  
21  
2003

### Turning the pages back...

Last year at this time of we reported that the Embassy of Russia in the United States had voiced its opposition to a Senate resolution that recognizes the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as genocide. Radio Liberty reported in mid-September

2003 that Russian officials had contacted officials at the Department of State and in Congress in an effort to block the passage of Senate Resolution 202, which was introduced by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Contacted by Radio Liberty's Myroslava Gongadze, the press secretary of the Russian Embassy, Yevhen Khoryshko, stated: "We categorically disagree with this assessment of the famine in Ukraine of the 1930s." He continued: "Many aspects of the realization of the policies of the Soviet leadership of that time headed by Stalin were tragic for many peoples on the territory of the USSR, not only for Ukrainians, but also for Russians, Estonians, Chechens, Kazaks, Crimean Tatars and many others. In this case, American lawmakers are quite readily giving political assessments that have far-reaching consequences. This testifies to the lack of understanding on the part of American lawmakers of the juridical essence of the term 'genocide.' Again, I would like to underscore that the Russian side categorically disagrees with the evaluations contained in the American legislators' resolution."

Senate Resolution 202 – which carries the descriptive title "A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the genocidal Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933" – was introduced on July 28, 2003; as of September 21, 2003, it had eight co-sponsors. The resolution states that "the man-made Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933 was an act of genocide as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention" and notes that "the United States Government's Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin and his associates committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933, using food as a political weapon to achieve the aim of suppressing any Ukrainian expression of political and cultural identity and self-determination."

According to Helsinki Commission Staff Adviser Orest Deychakiwsky, "This resolution is important because it very directly and unambiguously characterizes the 1932-1933 Famine as a genocide. No previous resolution has done that."

The list of co-sponsors of S. Res. 202 has grown considerably since last year. Today it has the support of 33 senators from both sides of the political aisle.

The Famine-Genocide resolution was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, chaired by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), where it has been stalled since July 2003 – this despite the fact that 10 of the committee's 19 members are co-sponsors of the resolution.

Source: "Embassy of Russia works against Senate resolution on Famine-Genocide," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 21, 2003, Vol. LXXI, No. 38.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### La Strada: the street without joy

by Tereza Nemcova

RFE/RL Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch

On March 31, the Czech website idnes.cz had reported that Czech police had arrested and expelled four Ukrainian night club workers from Stara Voda in western Bohemia. The workers had forged passport stamps from Prague's Ruzyně Airport and reportedly obtained them from an unknown man for the price of 120 euros (\$145).

A year earlier, in April 2003, the Czech police's Anti-Organized Crime Unit arrested two Ukrainian men, one Czech man and a Czech woman on charges of trafficking in women for prostitution in the Czech towns of Hazlov and As, idnes.cz reported. The two Ukrainians, Mikola Didych and Viktor Sidorchuk, are said to have trafficked tens of women from Ukraine and Slovakia. According to the report, they made profits of 5.7 million Czech crowns (\$216,363) from the trade.

While many of the criminals involved in trafficking are caught and prosecuted, the victim is often left to fend for herself, without travel documents, money or working papers. La Strada, a non-governmental organization that has been active in the Czech Republic since 1995, works to protect and help women trafficked for sexual exploitation. Hundreds, if not thousands, of women were returning to their home countries in Central and Eastern Europe after being smuggled or tricked into working as prostitutes in the West. Back home, the women needed a support mechanism to help them reintegrate into society.

La Strada, whose name comes from the Italian for "the street," has been funded for the past nine years by the Dutch Justice and Foreign ministries in cooperation with the Dutch Foundation Against Trafficking in Women. The organization has offices in the Czech Republic, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine. La Strada tries to raise awareness in society about the problem of trafficked women, and engages in activities aimed at prevention of human trafficking, assisting individuals and political lobbying.

#### The seen and the unseen

La Strada representatives say that there have been certain changes in trafficking trends. While formerly the Czech Republic was more a country of origin or transition, it is now also a country of destination, having undergone significant social changes after the fall of communism in 1989. Victims of trafficking tend to come from an economically weaker region to an economically stronger one. That means that women are trafficked not only from Eastern European countries to Western Europe, but also from economically depressed regions in their own country.

According to a September 2003 Czech government report, most trafficked women in the Czech Republic come from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria. Romany women from Slovakia are also at high risk. More than 50 percent of women assisted by La Strada come from the countries of the former Soviet Union, although new trends show an increased number of women arriving from China, Vietnam, Slovakia and, occasionally, Turkey.

The report estimates that the purchase price of one woman is between 1,250 and 1,500 euros.

La Strada provides a maximum of six months of counseling and room and board for the victims of trafficking. The estimated monthly cost of care provided by La

Strada is 12,150 Czech crowns (\$473) for a Czech or foreign citizen. La Strada also works with the Czech Catholic Charity, which often takes on women after three months of La Strada care. The International Office for Migration (IOM) also assists in various cases by covering the costs of new travel documents, visas or travel expenses, estimated to be around 10,000 crowns per person.

Following that, the Czech government provides the rest of the assistance. The crucial point at this stage concerns the willingness of the victim to cooperate with the police in the investigation and prosecution of the traffickers. If the victim cooperates, she is given asylum. If, on the other hand, she is too scared and refuses to cooperate, this can result in expulsion from the country. According to Klara Skrivankova, a prevention coordinator at La Strada, the "risks of re-trafficking are rather high, and some experts suppose that almost the half of the persons end up re-trafficked."

La Strada works closely with the Czech police's Anti-Organized Crime Unit. Police officers receive special training on how to deal with victims of trafficking and put many women in contact with La Strada.

However, most women trafficked to the Czech Republic for sexual exploitation refuse to cooperate with the police. According to La Strada representatives, many women have a general distrust of the police, a trait brought from their native countries. According to Ms. Skrivankova, cooperation with regional police in the border areas, where prostitution is prevalent, has not been extremely positive.

On the other hand, she says that "to break the vicious circle [of human trafficking for sexual exploitation] it takes much more than the work of one NGO or inter-agency cooperation on a national level – which I'm glad to say has improved greatly in the past years."

"In the Czech Republic there are channels of cooperation between state agencies and NGOs," she adds.

In those cases where the victim does decide to trust the Czech police, there is still fear for the security of their family back home. Traffickers usually "draft" women from their own regions and, therefore, are well-informed about the victim's family. Families often rely on money sent home by trafficked women. In addition, many victims fear that her family or relatives will find out what her "real" job was abroad, which can lead to being ostracized upon returning home.

This doesn't appear to be the case with Czech citizens trafficked abroad. The press office of the Czech Police Department of Security told RFE/RL that during 2003 around 800 Czech citizens, both men and women, contacted Czech embassies throughout the world, claiming to be victims of trafficking. And, according to the IOM's Czech Republic Mission Director Lucie Sladkova, the country with the highest number of Czech women reported to have been trafficked to is Italy, with 10 cases reported in 2003.

During the course of 2003, as part of the U.N.'s Global Program against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Czech Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) carried out research related to trends in the trafficking of Czech citizens. The research was based on information provided by Czech Embassies; the highest number of Czech victims of trafficking during the last five years was reported at Czech Embassies in Washington (400 cases), in Paris (65

(Continued on page 22)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Why waste energy on taking credit?

Dear Editor:

Regarding the letters by Askold Lozynskyj (August 8) and Lubomyr Luciuk (August 22): two distinguished professionals could better channel their talents and focus on more pressing issues facing Ukraine and Ukrainians, rather than debating who should take credit for what. Talking and writing about "upmanship" is pure dribble.

How about the thousands of ordinary citizens who wrote notes of support, signed and paid for postage for the postcards? You don't hear them complaining.

The postcard campaign was very effective no matter who started it.

Let's go! Next project, life goes on!

**Michael W. Bohdan**  
Union, N.J.

### Directness does not equal responsibility

Dear Editor:

After George W. Bush's speech at the Republican convention, many media analysts were quick to praise his direct rhetoric and point out how at ease he appeared. Contrasting with John Kerry's furrow-browed presence resembling a Shakespearean warrior, Mr. Bush's grinning posture was that of a good-old-pal at a tailgate party.

I wonder why this affability of President Bush is immediately equated with "trustability" and the capacity to lead our powerful nation. Rather than showing wisdom or honesty, to me his relaxed manner bespeaks someone who has endured little hardship in his life and who easily shirks responsibility.

His much-touted "loyalty to friends" does not suggest that he has all of our best interests at heart. In the international arena, we find him strangely extending his friendship to the Russians but not to the French. His personal and international "loyalty" reminds us of the tsars' devotion to their boyar-peers and their loyalty to one ally one year and another the next.

The Republican Party values personal accountability: every American should take responsibility for his actions and not expect handouts. Yet President Bush and his administration have yet to apologize for any of their errors: their error in ignoring CIA information about terrorists before 9/11; their error in ignoring military advice to send skilled American soldiers to search for Bin Laden rather than Afghans; their error (if not lie) in proclaiming that Saddam Hussein held weapons of mass destruction; their four-month silence about the Abu-Ghraib atrocities. These were no mere venial miscalculations but mortal mistakes that resulted and continue to result in thousands of dead and wounded. Instead of taking responsibility or expressing remorse or altering their course, Mr. Bush and his aides blame low-ranking officers, the media and "evil-doers" named and unnamed. Their policy of bravado and finger-pointing does little to calm our anxieties.

In my years as a professor at universities around the country, I've taught a lot of affable young men. Mr. Bush's easy-going manner reminds me most of one student from western Pennsylvania. Every day he showed up to class, slapped the backs of his chosen friends, but took no notes. When I asked him

about his plans for the future, he replied directly that he was about to inherit his father's farm and would convert it into a golf course for himself and his friends after graduation.

Let's not confuse President Bush's directness with intelligence, his ease with high ideals, or his "loyalty" with a sense of responsibility or care for every American.

**Marika Kuzma**  
Oakland, Calif.

*The letter-writer is Virginia Lew Associate Professor of Music at the University of California, Berkeley.*

### More on Canada and political science

Dear Editor:

Re: "Kuzio commentary causes kerfuffle in Canada" by Oksana Zakydalsky (August 8): That Dr. Taras Kuzio was unable to earn tenure in Canada has nothing to do with the support available here for political scientists interested in studying contemporary Ukraine. For example, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) recently announced a multi-year, multi-million-dollar grant aimed at promoting democracy in Ukraine, awarded to a distinguished political scientist at Queen's University, Prof. George Perlin.

**Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D.**  
Kingston, Ontario

*The letter-writer is a professor with the department of politics and economics at the Royal Military College of Canada.*

### Jack Palance: a man of integrity

Dear Editor:

Earlier this year, the Oscar-winning actor Jack Palance refused to accept the Russian People's Choice Award of "narodnyi artist." The award was offered by the Russian Ministry of Culture, with the full support of President Vladimir Putin, and was the culmination of a week of "Russian Nights" in Los Angeles to celebrate Russian contributions to the world of art. After his introduction, Mr. Palance told the audience that he was Ukrainian, not Russian, and walked out of the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, where the presentations were made.

