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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Yanukovych called for questioning, but fails to appear

by Olga Nuzhinskaya

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Of the group of officials of Ukraine's former administration who have been implicated or are to be questioned in connection with any crimes, none are considered as important as former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych.

Last week Ukrainian police summoned Mr. Yanukovych who lost the presidential election to Viktor Yushchenko, for questioning in connection with alleged mishandling of government funds. However, he failed to appear on Monday, May 30.

According to the Internal Affairs Ministry's website, Mr. Yanukovych was summoned to testify as a witness about alleged illegal government donations amounting to approximately 4.8 million hrv (\$950,000 U.S.) for the overhaul of the airport in his hometown, Donetsk, located in eastern Ukraine.

"Yanukovych was summoned through all TV channels," said Valerii Geletei, a police official. "We are waiting for an explanation."

Mr. Yanukovych's Party of the Regions accused police of persecuting the government's political opponents and said that "Yanukovych and his lawyer did not receive a proper subpoena."

"The authorities want to present the opposition as the people's enemy, and they are using the Internet and TV to summon opposition leaders for questioning," the statement said.

Olena Lukash, a Kyiv-based legal expert, described the police's move as "the abuse of power and apparent legal illiteracy of law enforcement bodies."

"Authorities can summon someone only through subpoena and ways and means of delivering it (the subpoena) are clearly defined by law," she explained.

Lately, law enforcement officials in Ukraine have summoned persons wanted for questioning via public announcements on television and the Internet.

Earlier this month Ukrainian prosecutors also questioned Mr. Yanukovych over the business dealings of Borys Kolesnikov, a jailed regional official from Zakarpattia, but no charges were brought.

Mr. Yanukovych, who heads opposition Party of the Regions, earlier described his appearance before the investigators as "political persecution" of opposition leaders.

Mr. Yanukovych and Viktor Medvedchuk, a former chief of staff of ex-President Leonid Kuchma, also were summoned to appear as witnesses in a land misappropriation case on

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U.S. energy secretary advises Kyiv to boost its energy independence

by Olga Nuzhinskaya

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – In what appeared to be a recognition of Ukraine's continued vulnerability to fuel shutoffs from Russia and other suppliers, Samuel Bodman, the top energy official of the U.S., met in Kyiv on May 27 with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to declare that Ukraine must boost its energy independence and diversify sources.

After talks with U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman, who arrived in the Ukrainian capital on May 26, Ms. Tymoshenko said, "the issue of diversification of energy supply resources is of the utmost importance."

Fuel shortages had erupted in Ukraine earlier in May after Russian oil exporters reduced supplies to this country of 48 million. Prime Minister Tymoshenko herself came under fire over her attempts to institute restrictive fiscal and monetary policies, which were blamed for the shortages.

But Ukrainian authorities also seized the opportunity to seek alternative fuel and crude oil sources in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, the United Arab Emirates, Libya and elsewhere.

After meeting President Viktor Yushchenko on May 26, Secretary Bodman said that U.S. President George W. Bush "is very committed to help Ukraine to increase its energy independ-



U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman (left) and Petro Poroshenko, secretary of Ukraine's National Defense and Security Council address journalists following their meeting in Kyiv on May 27.

ence, diversify its energy trade and restructure its energy sector into a more robust part of the economy. It is one of the reasons I am here this week."

Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Bodman also discussed replacement of Russian-made nuclear fuel in the country's 15 operational nuclear reactors with fuel

rods produced by the U.S.-based Westinghouse company.

"We welcome activities tailored to diversify sources of nuclear fuel, and we believe that such activities will improve our energy independence," Ms.

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Yushchenko addresses conference on local government reform

by Sherri Alms

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko was the keynote speaker at the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's recent Community Partnerships Project (CPP) conference, which was held May 13-14 in Kyiv.

More than 330 attendees, including 104 mayors, journalists, government officials, and a group of American trainers, speakers and staff, attended the conference. The conference theme was "Integrity, Transparency, Professionalism: Is Local Government in Ukraine Ready for Europe?"

President Yushchenko discussed the importance of municipal government, including the need to prepare for entry into the European Union. He also commented on Ukraine's position and the need to reach out both to the West and the East. "Whenever we speak of integration, we should consider two things. Integration should be done from our national interests and we should act fairly and honestly. Secondly, integration to the East should not block the road to Western integration," he said.