Although the incident was not widely reported by the media, as Ukrainian Americans we are proud of Mr. Palance's decision and believe a similar award should be offered him by the Ukrainian government. It is well-earned. Even during the late 1950s, when being a Ukrainian in the United States was not particularly popular, we remember Mr. Palance coming to the East Village in New York and singing "Ridna Maty Moya" for his Ukrainian audience, boosting its morale and pride.

If each one of us took a similar stand, we would go a long way in discouraging the Russians from raising their country's reputation and image at Ukrainian expense. It's about time we took some wind out of Russian historical sails.

Our kudos to Mr. Palance, a man of integrity and high ideals.

**Eugene Melnitchenko**  
and **Helena Lysyj Melnitchenko**  
Owings, Md.

## Double Exposure

by Kristina Lew

### A Ukrainian summer

Growing up a "hyphenated American" was a drag during the school year (Ukrainian Saturday school definitely put a dent in the social calendar), but Ukrainian summer made up for it.

Days after school let out, we were packing for three weeks of Ukrainian scouting camp. My parents were adventurous – they sent us to Plast camps in Cleveland, Detroit, Buffalo and the East Coast flagship camp in East Chatham, N.Y. After three weeks of mucking around with the scouts, we were shipped down the hill to Sports Camp (also at East Chatham).

Sports camp was followed by two or so weeks with my grandparents in Narrowsburg, N.Y., a secluded Ukrainian bungalow colony run by the Basilian Fathers on the banks of the Delaware River.

The place was – and still is – stunning. The four of us would stay in a one-room cabin with my grandmother. No running water. No bathroom. Just a lake with seven natural springs, a deck of cards, and Ukrainian friends from up and down the East Coast.

My parents then packed us up for the beach – two weeks in Wildwood, N.J., where hundreds of Ukrainians would congregate in front of the Pan Am Hotel. Then Labor Day weekend at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's resort in the foothills of the Catskills and, viola, summer was over.

Most of my Ukrainian American friends had similar summers – some went to SUM or ODUM camps, on Ukrainian dance or bandura camps, then spent time with grandparents in Hunter or Wisconsin Dells.

Twenty-five years ago our parents sent us to all those places to immerse us in things Ukrainian, and if you talk to today's parents, you find they are doing the same, for similar reasons.

Lada and Andrei Bidiak of Astoria, N.Y., spend every summer weekend with their 2-year-old daughter, Maya, in Narrowsburg because, "she'll never hear as much Ukrainian as she does here."

"There is a strong sense of Ukrainian community here – her grandparents live in the bungalow on the left, our friends live in the bungalow to the right. It's the whole concept of "it takes a village," says Lada. And this despite the planes, trains and automobiles it sometimes takes for Andrei to get to Narrowsburg. Why the hassle?

"Ten years ago I may have done this because my mother wanted me to. Ten years ago [sic] there was no independent Ukraine, so in essence we needed to do this. Now it's a part of who we are, and we do this for Maya," says Andrei. Both agree that they can't imagine it any other way.

Neither, it seems, can Lusia Sos-Hayda. She not only drove her three children, Artym, 7, Maya, 5, and Taissa, 4, across the country to attend Plast's Tabir Ptashat at Soyuzivka from San Antonio, Texas, this past July, she also served as the camp's head counselor during the second session. "I wanted to show my kids that we're not some strange family – that there are other Ukrainian American like us," she says.

Lusia and her husband, Roman Hayda, maintain the Ukrainian language and culture for their children without the support of an organized Ukrainian community. Her mother, Ulana Sos, gives her children Ukrainian lessons on Saturdays – minus the paper wad wars common in Ukrainian school class, she laughs. She believes that teaching her children Ukrainian gives them "the gift of being bilingual, which for their education and growth as a person is huge."

The 50 children that attended Tabir Ptashat – Plast camp for 4- to 6-year-old future scouts – under her watch spoke Ukrainian at varying levels. "There were very accomplished speakers who spoke better Ukrainian than some of the counselors to those with very basic language skills," she says.

She is concerned that in another five to 10 years fewer children will speak Ukrainian and says that we as a community must decide how to deal with this issue. "I feel sorry for the kids of my friends who do not speak Ukrainian. We're stigmatizing them. Aren't they Ukrainian American as well? These kids don't feel welcome. It's a shame. I think maybe we're missing an opportunity to bring them into the community," she says.

Chrystia Centore of Orange, Conn., teaches in her community's small Ukrainian Saturday school because she doesn't want her son, Danylko, 8, and daughter, Arianna, 5, to "lose who they are, who their grandparents were," she says. Many of the kids at her school have only one parent who is Ukrainian, and come to Saturday school to learn the language.

Chrystia and her husband, Frank, who is Italian, vacation in Wildwood every summer so that her children can spend time with the kids they meet at Plast camp in yet another setting.

"I was in Plast and my closest friends today are the friends I made in Plast. I want my children to have that as well. When we come to Wildwood the kids see friends from camp, and that helps to build lifelong friendships," she says. "Besides," she laughs, "how else in the world would you bump into every one you know at a rest area on the Garden State Parkway?"

### AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Would you like fellow Ukrainians know about events in your community?  
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?  
Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists.

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(973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510;  
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or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

# NEWS AND VIEWS: Chornomorska Sitch is celebrating its 80th anniversary

by Omelan Twardowsky

December 21, 1924, was the date of the birth of the Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch in Newark, N.J., an institution that is well known both in America and in Ukraine. The founding of the Sitch society in Newark was initiated by Ivan Hrynyk, a veteran of Ukraine's war of liberation. Twelve people took part in the first organizing meeting: Mr. Hrynyk, Lev Mular, Theodore Kowalyk, Volodymyr Kuzma, Ivan Bakun, Stan Prysiazy, Michael Shkilny, Ivan Lobur, Lev Machenko, Maria Kozakevych, Anna Popaca and Maria Mytowynsky. Many of these became members of the first governing board of the Newark branch of Sitch.

The main goals adopted by the first governing board of Chornomorska Sitch were to attract into its ranks as many Ukrainians as possible, without regard to their political or religious convictions, to promulgate Ukrainian national consciousness, to cultivate physical fitness and sports, and to conduct cultural-educational activities. Furthermore, one of the main objectives of this Sitch chapter was the continued support for the liberation struggle in Ukraine.

The first few years of the new Sitch chapter were marked by dynamic activity, which was followed by a period of temporary lull. A resurgence of activity occurred after the seventh general meeting, at which the association's by-laws were changed. Sitch acquired over 100 new members. A strong baseball team was formed, which competed successfully in a semi-professional league. Sitch members received uniforms. A mixed choir and a dance ensemble were organized, which represented the Ukrainian community before wider audiences.

In the early years, Chornomorska Sitch used to rent its club rooms on Court Street in Newark. After Sitch moved to more spacious quarters on Springfield Avenue, in 1932, the idea of acquiring its own home was born. A fund-raising drive was launched, which in 1938 resulted in Sitch's joyous purchase of its own large building on

18th Avenue. After some remodeling, that building served not only the needs of Sitch, but those of other Ukrainian community organizations as well.

Prior to World War II Sitch boasted a membership of over 300, had active teams in baseball, basketball, bowling, wrestling and swimming. In addition, Sitch members were engaged in various political actions on behalf of subjugated Ukraine. World War II sharply curtailed the activity and further development of Sitch. A significant number of Chornomorska Sitch members, including its prominent activists, were drafted into the U.S. armed forces. Nevertheless, our society did survive the war. Although not all Sitch members returned home alive, the society's activities were gradually renewed.

A new era of the rebirth of Chornomorska Sitch occurred thanks to new immigrants – Ukrainian displaced persons – who came to America toward the end of the 1940s. A good number of the new arrivals, which included many athletes and sports organizers, joined the ranks of the Newark Sitch branch of the organization. Already in the 1950s several new sports divisions were added to Sitch, namely soccer, chess, tennis, table tennis and volleyball. This happened thanks to the following activists from among the new immigrants: Lev Blonarovich, Bohdan Huralechko, Yaroslav Kryshchalsky, Lubomyr Rudzinsky, Dr. Volodymyr Huk, George Iwankiw, Omelan Twardowsky, Julian Helbig, Roman Boyko and others.

The increased sports activity quickly attracted to Sitch new cadres of sports leaders and athletes, among them: Myron Stebelsky, Ivan Hamulak, Adrian Lapychak, Bohdan Hayduchok, Bohdan Fedasiuk, Joseph Stashkiw, Joseph Trush, Ihor Olshaniwsky, Yaroslav Pyndus, Zenon Snylyk, Ivan Oryniak, George Chranewycz, Alexander Napora, Volodymyr Bakun, Nadia Bakun, Volodymyr Poteznyk, Volodymyr Klapishchak, Walter Wasylak, Dr. Stepan Parubchak, Michael Palivoda, Gregory Palivoda, Volodymyr Markus, Oleh Dutkevych, Ivan Nahorniak, Ivan Sawycky. There were scores of others, whose names are recorded on

the pages of the histories of Chornomorska Sitch – the almanac issued on the occasion of the society's golden jubilee and the bilingual book "Sichovymy Shlakhamy" (in Ukrainian) and "Ukrainian Sitch – A History" (in English), published on the 75th anniversary of Sitch in 1999 – as well as in the annual magazine "Our Sport."

Thanks to these new activists, Chornomorska Sitch has expanded significantly its range of activity. It organized numerous sports reserves and junior teams in the existing sports divisions, and created new divisions, in the areas of hockey, golf and bridge. Most Sitch teams have participated in championships of their respective U.S. sports federations, and over a period of decades have won hundreds of championship trophies, which are displayed at the Sitch home in Newark; some of them have been transferred to the Museum of Sports Glory of Ukraine in Kyiv.

Over the years, many Sitch members have been selected to all-star teams representing their state or country: Mr. Snylyk, Walter Chyzowych, Volodymyr Kazdoba, Andrew Bakun, Lev Wilchak, Volodymyr Wilchak, Roman Solchanyk, Oles Chayka, Walter Tkacz, Ivan Palivoda, Peter Palivoda, Michael Farniga and Ihor Pankiw – in soccer; Nestor Paslawsky and Melanie Panko – in volleyball; Andrew Slysh, Mark Slysh, Markian Kowaluk, Andrea Kushnir and Ron Carnaugh – in swimming. Mr. Carnaugh was several times' U.S. champion, a member of the U.S. Olympic team, and even managed to win the championship of independent Ukraine. In tennis, Zenia, Luba and Roxana Matkiwsky made the New Jersey state all-star team; in table tennis this honor was achieved by George Chranewycz.

Over the decades, Chornomorska Sitch teams took part in all the championships of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) and have won a number of them. Many of the best Sitch athletes enumerated above were members of the USCAK all-star teams that represented Ukrainians in the two Free Olympiads in Canada as well as those who went on a tour of Western Ukraine in 1991.

For a long period, major successes in chess have been registered in New Jersey and throughout the U.S. by the chess players who represented Chornomorska Sitch, namely the masters Mr. Blonarovich, Dr. Orest Popovych, Steven Stoyko and Peter Radomskyj, and the master candidate Dmytro Kulyk. Dr. Popovych played in many international tournaments, including in Ukraine. In the year 2000, Dr. Popovych established an all-time record in the history of New Jersey chess by winning the state title for the fourth time.

Chornomorska Sitch is distinguished by the following unique achievements: it is the only active Sitch chapter that has survived out of almost 100 such chapters once active in the U.S.; it is the only sports club in the Ukrainian diaspora that is publishing its own magazine (Our Sport) for the last 40 years; it is the only sports club in the Ukrainian diaspora that for the last 35 years has been running its own summer sports school.

Throughout its history Chornomorska Sitch has remained committed to the fate of Ukraine. In order to conduct actions on behalf of Ukrainian causes, it has formed political clubs, which culminated in the creation of the organization Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine, which has been active to this day. The latter was formed due to the efforts of Sitch activists Ihor Olshaniwsky, Bozhena Olshaniwsky, Ivan Oryniak and Walter Bodnar.

## Sitch members on the Ukrainian sports arena

In addition to their work within the Sitch club, several Sitch members have been holding leadership positions within USCAK for more than two decades. They are: Mr. Stebelsky, Mr. Twardowsky, Mr. Napora, Dr. Popovych, Marika Bokalo and Roman Pyndus. These activists were the main initiators of the cooperation between USCAK and the sports authorities of Ukraine, such as the National Olympic Committee, the State Sports Committee and the individual sports federations. They also established the Fund for the Rebirth of Sports in Ukraine, from which significant financial support was provided to give the athletes of newly independent Ukraine their start in the world arena. This included partial funding of Ukraine's participation in the Winter Olympiad in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994, and in the Atlanta Summer Olympiad in 1996.

Throughout its history Chornomorska Sitch has worked closely with other patriotic Ukrainian organizations, in particular the fraternal associations in which Sitch branches have remained active to this day, namely Ukrainian National Association Branch 214 and Ukrainian Fraternal Association Branch 259.

On the occasions of its anniversary celebrations in previous decades, Chornomorska Sitch has received numerous greetings and expressions of appreciation for its successful

(Continued on page 21)

## The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: August

Amount	Name	City	Name	City
\$300.00	Theodozia Pastuszek (in memory of William J. Pastuszek)	Swarthmore, Pa.	Barbara Boyd	Lake Suzy, Fla.
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	Roman Zaplitny	Battle Creek, Mich.		
\$15.00	William Barna	Marlboro, N.J.		

**TOTAL: \$2,740.00**

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\$25.00 Myroslaw Smorodsky Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J.  
(for "Ukraine Lives!")



## THE 13th ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE

### Philadelphia-area Ukrainians enjoy festival at Tryzubivka

HORSHAM, Pa. – A gorgeous summer's day on Sunday, August 22, greeted over 2,200 enthusiastic people at the Ukrainian American Sport Center's home base, Tryzubivka. The Philadelphia area's Ukrainians toasted their ancestral homeland's 13th year of independence with a memorable festival. The show offered the audience a rich variety of talented entertainment and abundant surprises.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Mykhailo Reznik, was in attendance along with his wife and a number of Embassy dignitaries and staff.

After opening prayers led by Pastor Ivan Kowalczyk and the Revs. Frank Estocin, Ivan Demkiw and Jaroslaw Korpel, Ambassador Reznik greeted the people with heartfelt optimistic and patriotic remarks about Ukraine's potential and its future.

After the playing of the Canadian anthem and the singing of the U.S. and Ukrainian anthems by Prometheus Choir soloist Dmytro Terleckyj and the Accolade Chamber Choir, respectively, the show's master of ceremonies, Andrij Shchudlak, introduced an array of classical, folk and modern singers, musicians and dancers: the Barvinok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (London, Ontario); Obrij Folk Dance Ensemble (New York); Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (Philadelphia); Accolade Chamber Choir (Philadelphia); Harmonia Orchestra (New York); the Sisters Oros singers (New York); and solo singers Nadia Liakhovolianska, Nadia Horodynska and Vitaly Velenchuk (all of Ukraine).

The show approached its climax with an exhilarating medley of folk dances, which the Voloshky School of Dance's Academy performed to the loving design of world-class Kyivan choreographer Stepan



Athletes and officials of the Tryzub and Ukraina soccer teams at Tryzubivka.

Zebredovsky, who, along with Virsky soloist dancer, Laryssa Petrenko, and concertmaster, Vitaly Gudziayev, had been training the children and young adults during an intensive two-week dance camp held at Tryzubivka.

The collective energy of talent, hard work and affection that defined Voloshky's camp brought the Tryzub state to life and riveted the audience in a seemingly

endless pageantry of colors and movements. And then came the thunder of the Voloshky Ensemble's Hopak, accented by a surprise performance by Ms. Petrenko.

The concert was followed by a vibrant dance to the tunes of the Harmonia Orchestra.

#### Tryzub beats Ukraina

In the late afternoon the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) East champion, Tryzub's Ukrainian Nationals, kicked off against Toronto's Ukraina team, the West champion. It was a hard-fought match, which saw Tryzub prevail over Ukraina 2-1.

In the first half, Tryzub had several chances to move in front, but was thwarted each time by the fine play of Ukraina's goalkeeper, who kept the game scoreless at halftime. The home side finally scored the match's first goal in the 60th minute and then added another in the 67th minute to go up 2-0.

Just as it looked like Tryzub would win easily, the visitors from Toronto fought back and scored in the 70th minute to make the game close. Tryzub tightened up its defense, as Ukraina never threatened again, to secure the win.

After the match, Tryzub's Player/Coach Petro Boretskii was presented the USCAK Cup trophy, which is now displayed proudly in the club.

### Northeastern Pennsylvanians gather at County Courthouse



Seen outside the Lackawanna County Courthouse are (from left): the Rev. Paul Wolensky, Sophie Soniak, Paul Ewasko, Commissioners A.J. Munchak, Robert C. Cordaro and Randy A. Castellani, and the Rev. Nestor Kowal.

SCRANTON, Pa. – On Tuesday, August 24, the Lackawanna County Commissioners invited members of the Ukrainian American community to the county courthouse in Central City Scranton to publicly celebrate the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Commissioners Robert C. Cordaro, A.J. Munchak and Randy A. Castellani proclaimed Tuesday, August 24, as "Ukrainian Independence Day" in Lackawanna County, emphasizing that Ukrainians throughout the world have preserved an indestructible spirit of religious, cultural, historical and national identity. They noted that all freedom-loving people and the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania share in the celebration of the anniversary of Ukraine's long-awaited self-determi-

nation and casting off of Soviet communism.

Coordinated by the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the ceremonies took place outdoors at the main entrance to the courthouse and also included the raising of the Ukrainian flag and singing of both the Ukrainian national anthem and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

This year's celebration was dedicated to all the Ukrainian athletes participating in the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. As citizens of free Ukraine, they no longer lose their true identity by being labeled as athletes of the Soviet Union, but now to the entire world they proudly represent their sovereign homeland, Ukraine.

### Pennsylvanians send thanks to Empire State Building officials

SCRANTON, Pa. – The Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania sent a thank you to the officials of the Empire State Building for the Ukrainian Independence Day display at the landmark.

The following text appears on the official Empire State Building website.

"To everyone at the Empire State Building whose responsibility it is to light the tower, we say thank you for acknowledging the 13th anniversary of Ukraine's independence on August 24. For miles upon miles one could see the blue and gold of the Ukrainian flag symbolized by the tower's blue and gold lights.

"What you did is truly wonderful. It was such a thoughtful gesture to all Ukrainians throughout the world.

"On behalf of the Ukrainian Americans of Northeastern Pennsylvania [we are frequent visitors to New York City], please accept our deep appreciation for your kindness.

"Slava Ukraina! Glory to Ukraine! God Bless America!"

The letter was signed by Paul S. Ewasko, president, Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## Diplomats tour...

(Continued from page 1)

performed, Dutch Ambassador Monique Frank noted, "It was very important for me to come and see this project with my own eyes. It became obvious to me that, prior to construction, many project designs were considered and the best one was selected. Prior to this visit, I was convinced that this project was the only one of its kind in the area. Now I know that the Romanians have in fact three similar waterways in existence, and my views on Ukraine's waterway construction have changed drastically. Being from Holland, I know how delicate one must be when balancing the needs of nature versus regional economic development."

Ukrainian proponents of the canal note that a fully functioning (and Ukrainian-owned and operated) Danube River deep-water transportation canal would reap significant economic benefits for Ukraine and position it as an attractive alternative to Romania due to the new canal's significantly less expensive transportation and handling tariffs.

At present, Romania services over 70 percent of all Danube River-based transportation necessities, and Ukraine's ambition to enter this market is causing Bucharest to scramble to find ways to keep its current clientele from signing

shipping contracts with Ukraine, say supporters of the new canal.

The Danube River has long served as a vital link between Europe and the Black Sea region. While minuscule when compared to the volume of goods shipped through the Bosphorus Straits, Danube River trade has played an important regional commercial role. According to Ukraine's Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Ukraine hopes to capitalize on its newly constructed waterway by providing less expensive yet higher quality transportation services for vessels carrying goods from the Caspian Sea region to Europe.

Newly signed agreements between Ukraine, Russia, Kazakstan and Iran are already examining ways to use the services available through the Ukrainian deep-water canal to move the named countries' goods into more lucrative markets more quickly, cheaply and under more flexible terms.

Despite the division the Danube project has caused between the two neighboring countries, the Ukrainian government assured its diplomatic guests that relations between Kyiv and Bucharest are and will remain strong. In a statement released by the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 14, Ukraine states that it has abided by all international environmental conventions and has in fact prescreened reactions by

sending design plans, blueprints and environmental impact studies to all parties that requested these documents.

The positive reactions and supportive positions of many of the diplomats who participated in last week's Danube tour cast doubt on Romanian and other claims of serious environmental damage and disruption to already existing waterway transportation systems.

According to the Ukrainian government, apart from the regional benefits the deep-water canal project will bring to Ukraine, it will also serve as a vital element in Ukraine's overall Single Economic Space (SES) strategy. Speaking at the ongoing SES summit meetings in Astana, Kazakstan, President Leonid Kuchma urged his counterparts to work quickly to draft legal documents

that would form the legal base of the SES. "We must look at effectively using our transport systems," he said. In addition, Mr. Kuchma remarked that the opening of the Danube River Delta canal has dramatically reduced the cost of cargo transportation for Ukraine and Russia.

As with other large infrastructure projects in Ukraine, time will be the ultimate judge on how well Ukraine has maintained the delicate balance between Mother Nature and economic development needs. For now, it appears that the diplomats who inspected the Danube project seized the opportunity to not only see one of Ukraine's most beautiful wetlands but also had a chance to see for themselves the extent to which the project conforms with international environmental standards.

## Young violinist...

(Continued from page 3)

dreams are fulfilled."

Mr. Bystriushkyn noted in his letter that the Kyiv city government had passed a resolution in April 2000 that offered stipends to "talented but impoverished students of institutions of higher learning." (Gliere Academy offers both a high school and university-level program and ideally takes students from 10th grade through college. It is officially registered as an institution of higher education.) Thus, the city was ready to pay tuition, as well as provide the young musician some pocket change.