He went on to say that "the main subject of this conference is local self-government and responsibility available for people in our society. The roots of self-

governance are probably back in the past, the deep past. Starting from that time, people realized their interest in local communities ... Developing local government is the first priority. Jobs will only be created with economic growth, with the creation of small and medium-sized businesses."

The priority of government, he said, is to streamline processes through legislation and ensure that citizens can get what they need from the government efficiently and easily. "Our task is to create an official who is like a doorman, standing on the pavement inviting citizens in to create their own businesses ... There is only one way out and that is to consider a very different option to release the energy of local communities and every citizen of Ukraine. We must conduct reform of the public administration ... If you would like to bring freedom and development to local communities, we should do this [reform the public administration]."

Local governments play a key role in the reform, he said, and they must make their citizens partners in the planning and reform process. In conclusion, he told the audience that "the president is your partner in creating change."

U.S. Ambassador John E. Herbst

greeted participants, welcoming them and lauding the important role the foundation plays in Ukraine. The conference agenda included a number of national government officials who are involved with local government and the process of reform, including the secretary of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building and Local Government, Borys Bezpalnyi, Verkhovna Rada Deputy Volodymyr Stretovych and Valerii Asadchev. The Chairman of the Center for Political and Legal Reforms, Ihor Koliushko, also spoke to conference participants. Michael Kulesza, an expert from Poland, shared the experiences and lessons learned from Poland's administrative reforms.

In addition to several question-and-answer sessions with the general session speakers, conference attendees also participated actively in three breakout sessions intended to ultimately result in initiatives that will improve local government. Each session included a staff moderator, an American expert and a Ukrainian mayor.

The first working group focused on integrity and discussed whether city governments could use a code of ethics, with

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ANALYSIS

Analysts turn a critical eye toward Yushchenko's early record

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukraine watchers are abuzz about a May 25 article in Lvivska Hazeta, in which the paper's Moscow correspondent called upon Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko to dismiss Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

According to an eyewitness account published in Dzerkalo Tyzhnia/Zerkalo Nedeli on May 21, Mr. Yushchenko did call for Ms. Tymoshenko's resignation in front of Russian oil executives that same week. His request came after she had questioned his authority on three occasions during the meeting held to negotiate a way out of Ukraine's fuel crisis (see *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, May 18). President Yushchenko later denied that he had called upon his prime minister to resign.

Whatever the particulars of this incident, Mr. Yushchenko seems to no longer be the media darling he was during the Orange Revolution.

On May 18 The Washington Post ran a commentary by Anders Aslund, head of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, titled "Betraying a Revolution." Dr. Aslund outlined his criticism further at a seminar held in Carnegie's Moscow Center. "Betraying a Revolution" comes six months after Dr. Aslund's highly optimistic articles in the Moscow Times (December 1, 2004) and Weekly

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Standard (December 27, 2004) that had applauded the Orange Revolution.

Other Western and Ukrainian commentators have provided mixed reviews on President Yushchenko's first 100 days in office. One author described this mood swing as an "Orange Depression" leading to "post-revolutionary apathy" (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, May 18). Nevertheless, Dr. Aslund's article was by far the most scathing attack to date on the record of the Yushchenko presidency and Ms. Tymoshenko government.

Dr. Aslund is co-author of a Blue-Ribbon Commission report drawn up by the United Nations Development Program and the Carnegie Endowment that proposes an extensive array of "new wave" reforms under Mr. Yushchenko (carnegieendowment.org/publications). The commission's proposals were outlined in the Financial Times (January 12) under the title, "Reform in Ukraine Must be Swift and Sweeping." With constitutional reforms reducing presidential power set to go into effect in September, Mr. Yushchenko had a six-month window of opportunity to introduce a radical reform agenda.

A Stratfor (May 20) commentary agreed with the main economic arguments outlined by Dr. Aslund, bluntly noting, "The government has undertaken no economic reforms." Mr. Stratfor points to divisions in the Ukrainian leadership between supporters of free market policies and state regulation. Dzerkalo Tyzhnia/Dzerkalo Nedeli (May 14) places President Yushchenko in the free-market category, while noting that Prime Minister Tymoshenko "is in favor of the government's dominating role in the country's economy."