It seems that when a letter from the Office of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada also arrived on the desk of Gliere Academy's director, Serhii Volkov, inquiring about the teenager's situation, Ihor's future was decided. Even so, Ihor still had to perform on his instrument, show some vocal talent and pass a basic

writing test before he would be admitted – as had so many other aspiring talents in the school's 136-year history.

Gliere Academy, which has eight specializations, including piano, orchestral strings, folk singing and choir conducting, was founded in 1868. Today it is internationally known for its Vladimir Horowitz Competition, an annual international contest for young piano prodigies. It counts among its graduates the pianists Horowitz, Simon Barer and Alexander Brilovsky, along with the composer Lev Revutsky. Prominent benefactors over the years have included such notable historic figures as Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff and Anton Rubinstein.

Whether Ihor will reach those heights will only come to light in some distant future. For now, he is intent on his studies and his street music, which he said he had no intention of giving up because, for one, he liked to play to live audiences.

"Sometimes I just want to play," explained Ihor. "Now I think that I will be able to learn a lot of new compositions."

### 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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## Ukrainian singer heads for final of "Canadian Idol" competition

SASKATOON – It's down to the wire for Ukrainian Canadian singer Theresa Sokyryka as she takes the stage on Thursday, September 16 (as The Ukrainian Weekly goes to press) in the final of CTV's "Canadian Idol," a televised nationwide search for the country's next pop superstar.

Ms. Sokyryka, 23, is one of two finalists who emerged from a field of 9,000 competitors. The "prairie girl" from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, as she has been called, will compete against Kalan Porter, 18, who comes from a ranch near Medicine Hat, Alberta.

In a previous round of "Canadian Idol," Ms. Sokyryka and fellow Ukrainian Canadian Kyla Sandulak were among 32 singers remaining in the competition (see The Weekly, July 4). They appeared in auditions that were broadcast on June 3, and both made it to the national public voting round. Ms. Sandulak appeared on TV on June 16 and 17, while Ms. Sokyryka appeared on June 30 and July 1.

The Canadian Press reported that when Ms. Sokyryka was asked by CTV's "Canadian Idol" what she would most like to do on her whirlwind 24-hour tour to Saskatoon, she knew the answer immediately.

"I want to go back to my elementary school to see my former classmates and teachers who played such an important part in the development of my love and appreciation for my music and my Ukrainian culture," she told the news service.

The CP reported that on August 27, in the middle of her Idol journey, Ms. Sokyryka was able to return to the Ukrainian-English bilingual school to sign autographs and talk to teachers and students. The visit was not open to the general public, yet 400 invited guests packed the school gym for the singer's visit.

Multiculturalism Matters, the newsletter of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, carried the following information about the visit.

### An emotional visit

"It was a very emotional, a very proud moment," said Cecilia Kachkowski, a Grade 1 teacher at the school, which currently provides about 170 children in K-8 with academic skills in Ukrainian, an understanding of the Ukrainian Byzantine Church tradition and an appreciation for the Ukrainian Canadian cultural heritage within Canada's mosaic of cultures. They explore the many facets of Ukrainian culture such as traditional music, literature, costume, dance, foods, art, crafts and architecture. Students can continue their Ukrainian studies at E.D. Feehan High School.

Theresa was in Grade 3 when she began the Ukrainian-English bilingual program. To catch up to her classmates, she had to learn three grades of Ukrainian in one year. For most students, this would be too difficult. But not for Theresa. "She's persistent," said her father, Harold Sokyryka. "When you give her a task she completes it."

Harold and Sonia Sokyryka moved to Saskatoon from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, with their family in 1989 and Mr. Sokyryka said they couldn't pass up the chance for their youngest daughter to attend the only Ukrainian-English bilingual program in Saskatchewan, then at St. Goretta School. Now at Holy Family School, the St. Nicholas Ukrainian-English bilingual program provides students with the opportunity to learn in Ukrainian for half of each day. "It is superior," said Mr. Sokyryka. "I can't speak more highly of it."

Theresa, now 23, has become a role model for the students, who made signs to show their support and asked for the singer's autograph. "She presents herself so well," said Ms. Kachkowski, who



An emotional entry into the school auditorium: Theresa Sokyryka is led in by teachers (from left) Olya Kowaluk (her third grade teacher) and Cecilia Kachkowski.

helped roll out the red carpet for Theresa's visit. "She's considerate, kind and always cares about others." The visit featured a Power Point presentation about Theresa's school days and Idol journey, as well as trivia questions about her life and was part of the bilingual program's 25th anniversary celebrations. Theresa's Grade 1 and high school music teachers were among those at the reception.

"It's just a wonderful school," said Mr. Sokyryka, who described the reception as a tear jerker – but a happy one. "They were tears of joy."

### A stopover at Ukraine Day

On August 28, the day after her visit to Holy Family School, Ms. Sokyryka visited Saskatoon's Ukraine Day in the Park, where she was welcomed by a crowd of 3,000.

After being home for 27 hours, the singer departed for Toronto that afternoon to con-

tinue her preparations for "Canadian Idol."

### A member of the UNA

Ms. Sokyryka is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 444.

According to the Ukrainian National Association's director for Canada, Albert Kachkowski, "There is an incredible amount of excitement across the country" over Ms. Sokyryka's participation in "Canadian Idol."

He added, "My wife and I just got an invitation to sit in the VIP section for the final show at 6 p.m. our time (broadcast by satellite from Toronto) at Credit Union Place, our hockey arena that seats 11,000 people. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and admission will be free to the public. It will be interesting to see how many people show up."

Mr. Kachkowski also noted that the City Council named August and September "Theresa months," and he underscored that "Theresa is a huge winner no matter what happens."



Holy Family School students hold up "Theresa" welcome sign.



Theresa sings and reaches out to adoring fans at Ukraine Day in the Park.

## SOYUZIVKA SCRAPBOOK: Labor Day weekend events bid farewell to summer



Larissa Oprysko

Guests at the Soyuzivka resort enjoy a game of volleyball on Saturday.



Ivan Fedynsky

Clarissa Moysaenko and Chrystia Liscynetsky of Cleveland.



Lev Khmelkovsky

Dancers of the Mamai ensemble perform on the Veselka terrace.



Andrea Popovich

Soyuzivka guests enjoy a portion of the Labor Day weekend at the expanded Tiki Bar.

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort again played host to several thousand guests who came to celebrate the Labor Day weekend. With all of the rooms at the resort booked, and many more people coming by day on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, guests later recounted that this year's festivities seemed to bring out a larger number of people than in the past few years.

And those who did come out surely found something to occupy their time. On Friday night, September 3, the resort's volleyball court was the site of a pub night featuring the popular Ukrainian band Luna.

The following day, guests could listen as the band Chornozem played from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Guests could also listen to the music of Stefan Stawnychy, who played from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Ukrainian dance ensemble Mamai entertained guests at 8 p.m. that night while the popular Fata Morgana and Tempo bands let their music fill the air during the evening's zabava.

That same day the resort also presented an exhibit of paintings by Taras Bilchuk, as well as an exhibit of Zenon Holubec's bas-reliefs on wood.

The Ukrainian dance ensemble Mamai and Mr. Stawnychy performed again the following day, while the zabava that night featured Tempo and the band Vorony.

Guests to the resort this year saw the popular Tiki Bar expanded and, indeed, seemed to approve of the change as the bar was often packed.

The resort also hosted the long-running annual Ukrainian Tennis Championship of the U.S.A. and Canada, as well as the annual Labor Day weekend Swimming Competition, both of which are held under the auspices of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada. Readers who are interested in learning more about the results of this year's tournament can expect to find that news reported in next week's issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.



Andriy Kostecki

At the zabava on Saturday night (from left) are: Michelle Poliwka, Lesia Sayik, Lesyk Hewryk, Olenka Welhasch, Andriy Kostecki, Danylo and Larysa Popadynech and Roman Chwyl.



Alex Mehrle

Pictured during the zabava on Friday night are Boris and Ulana Tatunchak.



Andriy Olynech

Enjoying himself on Friday night in Soyuzivka's Veselka Bar is Taras Petrenko.



Ivan Fedynsky

Seen at a nearby resort before making their way to Soyuzivka are (from left): Julian Klepach, John Fedynsky, Alex Haidukewych (crouching), Victor Figacz, Clarissa Moysaenko and Andrew Bluj.



Andrea Popovich

On Saturday night, members of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization sorority Chornomorski Khyvli gathered for a group picture prior to a cocktail hour event.



Andriy Olynech

Christina Shewczuk and Ann Barankewicz.



Larissa Oprysko

Stefan Stawnychy (center) performs with his band members on Saturday at the Tiki Bar. Seen on the left is cellist McKensy Seher; on the right is bass player Bart McIluff.



Lev Khmelkovsky

Mamai dancers at the conclusion of their rendition of the Hopak.

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## Highlights...

(Continued from page 4)

the UNA under the slogan "With reverence for the past, with a vision for the future."

The convention marked both a continuation and a renewal in the composition of the UNA General Assembly. Ulana Diachuk was elected to her second term as UNA president, and the new UNA General Assembly counted seven new advisors among the 14 on the assembly. UNA Supreme Secretary Walter Sochan retired after more than 45 years of service to the organization – 28 of them as a member of the Executive Committee. He received a five-minute standing ovation from delegates who bid him a fond farewell.

Among the amendments to the UNA By-Laws that were approved at the convention were the following provisions: the term "supreme" was deleted from the UNA lexicon in the titles of officers and in the name of the Supreme Assembly (which now became the General Assembly); both newspapers published by the UNA, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, were recognized as its official publications (previously only Svoboda was mentioned in the by-laws); and the UNA seal was enhanced with the addition of the date of the association's founding, 1894. As well, the position of supreme vice-presidentess was eliminated and replaced by a second vice-president.

Delegates approved donations totaling \$50,000 to various national causes and organizations; voted to keep the Ukrainian-language newspaper Svoboda a daily; and passed resolutions that called for, among other things, a marketing strategy for the UNA's publications, a special conference to examine the demographics of the Ukrainian American community, the activation of the already chartered Ukrainian National Foundation to oversee projects aimed at helping Ukraine and the opening of a press bureau in Toronto.

The convention was notable also for the UNA centennial concert, dubbed the "Festival of Ukrainian Songs and Dances," that took place on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh and featured the Poltava Dance Company of Pittsburgh, the Prometheus Chorus of Philadelphia and the Kashtan Dance Ensemble of Cleveland. In addition, the convention banquet focused on the UNA's 100th anniversary with a keynote address delivered by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, author of the soon-to-be-published history of the UNA.

*Source: "Ukrainian National Association convention looks to future; Diachuk begins second term; new generation of activists elected to advisory board," by Marta Kolomayets, and "The UNA moves on" (editorial), The Ukrainian Weekly, May 15, 1994, Vol. LXII, No. 20. The border used for this special feature is reproduced from a UNA membership certificate dating to 1919.*

## Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
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As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

## Presidential race...

(Continued from page 1)

gests that the election will go to Prime Minister Yanukovich.

The Supreme Court of Ukraine, the final arbiter of election-related disputes, has weighed in on the equal access issue. On September 14 it ruled in favor of the Yushchenko campaign, which had recently filed six complaints with the court against the Central Election Commission (CEC) regarding the lack of access by the candidate to many of Ukraine's largest television networks.

"This victory over the actions of separate Central Election Commission members makes impossible their further refusal to consider complaints about TV channels and, finally, obliges it [the CEC] to consider this painful question at the next regular CEC meeting," said Mykola Katernychuk, a member of the Verkhovna Rada and a Yushchenko proxy.

In an apparent response to the Supreme Court ruling and international pressure, President Kuchma appealed to private media with a request that they give equal airtime to all presidential candidates for political advertising. According to the UNIAN news service, the deputy chief of the presidential administration, Vasyl Baziv, on September 10 stated: "Our common task is to provide a democratic, transparent and free election. An unmatched number of presidential candidates have registered (26). Voters have difficulties with receiving enough information about every candidate to make a conscious and reasonable choice. In connection with this, I address to you a demand to treat with understanding the necessity of following the principles of equal opportunities and democracy, and to give airtime for political advertising to each presidential candidate."

Despite its narrow lead in the polls, the Yushchenko campaign claims that its most active phase has yet to begin. Its strategy is based in part on an analysis of the 2002 parliamentary elections, acting on the assumption that most voters make their final decision during the last 60 days of the campaign.

With a style that is up-front and personal rather than strongly reliant on electronic media to get the message out, Mr. Yushchenko is crisscrossing Ukraine and plans to continue doing so up to the last minute, striving to convince voters that he is their best choice and hope for a better

Ukraine.

As previously reported, there have been confirmed attempts by individuals sympathetic to Mr. Yanukovich to derail Mr. Yushchenko's campaign travels and busy meeting schedule. As a further attempt to unnerve an already anxious election monitoring group, UNIAN and other wire services recently reported that the Ukrainian government is sending out instructions to regional officials to put foreign election observers under surveillance.

Holding in hand a document obtained from the Poltava Regional State Administration, National Deputy Valerii Asadchev, a Yushchenko representative, quoted parts of the document as requiring information on "the number of observers, their names and the country or organization they represent, which places they have visited and whom they have met, and what queries have been made."

Public opinion polls also provided an interesting look into the psyche of the typical Ukrainian voter. When asked in a poll conducted by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation and Kyiv International Institute of Sociology on September 13 about their views on important individual leadership qualities, 43 percent of Ukrainians responded by stating that their president should be honest, respectable and uncompromised. A further 28 percent felt that their president should be responsible and true to his word. About 24 percent spoke of having a strong and positive political agenda, while 22 percent felt that their president should bring order to Ukraine as quickly as possible using whatever methods necessary.

Other qualities and traits cited ranged from having previous leadership experience and intellectual dexterity to possessing the necessary patience and stamina to deal with Ukrainian politics. The poll reported that 35 percent of those questioned were skeptical of anyone within the presidential candidate pool being honest, respectable and uncompromising.

According to the laws regulating Ukrainian presidential elections, a candidate is declared the winner if he/she receives 50 percent plus one vote in the first round. If neither candidate reaches this threshold, a second round is held and the candidate who receives the majority of votes is declared the winner.

An interesting nuance exists when a second-round candidate drops out of the race. Should this happen, the entire election is invalidated and new elections are mandated within three months.



The Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union New York with deep sorrow announces to its members and the Ukrainian American community the passing on September 10, 2004, of

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Manager-Treasurer of the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union and member of the Supervisory Committee of the Ukrainian Credit Union Association of America.

Members of the Board of Directors and the entire staff express their deepest sorrow to his wife, Irene, son Bohdan, parents Maria and Volodymyr Lesiw, sisters Christine and Larissa and their families.

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## Democratic revolution...

(Continued from page 2)

the aim of including, through their actions, extremist-directed individuals" (Ukrainska Pravda, August 8). Then on August 10 President Kuchma reversed his April 21 decree combining the Sumy universities. The decision was made "to remove premises for political speculation and confrontation." It is difficult to imagine 100 students forcing a Western president or prime minister to backtrack in such a way.

The same is true of President Kuchma's decision to suspend further privatization ahead of the elections. The June privatization of Kryvorizhstal by oligarchs Viktor Pinchuk and Rynat Akhmetov was widely condemned inside and outside Ukraine as heavily fixed in their favor. Mr. Kuchma halted further privatizations because the opposition had stated that these sales would be reversed if they came to power.

On August 22, the Internal Affairs Ministry (known by its Ukrainian acronym as MVS), Security Service (SBU) and the Procurator General's Office issued a joint statement that warned they were taking "preventive measures." According to these agencies, "We have evidence indicating that the opposition political forces are currently preparing various and dangerous acts aimed at destabilizing the country." The statement further claimed that protests planned in the event of election fraud "are dangerous for society and domestic stability, and will be dealt with according to Ukrainian law." The bulletin alleged that the opposition was calling upon Ukrainians to "express protest in the most extreme forms - a revolt" (Ukrainska Pravda, August 22).

Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko,

a Yushchenko ally, has indeed warned that she would "organize and lead acts of civil disobedience" if the authorities used the same tactics they unveiled in the April mayoral elections in Mukachiv (Zerkalo Nedeli, August 21). In that race, the opposition won the popular vote, but the authorities declared their candidate to be the victor.

But how many Ukrainians would take to the streets to marshal a "Georgian scenario"? A national poll by the respected Kyiv-based Razumkov think-tank found that 84 percent of those polled agreed that they had a right to protest on the streets in the event of election fraud (Ukrainska Pravda, August 5). Only 6 percent disagreed.

The Razumkov experts cautioned that not all favorable respondents would automatically hit the streets to protest. At the same time, they warned, "It would be naive to hope that the authorities can without limits discredit themselves in the eyes of their own population without an outcome that could turn out to be fatal to themselves" (Ukrainska Pravda, August 5).

Another poll conducted by the Democratic Initiatives Fund and Socis found that 18.1 percent of Ukrainians were ready to take part in protests against election fraud, as opposed to believing they had a right, as in the Razumkov poll (UNIAN, July 23). Some 10.6 percent would strongly protest if their candidate did not win the elections.

An estimated 53.3 percent of Ukrainians would prefer to trust the planned exit polls, which will be the biggest of any Ukrainian elections, rather than the official result if the two differ (UNIAN, July 23). Ukraine's largest planned exit polls, coupled with plans by the opposition to block attempts at election fraud, concern authorities that are not

confident of winning the elections. Stepan Havrysh, Mr. Yanukovych's official representative on the Central Election Committee, and Mr. Yanukovych himself, have attempted, therefore, to downplay

the significance of these planned exit polls (Ukrainska Pravda, August 27).

The irony is that the provocations that have taken place have been the work of the authorities, not the opposition.

## Is Washington...

(Continued from page 2)

to investigate their offshore bank accounts (The New York Times, March 17). Second, Western Europe and the European Union were not party to the agreement and could still criticize election fraud.

Whatever Messrs. Kuchma and Rumsfeld discussed, the pro-presidential media still are anti-American. The pro-presidential centrists are the only political forces in the Ukrainian Parliament who are continuing to support the presence of Ukrainian troops in Iraq. State television is broadcasting warnings by pro-presidential candidates, on both the extreme left and the extreme right, to vote against Mr. Yushchenko because he is a "nationalist" and has an American wife. Many of the stations airing these warnings are controlled by Viktor Medvedchuk, head of the presidential administration.

Prior to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's visit, the Ukrainian authorities had begun leaking stories and making off-hand comments that they were considering withdrawing Ukrainian troops from Iraq. This exercise was part of an ongoing operation aimed at extracting advantages for President Kuchma and his chosen successor, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych. The authorities understand that after Spain withdrew its troops earlier this year, withdrawing Ukrainian troops prior to the U.S. elections would harm President George W. Bush's ratings.

Mr. Yanukovych has been lukewarm in his support for Ukraine's troops in Iraq.

He knows that three-quarters of Ukrainians want them back home and this policy could affect his election chances. On a campaign tour of Donetsk just prior to the U.S. defense secretary's visit, Mr. Yanukovych warned that Ukraine would be reducing its military contingent in Iraq. With these remarks he sought to distance his candidacy from the highly unpopular issue of Ukrainian troops in Iraq.

Defense Minister Marchuk had already raised this theme through diplomatic channels with Poland and the United States (Era Television Channel, July 29). But after meeting Mr. Rumsfeld in Crimea, Mr. Marchuk refuted rumors that Ukraine was considering pulling out its troops, warning, "No one can give you a deadline [for withdrawal] yet" (AP, August 13). Their withdrawal will depend, Mr. Marchuk explained, on how quickly Iraq establishes its own security forces.

While the rumors of a secret deal between Secretary Rumsfeld and President Kuchma are probably false, Washington continues to send mixed signals to Kyiv. The U.S. Congress and State Department have joined with the European Union and the Council of Europe to send strong signals about the need to hold free and fair elections. A U.S. delegation, led by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), visited Kyiv last week and reiterated these concerns, which is, of course, what the opposition wants to hear. At the same time, the Ukrainian opposition believes the U.S. National Security Council and the Department of Defense are more interested in Iraq than democratization.



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## BOOK NOTES

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*"Vsesvit Khirurha"* by Andrew S. Olearchyk. Lviv, Ukraine: Medytsyna Svitu, 2003, 528 pp., \$50 plus \$2.26 postage (paperback).

The theme of the book "A Surgeon's Universe," written in Ukrainian, with some chapters in English, Russian and Polish, encompasses the universe and geography of the Earth, history and politics, culture, science and technology, a history of Ukrainian medicine and health welfare, general surgery, anesthesiology, especially thoracic, cardiac and vascular surgery, and relationships between physicians.

The book's author is Andrew S. Olearchyk, a board certified thoracic and cardiac surgeon.

As the author notes, the book describes events of almost a whole lifetime in the 20th century and the observations of a person who had the opportunity to see with his own eyes the northern hemisphere of the Earth from Ukraine, and from the westernmost parts of Alaska in the United States of America to the Far East of Russia.

The chapters "Basic medical science in Ukraine" and "Clinical medicine in Ukraine" contain brief data about scientists in the medical field and physicians born in Ukraine, Ukrainians by nationality, or connected to Ukraine, who made significant contributions to the development of medical science.

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The book also includes the author's own contribution to general surgery, anesthesiology, cardiac, vascular and thoracic surgery, as well as his publications. It includes 357 figures and six tables.

The book may be purchased from the author: Dr. Andrew S. Olearchyk, 129 Walt Whitman Blvd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-3746; asolearchyk@yahoo.com.



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# THE NEWS FROM HERE

## FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.: Ukrainian volunteers wanted for 26th annual International Folk Festival

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – On September 26 the small North Carolina town of Fayetteville will once again host the International Folk Festival. Thirty countries will be represented at the 26th annual festival, a popular destination in these parts.