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Yushchenko, Tymoshenko clash over gasoline issues

by **Jan Maksymiuk**

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

The hottest news in Ukraine last week was not the Eurovision song contest in Kyiv – an unusual event in this post-Soviet country by any standards. The real shocker was a report in the Kyiv-based weekly Zerkalo Nedeli that President Viktor Yushchenko suggested that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko should tender her resignation over her incompetence in dealing with the country's fuel crisis.

To toss even more gasoline on that fire, the report asserted that the suggestion was made "half-publicly" during a heated Yushchenko-Tymoshenko exchange at a May 19 meeting with senior executives from the Russian oil sector, including Transneft, LUKoil, and TNK-BP.

Have the two heroes of the Orange Revolution already had enough of their partnership and resolved to launch an internecine war?

For the time being, it appears they have not. A string of statements from Mr. Yushchenko's and Ms. Tymoshenko's press services that followed the report on

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their May 19 meeting avowed that the relations between the president and the prime minister remain friendly and full of mutual trust. "I trust the prime minister, my generally positive assessment of the government's work is unaltered. Only those doing nothing make no mistakes," President Yushchenko asserted in one statement. "We have found a formula to resolve the oil problem, because we have found courage in ourselves to conduct an open, public and honest dialogue, as well as to make hard and responsible decisions both within and outside [our] team," he stressed.

Moreover, on May 22, during a solemn occasion at the grave of Ukrainian national poet Taras Shevchenko in Kaniv, Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko renewed their earlier pledge to form a coalition for the 2006 parliamentary elections of Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine People's Union, Ms. Tymoshenko's Fatherland Party, and the People's Party headed by Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. "I'm sure that the Orange Revolution and the values with which we came to Kyiv's maidan [Independence Square] truly belong to these three political forces," Mr. Yushchenko said in Kaniv. Ms. Tymoshenko added, "I sup-

(Continued on page 17)

NEWSBRIEFS

Prosecutors probe alleged beating

KYIV – Deputy Procurator General Viktor Shokin told lawmakers in the Verkhovna Rada on June 1 that prosecutors have opened two criminal investigations into the alleged beating of opposition lawmakers Nestor Shufrych and Tamara Proshkuratova by a police squad in Uzhhorod on May 20, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Shokin was speaking at a plenary sitting devoted to a discussion of the incident in Uzhhorod. He specified that one probe focuses on exceeding the authority by policemen while the other looks into the lawmakers' interference with the squad's actions during the incident. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Afghan war vets demand benefits

KYIV – Some 2,000 veterans of the Afghan war staged a picket in front of the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv on May 31, demanding the dismissal of Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko, whom they blame for failing to provide social benefits and housing to them under a law on the status of war veterans, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Some 150,000 Ukrainians fought in Afghanistan – 3,290 were killed, more than 8,000 wounded and some 4,700 discharged from the army as disabled. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada approves amnesty for 17,000.

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on May 31 passed a bill on an amnesty proposed by President Viktor Yushchenko, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. The bill will reduce or terminate sentences for more than 17,000 convicts. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yanukovich summoned for questioning

KYIV – The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry summoned former Prime Minister and current opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich for questioning on May 30, in a criminal case connected with a directive his Cabinet issued in June 2004, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and Ukrainian news agencies reported. Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko told journalists that Mr. Yanukovich will be questioned as a witness. "We are not working on criminal

cases against citizen Yanukovich," Mr. Lutsenko added. Moreover, Interfax reported on May 27 that Mr. Yanukovich was called to appear at the Internal Affairs Ministry's Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast Directorate on June 1 to provide explanations in connection with a land plot he obtained for construction purposes in the region during the time he served as prime minister. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Former PM fails to appear

KYIV – The Internal Affairs Ministry's Kyiv Directorate for Fighting Organized Crime wants former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich to explain why he failed to appear for questioning on May 30, Interfax reported. "Viktor Yanukovich was invited to come to questioning as a witness at 11 a.m. today [May 30], but he did not show up," Valerii Geletei, head of the directorate, told journalists, adding that Mr. Yanukovich was summoned through the mass media. Meanwhile, Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions on May 29 issued a statement slamming the Ukrainian authorities for what it said is an ongoing campaign to present the opposition to the public as the "people's enemies," ITAR-TASS reported. "The new authorities are suffocating from their inability to solve social and economic problems, which result from their inept management and the destruction within less than four months of the tendencies toward positive economic growth achieved by the previous government," the statement read. "Thus, they simply have to find someone to blame for the hardships ordinary people are experiencing." (RFE/RL Newsline)