The Ukrainian American Group, chaired by Eugene Kobisky, is appealing to fellow Ukrainian Americans for assistance as the Ukrainian community here is very small – consisting of five families, including senior citizens.

Writing as “a devoted patriot,” Mr. Kobisky noted: “My Dear Brothers and Sisters we need your assistance in participating in our 26th International Folk Festival being held on September 26 at noon-6 p.m. We are asking for you to have fun at this festival and then join us in the Parade of Nations at 3 p.m.”

Thus, his request is a simple one: come on down, attend this free festival (there is no admission fee), have some fun and help represent Ukraine. He added, “If you are traveling on I-95 near Fayetteville, then stop, take a break and visit with us.”

To participate in the parade, Mr. Kobisky advises that volunteers should wear traditional Ukrainian attire – at a minimum an embroidered shirt for men or embroidered blouse for women. However, if readers can come in full Ukrainian outfits, that is encouraged. There are plans also for the group to perform a Ukrainian song.

The festival takes place in the center of town, which will be closed to traffic.

To volunteer for participation in the Ukrainian contingent, or for more information, readers may contact Mr. Kobisky at home at (910) 822-3177 or at work at (910) 396-2050.

Mr. Kobisky noted that Ukraine was the International Folk Festival's host country in 1994, when 45,000 people attended and, thus, were exposed to the beauty of Ukrainian culture.

The hosting of the festival, he added, was a huge endeavor, but “now our local population knows Ukraine and its people.



The Ukrainian contingent participates in the 2003 International Folk Festival in Fayetteville, N.C. Eugene Kobisky is seen on the left in sharavary; Wolodymyr Morovsky holds a portrait of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's bard; and Wolodymyr Bilous holds the sign “Ukraine.”

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. Yushchenko asserted. He said such threatening phenomena in his country can be warded off by the West by proposing full EU membership to Ukraine “on the basis of established criteria for membership.” (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Is majority coalition disintegrating?

KYIV – The parliamentary caucus of the Popular Agrarian Party of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as NAPU) has relieved itself of “coalition obligations” and suspended its membership in the parliamentary majority that supports the Cabinet of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, UNIAN reported on September 10. The NAPU, which has 21 deputies in the Verkhovna Rada, is headed by Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. Moreover, 11 lawmakers from the 16-strong Center group in the Verkhovna Rada said the same day that they are leaving the pro-government majority. The previous day, the Democratic Initiatives-People's Power caucus, which has 15 deputies, also announced its pullout from the pro-government parliamentary coalition. Both the NAPU and the Democratic Initiatives – People's Power caucuses cited a lack of coordination and communication between the government and people's deputies as the main reasons for their withdrawal. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### U.S. official urges democratic election

KYIV – U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs John Tefft told journalists in Kyiv on September 8 that the United States hopes that the upcoming presidential election in Ukraine is democratic, Interfax reported. Mr. Tefft said Washington has received reports that not all of Ukraine's presidential candidates enjoy equal access to regional

media and that there have been cases of intimidation of voters in Ukraine. Mr. Tefft added, however, that Washington does not think that the election process in Ukraine is “doomed.” Mr. Tefft also expressed hope that Ukraine does not withdraw its contingent from Iraq. Mr. Tefft held a press conference following a meeting with President Leonid Kuchma. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Feud over Danube project continues...

BUCHAREST – Romanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Catalin Ionita on September 13 again called on Ukraine to respect its international commitments and supply relevant information on the construction of a controversial deep-water shipping canal in the Danube Delta, Mediafax reported. Mr. Ionita added that a field trip Ukraine organized for diplomats and journalists to visit the canal cannot replace an environmental-impact study on the issue. Mr. Ionita's comments came following statements made the same day in Bucharest by Ukraine's Ambassador to Romania Teofil Bauer, who argued that Ukraine is no less interested than Romania in preserving the Danube Delta's ecological diversity. Mr. Bauer said he participated in the recent field trip, and claimed that most of the ambassadors and journalists on the trip agreed that “there were no serious reasons to worry about possible negative effects the canal would have on the Ukrainian section [of the delta], let alone cross-border impact.” The greater part of the delta lies in Romania. The European Union and the United States have both asked Ukraine to halt construction until a more comprehensive environmental-impact assessment can be completed. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### ...Norwegian PM urges impact study

BUCHAREST – After discussions with his Romanian counterpart, Adrian Nastase, on September 13 in Bucharest, Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said the construction of the

deep-water canal should be halted until an extensive environmental-impact study can be conducted, Mediafax reported. He said that Norway “fully understands” Romania's concern over the issue. Messrs. Bondevik and Nastase also discussed

bilateral relations and cooperation within NATO. Mr. Bondevik said Romania is considered an important military partner, and that beginning in 2005 the Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest will have a permanent military attaché. (RFE/RL Newswire)

## ELECTION WATCH

(Continued from page 3)

sympathize with the opposition, prevent opposition election staff members in Kyiv from sending advertising materials or money to the provinces, and thwart the printing of election campaign advertisements by opposition candidates in the provinces. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### CEC allows polling stations abroad

KYIV – The Central Election Commission of Ukraine has allowed the setting up of polling stations abroad outside embassies and consulates, where there are high concentrations of Ukrainians living abroad, reported 1+1 television on August 27. The decision will make it possible for many Ukrainians who work abroad to take part in the presidential election slated for October 31. According to unofficial data, one in five voters possessing a Ukrainian passport works abroad illegally. (BBC Monitoring)

### 113 polling stations to be set up abroad

KYIV – The Central Election Commission (CEC) has already set up 113 polling stations abroad so that Ukrainian citizens who are out of the country can vote in the presidential election, reported 1+1 television on September 10. The largest number of polling stations is in Germany – five. In Poland, Russia and the United States, there are four apiece. In Italy and Spain, countries that have the largest numbers of Ukrainian migrant workers, there are two polling stations each. In Portugal, there is

only one. All of the polling stations are located in diplomatic missions, which means that it will mainly be legally employed Ukrainians who go there to vote. Despite promises from the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the government not to punish them, illegal workers are unlikely to vote. The CEC had earlier decided to set up polling stations abroad outside diplomatic missions, so that even those who are not on the consular register could vote. (BBC Monitoring)

### Canada to have two polling stations

TORONTO – In accordance with a September 10 decision of the Central Election Commission, Canada will have two polling stations where Ukrainian citizens living abroad can vote. The stations are: District No. 41, located at the Embassy of Ukraine, 310 Somerset St. W., Ottawa; and District No. 42, located at the Consulate General of Ukraine, 2120 Bloor St. W., Toronto. (Consulate General of Ukraine in Toronto)

### Crimean Tatars back Yushchenko

KYIV – A congress of the Crimean Tatar people (Kurultai) has asked fellow countrymen to vote for presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko, reported the Kyiv-based Era broadcaster on September 12. The Kurultai said that the Crimean Tatars associate Mr. Yushchenko's activities with democratic development of the entire state and of the Crimean Tatar people in particular. The Kurultai urged all Crimean voters regardless of their ethnic and religious background to take part in the election. (BBC Monitoring)

## Boston-area Ukrainians trying to help gravely injured student from Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – In early July, Oleh Bizyaev, a young man from Ukraine who was pursuing graduate studies toward a Ph.D. in economics at Boston College, was found lying in the street, his head severely beaten.

He was taken to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he underwent surgery. A portion of his skull was removed in order to relieve pressure on his brain.

As he lay in the hospital in an unconscious state, his mother, Aleksandra, and brother, Vadym, arrived from Ukraine to be at his side. As of early September, Oleh Bizyaev remained unconscious, but was breathing on his own.

The 28-year-old honors student, who was in the United States thanks to a grant from the Soros Foundation, hails from Odesa. In 1998 he graduated at the top of his class from Odesa State University, where he was a student in the physics department. He holds a master's degree in economics from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

The Boston-area community of

Ukrainian Americans has sprung into action to help Mr. Bizyaev. St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church has opened an account for funds to help pay for his medical expenses. Now the community is appealing to fellow Ukrainian Americans to help out.

Donations may be sent to: Ukrainian Fraternal Federal Credit Union, P. O. Box 185, Boston, MA 02132-0185. Checks should be made payable to St. Andrew Church Account No. 1085.

Most recently, the fund-raising campaign was bolstered by Ukraine's consul general in New York, Serhiy Pohoreltzev, who wrote an appeal to the Ukrainian American community that appeared in Svoboda. The appeal called for donations to cover medical care, as well as Mr. Bizyaev's eventual transfer to Ukraine. It was noted that additional information is available from Vice Consul Serhiy Kulykov by calling (212) 371-6965.

Boston-area Ukrainians are also helping Mr. Bizyaev's family with housing and everyday needs while they are in this country.

## Pittsburgh's professionals present scholarship awards to 10 students



During the presentation of scholarship awards (from left) are: Allison Krisza, Eric Senedak, Kira Haluszczak, John Gerega, Gretchen Reinhart, Ruslana Byl, Alex Begey and Dominique George.

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh presented its 2004 Scholarship Awards to undergraduate and graduate students from Western Pennsylvania and bordering cities in Ohio and West Virginia in ceremonies at the Henry Clay Frick Fine Arts Building auditorium on the University of Pittsburgh campus on Sunday, August 8.

Students, family, UTS members and guests were welcomed by Charles P. Kosteki, vice-president, who introduced Michael Korchynsky and Nick C. Kotow, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee.

After a program of Ukrainian musical selections played by Orest Bohonok on the synthesizer, and talks by Dr. Tikhon Zubov and Michael Korchynsky, 10 scholarships totalling \$5,500 were awarded by Mr. Kotow and Irene K. Grimm, secretary of the society.

This was the 32nd year of presentation of scholarships by the UTS Scholarship Program. During this period the society has made 307 awards totalling \$126,500 to 223 different students.

A new scholarship in 2004 for engineering students, the Korchynsky Family Scholarship, underwritten by Dr. Roksana Korchynsky, Michael Korchynsky Jr., and Marina Korchynsky Morari, was awarded to Allison Krisza of Pittsburgh.

The Chester Manasterski Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by Olga Manasterski and her sons, Myron and

Gregory, was awarded to Andrea Matla of Pittsburgh.

The Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union Scholarship was awarded to Gretchen Anne Reinhart of Carnegie, Pa.

Receiving Akim and Tatiana Kutsenkow Memorial Scholarships, underwritten by Dr. and Mrs. Michael Kutsenkow, were Alex Begey of Baden, Pa., Ruslana Byl of Pittsburgh, Eric Senedak of Austintown, Ohio, and Joanna M. Woloschak of North Jackson, Ohio.

Ukrainian Technological Society Scholarships were presented to Dominique E. George of Wheeling, W.Va., John J. Gerega of Freedom, Pa., and Kira Haluszczak of Pittsburgh.

In closing, Mr. Kotow thanked all the contributors to the UTS Scholarship Program, and announced that donations toward the 2005 scholarships were now being accepted. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by law, as the society has Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) designation. Donations to or inquiries about the UTS Scholarship Program may be sent to the Ukrainian Technological Society at P.O. Box 4277, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

In conclusion, Mr. Kotow thanked Kateryna Dowbenko of the University of Pittsburgh Slavic department for her help in making arrangements for use of the auditorium, and invited all to enjoy light refreshments in the courtyard gallery.