SPF opposes Kryvorizhstal settlement

KYIV – Valentyna Semeniuk, head of Ukraine's State Property Fund (SPF), said on May 30 that a peaceful settlement of the ongoing legal controversy over the privatization of the Kryvorizhstal metallurgical giant in 2004 is not possible, the *Ukrayinska Pravda* website (<http://www2.pravda.com.ua>) reported. "An amicable arrangement cannot be even viewed by court, since it has not been demanded by prosecutors or the

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With 15 charges (out of 29) dropped, Lazarenko faces at least 10 years in jail

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – A federal judge in California dropped 15 charges against former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, according to various media reports. However, Mr. Lazarenko is still expected to receive a sentence of at least 10 years, a former prosecutor in the case said.

A jury convicted Mr. Lazarenko, 51, last year of laundering money through California banks and extortion, but U.S. District Court Judge Martin Jenkins ruled late on May 20 that there was not enough evidence to sustain convictions on 15 out of 29 counts against the former Ukrainian prime minister.

However, Martha Boersch, the former head of the U.S. Attorney's team prosecuting the case, said the judge's decision would not likely affect the amount of time Mr. Lazarenko spends in jail, the Reuters news service reported.

"The bottom line is that in the end it does not matter," Mrs. Boersch told Reuters. "It will be at least 10 years."

Eight of the remaining charges against Mr. Lazarenko are for money laundering, while the majority of the remaining charges are for interstate transportation

of stolen property. Each of the money laundering charges carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

According to Reuters, the judge said a sentencing date would be determined on June 23. In the meantime, Mr. Lazarenko remains under house arrest at a San Francisco apartment, while his defense lawyers appeal the case.

U.S. Attorney Kevin V. Ryan told the Associated Press on May 20 that the ruling "validates the jury's convictions ... in connection with his efforts to conceal and invest ill-gotten gains through American financial institutions.

"Corrupt public officials, at home and abroad, whose activities violate the laws of the United States, are on notice that they can and will be zealously prosecuted and convicted here for such activities," the attorney said.

Mr. Lazarenko's attorney, Dan Horowitz, also was pleased with the ruling.

"Half the counts have been knocked out and we haven't even gotten to the Court of Appeal yet," Mr. Horowitz told the AP. "This is just another step toward victory. It's not over."

Yushchenko addresses...

(Continued from page 1)

a goal of establishing a working group to develop a draft code of ethics to present at the plenary and circulate among mayors throughout Ukraine. Komsomolsk Mayor Oleksander Popov and the former mayor of Springfield, Ill., Mayor Karen Hasara, led the group.

The group on transparency discussed the image of local government, specifically how elected officials can win the confidence of their communities, with a goal of designing a framework for a best practices workbook, including practical tools such as public hearings, opinion polls, and working with NGOs and the local media. Mayor Bill Hudnut of Chevy Chase, Md., who also served as mayor of Indianapolis, Ind., and Slavutych Mayor Volodymyr Udovychenko led the group.

In the third working group, which discussed professionalism, the issue was how to create an effective team, with a goal of drafting a petition to the Ukrainian government to obtain certification for the CPP management course, which was developed in partnership with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, and to look for methods to legitimize teaching courses

for professionals. Kherson Mayor Volodymyr Saldo and the administrative director of the University of Georgia's International Center for Democratic Governance, Dan Durning, led the group.

In addition to the American leaders of the working groups, a group of CPP trainers from the United States and CPP staff from the Washington office of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation participated in the conference.

The goals of the Community Partnerships Project are to create a supportive environment for local governments; encourage practitioner-to-practitioner mentoring; support grassroots and constituent-driven reform; assist sharing and implementation of best local government practices; and promote innovative and efficient government practices.

Created by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in 1997, the Community Partnerships Project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Using city-to-city partnerships between U.S. and Ukrainian communities as its starting point, the CPP has become a vibrant and energetic network made up of 14 Ukrainian cities and their U.S. partners, five regional training centers, and 23 regional partnership cities and towns.

To learn more about the Community Partnerships Project, readers may log on to: <http://www.usukraine.org/cpp/aboutcpp.htm>.