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## Roster of Ukrainian performers headed by Slobodyanik helps celebrate anniversary of Morristown theater

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – A gala concert featuring pianists Alexander Slobodyanik and Laryssa Krupa, and opera soloists Oksana Krovytska, soprano and Oleh Chmyr, baritone, will be held as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Morristown Community Theater. The concert will take place Wednesday, September 29, at the Community Theater, 100 South St., at 8 p.m.

Mr. Slobodyanik and Ms. Krupa are featured in the opening night celebrations as co-founders of the Morris International Festival of the Arts (MIFA), which reopened the Community Theater in his- torical Morristown in 1994.

The concert program will feature the New Jersey premiere of Alexander Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra, featuring duo pianists Mr. Slobodyanik and Ms. Krupa, as well as a selection of works by Peter Tchaikovsky, including "Capriccio Italien" and selections from "Eugene Onegin," Piano Concerto No. 1 and the Fourth Symphony.

Featured also will be the Morris Festival Orchestra, under the direction of Robert Luther, music director and principal conductor of the Bangkok Opera and Dance Festival and of the State Orchestra of Moldova, and permanent guest conductor of the Kirov Opera and Ballet.

As co-founder and artistic director of the Morris International Festival of the Arts (1994-1997), Mr. Slobodyanik – a world-renowned pianist from the former Soviet Union – established the festival in Morristown (where he and his wife reside) in order to reopen a concert theater for area arts organizations and as a home for future international festivals. At its highly acclaimed gala opening concert

in September 1994, Mr. Slobodyanik performed as soloist with St. Petersburg's Kirov Orchestra, under the direction of Valery Gergiev. On September 29, Mr. Slobodyanik returns 10 years to the exact date of the original opening night as piano soloist.

As artistic director of MIFA, Mr. Slobodyanik engaged world-renowned musicians and artists who participated in the festival's programs, among them Vladimir Feltsman, Joseph Kalichstein, Peter Serkin, Yuri Bashmet, Maxim Vengerov, Gidon Kremer, Viktor Tretyakov, Luba Kazarnovskaya, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Moscow Soloists, U.S. Military Academy Concert Band, St. Petersburg Ice Ballet and special guests Nobel Prize laureate poet Joseph Brodsky and poet Evgeni Yevtushenko. The festival also included art exhibits of works by Ernst Neizvestny and Mikhail Chemiakin, and master classes by visiting artists.

The success of the festival's master classes led to the establishment of a piano studio for advanced students in preparation for concerts and competitions. Many of Mr. Slobodyanik's students have gone on to win top prizes at competitions, among them Amanda von Goetz and Danylo Shleykov, both first-prize winners, New Jersey Symphony; and Michael Berkovsky, first-prize winner at the Jakob Fliere international piano competition.

Since taking up residence in the United States, Mr. Slobodyanik has continued to concertize as a soloist and chamber musician and as a guest at international music festivals. He teaches annually at the special summer piano program at the State University of New York, New Paltz. Currently he is visiting professor of the St. Petersburg

Conservatory in Russia, and on the faculty of Montclair State University.

Ms. Krupa, a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, is a member of the music faculty of the County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J. Apart from solo recitals and chamber ensemble performances, she performs two-piano repertoire with her husband at such venues as the Australian International Chamber Music Festival, New Paltz Piano Summer and Merkin Concert Hall in New York City.

Ms. Krovytska, a New York City Opera diva whose recent engagements included a return to NYCO as Liu in "Turandot" for her ninth consecutive season, made her debut this past spring with the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow where she sang the leading role of Renata in the Prokofiev opera "The Fiery Angel."

Additional recent concert performances included Dvorak's "Spectre's Bride" with the Netherland Radio Symphony Orchestra under Eri Klas at the Concertgebouw, and a recording of "Spectre's Bride" with Zdenek Macal and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra released on Delos Records.

Her international engagements have included performances with the Casals Festival, Santiago Opera, Opera de Bellas Artes in Mexico, Opera de Monte Carlo and the Opern Air Festival in Austria.

This fall Ms. Krovytska will appear in Miami with the Florida Grand Opera in a role that brought her high critical acclaim as "Madama Butterfly." This winter she sings Senta in Wagner's "Flying Dutchman" with the Alaska Opera and Amelia in Verdi's "Masked Ball" with the Kansas City Opera.

Mr. Chmyr, an internationally accomplished singer of operatic roles and vocal

chamber music, has performed as a principal artist with the Ekaterinburg Opera in Russia, as well as with the Lviv (Ukraine) and Wroclaw (Poland) opera companies.

Currently he is a soloist with the New Jersey State Opera, where he was featured in "Pagliacci" (February 2003) and in "Lucia di Lammermoor" (2004).

As chamber singer, Mr. Chmyr's extensive repertoire includes German lieder, as well as vocal works of Western European, Russian and Ukrainian composers. His CD "European Vocal Miniatures" was released in 2000.

Apart from concertizing throughout the United States, Mr. Chmyr's past performances have included a concert tour in Europe and Ukraine (2002) and the collaboration with Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk in the presentation of the U.S. premiere of the opera "Moisei" (Moses) (2003).

Mr. Chmyr is professor of voice at the County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J.

\*\*\*

Tickets, at \$45, \$55 and \$65, are available at [www.communitythearenj.org](http://www.communitythearenj.org) or at the box office, (973) 539-8008. Groups of 10 or more are entitled to substantial discounts; student tickets, \$10. Premium seats, i.e., the first 15 rows, are not discounted. For additional information, including discounts, call the box office.

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Mr. Slobodyanik and Ms. Krupa will be guests of honor at the Community Theater's Starlight Ball, a benefit gala forming part of the annual fund drive, to be held at Headquarters Plaza Hotel on October 30.

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## "Evening under the Stars" raises funds for SUM camp and resort

by Dania Nauholyk-Lawro

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – On a starry evening Saturday, July 12, the national executive of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) together with its Committee to Preserve the Future for Our Youth and the SUM Camp and Resort in Ellenville, N.Y., launched their first intimate, by-invitation-only fund-raising event appropriately called "Evening under the Stars."

The purpose of this event was to raise funds for a variety of projects to be undertaken by Oselia SUM, the most important of which was to eliminate the burden of the current camp mortgage remaining from construction of the new youth camp several years ago.

This unique fund-raising event took place around the beautifully lit and breathtakingly adorned pool, against the backdrop of some of the Catskill's most scenic slopes. The 45 guests who attended were greeted by committee members with champagne and strawberries, and escorted into the atmosphere of a Ukrainian luau. Oysters and caviar were

among other delicacies that were served throughout the evening while the guests danced to the enchanting music of the popular Chersesh band.

The guests reflected upon the photo collages displayed around the pool which depicted the efforts of their respected predecessors to whom deserving recognition was expressed for their procurement and construction of Oselia SUM, as it is known, this renowned summer magnet for Ukrainian cultural, athletic and recreational gatherings. The collages reflected the many wonderful moments experienced by SUM youths during summer camps at the resort, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year.

During the evening, the honored guests were entertained by SUM youths who were attending the ongoing counselor preparation camp. The head of the SUM's national executive, Bohdan Harhaj, officially welcomed the guests, after which the head of the fund-raising Committee, Dania Nauholyk-Lawro, and the executive manager of Oselia SUM, Petro Kosciolk, shared a few



At the fund-raiser (from left) are: Jaroslav and Lesia Palylyk, Myron and Jaroslava Perich, Daria and Andrew Horbachevsky, and Lesia and Roman Kozicky.



Bohdan Harhaj, president of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, expresses gratitude to Jaroslav Kiciuk of the SUMA Yonkers Credit Union and Dania Nauholyk-Lawro, who headed the Committee to Preserve the Future for Our Youth.

words about the fund-raising campaign and its purpose.

Grateful recognition was extended to all who have helped to financially support Oselia SUM and SUM. Slawko Kiciuk of the SUMA Credit Union in Yonkers, N.Y., was warmly greeted and thanked in the presence of all attendees for the credit union's gracious donation of \$50,000 to help pay off the camp mortgage. The Yonkers SUMA Credit Union has also promised to match all forthcoming donations until the mortgage is fully paid up. Dr. Yuriy Bohatiuk was also thanked for his very generous contribution of \$10,000 towards the satisfaction of this mortgage.

The fund-raising committee members included Iryna Nauholyk-Cohen, Irka Tkachenko, Hania Myhal, Mr. Kosciolk,

Nadia Naumenko and Ms. Lawro.

The Ukrainian American Youth Camp and Resort in Ellenville (Oselia SUM) plans to continue its fund-raising campaign, focusing on a variety of projects that will allow the SUM and its resort to continue to offer opportunities for personal growth and learning for children, as well as a place for them to make new friends and create lasting bonds with all Ukrainians. With continuous financial support also plan to provide an ever-improving environment where all Ukrainians can gather to relax and partake in a variety of activities.

Those interested in making a financial contribution to the Preserve the Future for Our Youth Campaign or seeking additional information may contact Oselia SUM at (845) 647-7230.

## Chornomorska Sitch...

(Continued from page 8)

work from the mayors of the cities of Newark and Irvington, as well as U.S. senators and congressmen. Furthermore, Chornomorska Sitch is probably the only Ukrainian American sports club to receive anniversary congratulatory letters from U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, as well as Vice-President Al Gore. Similar greetings came from New Jersey governors. To date, congratulations on the occasion of the 80th anniversary have arrived from New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey, Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr., Essex County Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura, as well as a proclamation from U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine.

In the last few years, some Chornomorska Sitch officers have been

awarded certificates by the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine for their efforts on behalf of sports in Ukraine, and by the Lviv State Institute of Physical Culture for their work in the area of Ukrainian sports in the diaspora. The all-Ukrainian Prosvita Society of Kyiv honored Mr. Stebelsky, Mr. Twardowsky and Dr. Popovych with gold medals, presented to them as "builders of Ukraine." Mr. Stebelsky, the former long-time president of Chornomorska Sitch, received from Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma a certificate of thanks for his "significant personal contribution to the development and strengthening of the Ukrainian state."

Information about the festive program celebrating the 80th anniversary of Chornomorska Sitch will soon be published in the press.

## Union County...

(Continued from page 4)

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## La Strada...

(Continued from page 6)

cases), followed by Tokyo (around 25), Madrid and Vienna (each around 20) and Bonn (around 15).

By launching a 15-month twinning project between the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom on June 9, the Czech Republic is aiming to strengthen its legislation and training for specialists, as well as to implement new methods in order to fight more effectively against human trafficking. The project will receive up to 950,000 euros from the European Union's Phare program.

### Risking a better future

According to Czech police reports, more than 78 percent of human smugglers are Czech citizens. The rest are from China, Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany and Vietnam, along with some Moldovans, Russians, Poles, Armenians and Afghans.

The Czech Republic is usually a country of destination for people being smuggled and, in a number of cases, also a transit country. The available statistics, however, do not present an accurate picture of the numbers of people involved. Police reports state that in 2003 a total of 584 people were identified as smugglers and 169 of them were charged with illegal smuggling. A Czech government report from September 2003 states that the estimated amount paid to smugglers by illegal migrants is around 5,000 euros.