President Viktor Yushchenko with (from left) Marta Kolomayets, Markian Bilynskiy and Vera Andrushkiw of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation during a conference on local government in Ukraine.

Officials say local government reform lagging in Ukraine

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

WASHINGTON – A group of visiting Ukrainian local government officials said reform is now lagging at the local government level, despite the election last December of a reform-minded president. The panel told a recent RFE/RL audience that a "paradox" exists because the executive branch at the national and oblast (or regional) level is dedicated to reform and decentralization of decision-making, while local structures are unprepared for it.

Vladyslav Stenkovskiy, head of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Nasha Sprava, said the new national government plans "to give maximum power to local governments within their competence."

"Local taxes will be specified" by the national government, however, and local governments will not have the right to establish new taxes.

For example, according to Tetyana Neilenko and Valentyna Kukoba, budget officers in the towns of Kremenchuk and Komsomolsk respectively, local governments are responsible for providing a broad range of services (transportation, sewage and water, education), but the income tax collected at the national level is the major source of government funding. Local governments are currently allowed to collect revenue from only a limited number of licenses and fees.

According to Viacheslav Kozak, a senior official with the Association of Ukrainian Cities and Communities, the major challenge is "revenue and budget reform."

"The central government will have to

give local governments the power to find funding, he said, which involves constitutional changes. But, according to Mr. Kozak, the key question is "when to implement reforms at the local level – before or after the 2006 parliamentary elections?" Although the presidential elections showed that Ukrainians want change, Mr. Kozak asked, should it be implemented in a short period through shock therapy or gradually?

Mr. Kozak noted that U.S. foreign assistance programs are helping to retrain local government employees and "this is very important." Mr. Kozak, "as an easterner" from the city of Luhansk, said that he saw "no repression or selective negative pressure" from the new central government. He said he was worried about the new government's ability to "educate Easterners" about the benefits of European Union membership and getting rid of "old Soviet-era stereotypes."

Mr. Stenkovskiy also expressed concern about the future of reform in Ukraine, because "the new opposition" still controls the media outlets in the country and can undermine the reforms of the central government. He expects "lots of those political technologies [i.e., dirty tricks in the presidential campaign] will be played again in 2006" during the parliamentary elections.

The local government officials were in Washington to participate in a Department of State-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program on Accountability and Transparency in Local Government, administered by the Delphi International Program of World Learning.

RFE/RL back on FM in Kyiv

PRAGUE – Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Ukrainian-language broadcasts can again be heard on FM in Kyiv, after a break of nearly a year. The Ukrainian capital's most popular radio station, "Voice of Kyiv," began rebroadcasting RFE/RL Ukrainian service programs on FM 98 on May 9.

RFE/RL President Thomas A. Dine welcomed the launch, saying "this is good for Voice of Kyiv and good for

RFE/RL, but above all it is good for Ukrainian listeners to have access to another source of independent news and analysis."

Mr. Dine also noted that "the revived interest of Ukrainian media in carrying RFE/RL programs reflects a dramatic change in the media climate in Ukraine under the presidency of Viktor

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Ukraine debuts at Cannes, wins award for short film

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukraine's debut at the Cannes Film Festival also brought the nation its first prize. The 10-minute film "Podorozhni" ("Wayfarers"), which was shot by Ihor Strembitsky, 32, was awarded the prestigious Palme d'Or in the short film division at the festival held on May 11-22.

The film, which won the top prize from among the final nine competing entries, was three years in the making and cost about \$3,000. Upon receiving the award, Mr. Strembitsky stated, "I am happy that you were able to appreciate my endeavor, and I'm also very happy on the behalf of Ukraine. Thank you very much!"

The Ukrainian director was also recognized individually, receiving the Norman McLaren Prize, which was recently created in honor of Canadian short film prodigy Norman McLaren. The award grants a 3,000-euro endowment, which may be applied toward international distribution of the feature, or toward co-production for an upcoming short film.

The awards garnered by Mr. Strembitsky are testaments to the hardships he endured during the filmmaking process. According to The Day

(Den) newspaper in Kyiv, the director was provided with only several short reels of film which had different "technological characteristics," making it difficult to combine them into a single full-length reel.

In addition to the lack of adequate film, Mr. Strembitsky was also missing a cameraman, so he himself filled the spot, reported The Day. His wife, who served as his producer and scriptwriter, took the completed film, went to the central post office in Kyiv, had it packaged and paid 20 hryvnia to mail it to Cannes.

The result of their work is Ukraine's first award at the international film festival.

Mr. Strembitsky is a graduate of Kyiv's Karpenko-Karyi University of Theater, Cinema and Television. He refers to his film "Podorozhni" with the following statement, which appeared on the film festival's website as part of the announcement listing the winners: "Go to sleep, sleep, I'm sleepy, I'll lay my head on a bed that's all white, and perhaps, I'll fall asleep ... A film about childhood which will never return, about dreams which cannot be realized, about the folly of happiness or misfortune."

Experts oppose reconstruction of historic Church of the Tithes

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

KYIV – Scholars and national deputies of Ukraine oppose another attempt by the government to reconstruct the historic Church of the Tithes – Desiatynna Tserkva – the first stone church of Kyivan Rus'. They fear that archaeological excavations planned before construction will ruin a unique architectural park on Starokyivska Hill. Absence of reliable information on what the Tithe Church looked like is another argument. A press conference on the subject was held in Kyiv on April 18.

Since the Cabinet of Ministers issued an order to conduct architectural research on the site of the historic church, which

should help determine whether the church can be rebuilt, dozens of letters and addresses have come in to the responsible government committee from Ukrainian scientists, architects and historians on the inadmissibility of any attempts to reconstruct the church. So said National Deputy Mykola Zhulynskyy, head of the Subcommittee on Culture and Spirituality, at the press conference.

Dr. Zhulynskyy considers the reconstruction of the 10th century Church of the Tithes impossible and mentioned that international agreements ratified by Ukraine protect the preservation of architectural monuments. Ukrainian legislation does not recognize reconstructed buildings as architectural monuments.

"This puts us on the level of other nations that do not operate within the context of international legislation on historical and cultural heritage preservation," Dr. Zhulynskyy said.

The Church of the Tithes was the first stone church of the medieval Slavic state of Kyivan Rus'. It was constructed by Rus' and Byzantine architects from 988 to 996 and dedicated to the Nativity of the Mother of God at the time of Prince Volodymyr the Great. He donated one tenth of his funds for its construction and maintenance, giving the church its name. The church was ruined by Mongols in 1240, and only parts of the original foundation remain today.

Archaeological research of the site containing the remains of the foundations

of the historic church, located at Volodymyrska Street in the Shevchenkivskyy district of Kyiv is to be completed by October 31.

The sum of 7.25 million hrv (about \$1.3 million U.S.) has been allocated from state budget funds in 2005 for archaeological research and conservation work for the remains of the foundation and other possible archaeological findings, according to kievpress.info.

The reconstruction was ordered by a communal enterprise, the Direction of Restoration and Renovation Works. The enterprise will cooperate with the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy for Culture and Arts in Ukraine in the archaeological research.

ANALYSIS: Armenians appear to be gaining ground on genocide recognition

by Emil Danielyan

RFE/RL Newline

As they mark the 90th anniversary of the most defining and tragic episode in their long history, Armenians around the world appear closer than ever to getting the international community to recognize the mass killing of their people in Ottoman Turkey as genocide.

Decades of Armenian campaigning and lobbying have raised international awareness of the events of 1915 to an unprecedented level, with a growing number of countries describing them as a genocide.

But how far all of this will take the Armenians in their decades-long pursuit of historical justice remains to be seen. Some of them think that pro-Armenian

Emil Danielyan is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Yerevan. The article above was published in RFE/RL Newline on April 26.

resolutions by foreign parliaments will not mean much until Turkey itself admits to genocide.

The process gained momentum in 2001 when France passed a special law defining the mass killings as a genocide. Eight other member-states of the European Union, including Italy and Poland, have followed suit since then, making genocide recognition a potential condition for Turkey's membership in the EU. Germany, hitherto impervious to Armenian demands, is expected to add to the pressure by urging Turkey face its troubled past and even apologizing for its failure to stop the slaughter of up to 1.2 million Armenians during World War I.

"In the course of the accession negotiations [with Turkey], France will ask for a recognition of the tragedy at the outset of the 20th century," French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier declared last December. Jose Manuel Barroso, the president of the EU's executive European Commission, likewise promised a "frank

and sincere discussion" with the Turks.