The aforementioned IKSP research states that the average sum paid by Czech citizens to smugglers was around \$1,000 to get to Japan and \$500 to get to the United States. Human smuggling – differentiated from trafficking as it is a voluntary illegal migration – can lead to involuntary servitude in sweatshops or sexual or other forms of exploitation.

Czech police figures on the numbers of smuggled people do not reflect the actual situation. In 2003 official statistics say that out of a total of 13,206 illegal immigrants, 2,136 were smuggled. Experts believe that such a low number does not reflect reality and that the number of illegally smuggled people is much higher. More than 56 percent of the smuggled people in 2003 were citizens of China, followed by citizens of Russia (13.6 percent), India (6.4 percent), Moldova (4.7 percent), Georgia (3.6 percent), Iraq (2.6 percent), Serbia and Montenegro (1.7 percent), Turkey (1.5 percent), Vietnam (1.3 percent) and Sri Lanka (1.1 percent).

Based on information provided to RFE/RL by the Czech police, in 2001 a joint operation of Czech, German, Austrian and British police stopped a large group of smugglers, who had managed to smuggle over 60,000 Afghan citizens through or into the mentioned countries during that year. The smugglers themselves were native Afghans, some of them holding citizenship in the country where they worked, and their estimated profit was \$330 million.

In March 2004 the Czech police's Anti-Organized Crime Unit arrested a

group of nine Czechs and Asians who were suspected of smuggling Asians into EU countries via the Czech Republic. The group was headed by a 29-year-old Czech citizen and is estimated to have smuggled over 800 Asians through Czech territory. At the end of April eight Czechs and three Slovaks were convicted of having smuggled at least 116 migrants through Czech territory with a financial profit of \$20,000. One of the members of the group was an officer in the Slovak State Police.

On June 2 Czech police arrested a married couple in the town of Uherske Hradiste, who could face up to 10 years in prison for organizing illegal migration. Police discovered a new trend, as the migrants were not actually passing through Czech territory. The main suspect, a 29-year-old man, was smuggling people from Pakistan and India through Russia, Belarus, Slovakia and Poland into Germany. He ran the operation from his cell phone in the Czech Republic. His operation reportedly smuggled an estimated 600 people over a year and made a total profit of around 27 million crowns (over \$1 million). According to the police, each migrant paid around \$1,500 for the transport.

### Legal ambiguity

In the Czech Republic, as in other post-Communist countries, human trafficking and smuggling are illegal according to paragraphs in the criminal code on cross-border trafficking and sexual exploitation. The 2000 U.N. Palermo Convention protocol has not yet been ratified and the Czech legal system still lacks specific paragraphs that would enable the Czech system to combat more effectively another serious issue: prostitution as a result of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, slavery, or forced labor.

Czech law regarding prostitution is ambiguous and largely depends on the specifics of each case. A proposal for a new law on prostitution, which aims to legalize the trade through licenses for workers, enforced monthly medical check-ups of workers, registered brothels and taxation, has been a hotly debated issue. While the initiator of this law – the Czech police department of the Interior Ministry – believes that the law would help to curb enforced prostitution, La Strada's prevention coordinator, Ms. Skrivankova, says that neither legalization nor criminalization are "tools for solving the problem of trafficking."

La Strada argues that legalization will not prevent forced prostitution – only alleviate it – and, on the other hand, will create a much more serious problem: foreign females forced into prostitution without a license will not be helped, but fined or arrested. The fine for illegal prostitution suggested by the proposed law would be between 5,000 and 15,000 Czech crowns. "We would like to see that the law also thinks about the prostitutes themselves," says La Strada Director Petra Burcikova, "and not only about the interest of the state to get income by taxing this activity."

## Lubov Streletsky...

(Continued from page 5)

Mrs. Streletsky accepted the proposal and started working for the UNA.

Mrs. Streletsky's friendly nature, along with her respect and love for others has enabled her to become a successful UNA branch secretary. She is good at communicating with people, telling them about the services the UNA offers and encouraging them to buy much-needed life insurance. That's why, after the results of the first quarter of the year 2004 were in, Mrs. Streletsky was the top UNA organizer. She had sold a total of

\$818,000 in life insurance coverage.

"I can't agree with people who complain about the difficulties of life in America. God helps everybody in the same way, but not everyone tries as hard to overcome the difficulties that life may bring. Those who don't like to work won't achieve success in a new country," commented Mrs. Streletsky.

The Streletsky family has proved they know how to get the best out of life. And, in the process, they have helped the UNA expand its membership.

Translated from Ukrainian, as published in Svoboda, by Lesya Sayik.

## Bozhena Olshaniwsky...

(Continued from page 4)

she attended and participated in were: the Vienna review meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1986; the first human rights meeting in Moscow in 1987; a meeting with members of the Israeli government in 1986 in Jerusalem on the issue of war crimes trials and the Walk for Peace from Odesa to Kyiv in Ukraine in 1988.

In 1991 she attended the month-long CSCE Human Dimension Conference in Moscow which was held after the attempted coup in the USSR, actively lobbying delegations of the Helsinki Accords signatories to recognize the independence of Ukraine.

After the Moscow conference Ms. Olshaniwsky traveled in Ukraine through the major cities of eastern-central Ukraine, encouraging people to vote for independence in the December 1, 1991, referendum. Ms. Olshaniwsky attributes her success

to massive letter-writing campaigns to legislators, parliamentarians, presidents, etc. Ms. Olshaniwsky worked in the framework of a PAC (political action committee), namely the League of Ukrainian Voters (LUV). Thus, she was able to support political candidates who were positively inclined toward Ukraine and Ukrainian issues, among them Rep. Millicent Fenwick, President Jimmy Carter, Sen. Bill Bradley, Gov. Florio, President Bill Clinton, Gov. McGreevey and State Sen. Ronald Rice.

Ms. Olshaniwsky met Gov. McGreevey in the chambers of the New Jersey Senate during a commemoration of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. This event was sponsored and introduced by N.J. State Sen. Rice. Later Sen. Rice introduced an amendment to a Holocaust education bill in the New Jersey Senate which states that, in addition to the Holocaust, the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 and the Armenian and Cambodian genocides should be part of the curriculum in New Jersey's public schools.

## Ruslana wows...

(Continued from page 1)

overwhelming in the other direction: she felt strong support and enthusiasm from young people in the diaspora who are also a part of Ukraine, and she felt an even greater pride in her Ukrainian heritage.

Ruslana's stated goal is to shine a positive light on Ukraine in the world arena through her unique, folk-based music. The winner of the 2004 Euro-Vision Song Contest, Ruslana is succeeding as

an effective musical ambassador, earning the support and admiration of many fans throughout the world.

Ruslana's stated plans include a soon-to-be-released English-language recording and more concert tours throughout Europe and North America, focusing on her Carpathian-inspired songs. Her CD "Dyki Tantsi" (Wild Dances) became the first recording by a Ukrainian performer to go platinum, that is, to reach sales of over 1 million. (The CD may be obtained from Yevshan at 1-800-265-9858 or www.yevshan.com.)

The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America  
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invite you to a ...

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to benefit the  
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# Soyuzivka's Datebook

**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 Fund-Raising 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 Nirschl

**October 23, 2004**  
Wedding - Natalka Barankewicz and Marko Mazurets

**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

**December 11, 2004**  
Ulster Correctional Facility Christmas Party



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- Deb in February.
- Sviato Vesny or Zlet in May.
- Wedding of your roommate in June.
- Tabir in July.
- Volleyball at Wildwood in August.
- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Morskyi Bal in November.
- Koliada in December.

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Saturday-Sunday, September 25-26**

**Silver Spring, Md.:** The Washington Ukrainian Festival sponsored by the Ukrainian Festival Committee with the support of the Ukrainian Embassy 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 violinist 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, and to visit 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 Founder's Hall with a Ukrainian band. For further information contact Val Zabijaka, (301) 593-5316, or visit [www.StAndrewUOC.org](http://www.StAndrewUOC.org).

anniversary of Chornomorska Sich sports organization invites its members, Summer Sports School attendees and their parents, representatives of other Ukrainian American sports clubs and friends to the jubilee banquet and ball which will take place at the Ramada Hotel, 130 Route 10 (westbound). Music will be by Luna. Tickets for banquet and ball: \$65 per person; for ball only, \$25 per person. For reservations and additional information call (973) 829-6857 or (908) 688-8323 (evenings).

**Saturday-Sunday, October 2-3**

**EAST CHATHAM, N.Y.:** The Khmelnychenky Plast fraternity is holding its summer "rada" (council) at the Vovcha Tropa campgrounds. The opening is scheduled for 2 p.m., with members requested to appear in Plast uniforms or in Kozak attire in front of the Red Building. Registration fee: Khmeli, \$50, Khmel candidates, \$25. All young adult Plast members ("starshi yunaky" and "starshi plastuny") who wish to join the Khmelnychenky are invited to attend. For more information visit the Brattya Board at [www.xml.org](http://www.xml.org).

**Sunday, October 3**

**EAST HANOVER, N.J.:** The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Regional Council of New Jersey, will hold its 45th anniversary jubilee celebration with liturgy to be celebrated at 10 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J., followed by a program and reception at the Ramada Inn, 130 Route 10 (westbound) at 1 p.m. Donation: \$35 per person. For more information call Lida Kramarchuk, (973) 773-4548.

**Sunday, September 26**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites the public to a program titled "Mychajlo Moroz (1904-1992) and His Contemporaries," being held as part of the centennial celebrations marking the birth of the eminent Ukrainian émigré artist of the post-war generation. Introductory remarks will be by artist Zenowij Onyshkewych, followed by a lecture by Dr. Daria Darewych, president of NTSh-Canada and professor of art history at York University. The program will be held at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 2 p.m. For additional information call (212) 254-5130.

**CHICAGO:** St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, located on the corner of Rice and Leavitt streets, will hold its second Autumn Fest celebration for adults and children from noon until 10 p.m. Come and enjoy music and dancing along with Ukrainian and American food and drink. For more information call (773) 276-4537.

**Saturday, October 2**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) invite the public to a post-Labor Day "zabava" to benefit the Ukrainian Institute of America. The dance will be held at the institute, 2 E. 79th St., starting at 9 p.m. Music to be provided by Fata Morgana. Admission: \$45; \$25 for students. Donation forms will be available at the door. For more information visit [www.uesa.org](http://www.uesa.org) or e-mail [nyc@uesa.org](mailto:nyc@uesa.org).

**JENKIN TOWN, Pa.:** The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, which began its school year September 13, is holding registration of children age 4 and above through September 27. Registration is at 6 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, Pa. Classes are held weekly on Monday evenings at the center. For additional information contact, Nina Prybolsky, school director, (610) 591-2492 or (215) 572-1552.

**EAST HANOVER, N.J.:** The jubilee committee for the celebration of the 80th

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Items may be e-mailed to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com).

## AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

Would you like fellow Ukrainians know about events in your community? Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents? Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com); or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.