The U.S. government, meanwhile, seems increasingly reluctant to continue to block Armenian-sponsored congressional resolutions calling the 1915 mass killings and deportations genocide – a politically charged term that the administration of President George W. Bush has so far been loath to use. Washington's ambassador in Yerevan, John Evans, signaled a possible shift in U.S. policy on the issue last February when he repeatedly and publicly referred to the Armenian massacres as "the first genocide of the 20th century." However, in his annual April 24 message to Americans of Armenian descent, President Bush said, "This terrible event is what many Armenian people have come to call the 'Great Calamity.'"

The wave of recognitions has prompted predictably angry protests from the Turkish government that have only heightened international interest in the subject. There have arguably been more genocide-related reports in the Western media in the past five years than during the preceding decades.

More importantly, the topic is no longer seen as taboo in Turkey, where a growing number of civil-society representatives openly question the official Turkish line. "The genocide allegations have now become an international political issue," Mehmet Ali Birand, a prominent Turkish journalist and a proponent of the denial policy, wrote in the Turkish Daily News on April 16. "It is almost impossible to prove we are in the right by producing photos and documents."

So are the Armenians finally close to securing a universal acceptance of their tragedy after investing so much energy and so many resources in the endeavor? "I wouldn't say we are close," said Van Krikorian, the former chairman of the Armenian Assembly of America, a lobbying group that has for decades been fighting for genocide recognition.

Mr. Krikorian argues that the United States and other world powers have their own national interests and foreign-policy goals that they will never subordinate to the Armenian cause. Their "trade-offs" with Turkey have already left the Armenians empty-handed in the past, he said.

"I think one lesson we have learned from history is that international recognition is important but cannot be counted on for long," he explained. "Efforts at international recognition, in my opinion, do not really get Armenians to where they need to be unless they can also get Turkish recognition."

While Turkey's ruling establishment and mainstream media continue to flatly deny the genocide, they are clearly tolerating growing domestic discussion of the sensitive subject that is exposing ordi-

nary Turks to facts hitherto hidden from them. One of Turkey's most famous novelists, Orhan Pamuk, shocked many of his countrymen when he admitted in a recent newspaper interview that at least one million Armenians were wiped out in the dying years of the Ottoman Empire.

Another Turkish writer, Fethiye Cetin, caused a similar stir with a book that presented her ethnic Armenian grandmother's harrowing accounts of Ottoman soldiers slaughtering Armenian men in her native village and forcing their wives and children on a death march to the Syrian desert.

Writing in the pro-establishment Turkish Daily News on April 17, columnist Elif Safak described how elderly women in her family feared openly talking about their fond memories of their erstwhile Armenian neighbors. "We need to listen to the suppressed memories of the Turkish grandmothers," Ms. Safak concluded. "For, unlike the Turkish nationalists who keep reacting against every critical voice in civil society by systematically propagating collective amnesia, these elderly women do remember."

Equally unusual was the participation of three Turkish scholars in an international conference in Yerevan dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the start of the genocide. "Without recognition of the genocide, there can be no solution for Turkey on its path toward the European Union and in its relations with Armenia," one of them, Taner Akcam, said in a speech.

David Phillips, a U.S. scholar who chaired the former Turkish-Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC), sees very important changes in Turkish society. "Five years ago, you couldn't raise Armenian issues in any circles of Turkey and get any Turk to respond," he said in a recent RFE/RL interview. "Now it's a constant topic of conversations not only among civil society groups but among Turkish officials."

Official Ankara proposed to Yerevan in March to form a Turkish-Armenian commission of historians who would look into the 1915 massacres and determine whether they were indeed a genocide. The Armenian government rejected the idea, saying the genocide is a proven fact that cannot be called into question. Most Armenian observers believe that the Turkish offer was aimed at offsetting the worldwide commemorations of the genocide anniversary. There are also those who see encouraging signs in the move.

Mr. Krikorian, for example, feels that the Turkish government for the first time indicated its readiness to admit that "their historians may not be right and that there might have been a genocide."

(Continued on page 18)

Armenian communities of Ukraine mark 90th anniversary of genocide

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

LVIV – The Armenian communities of Kyiv and Lviv on April 24 commemorated the 90th anniversary of the beginning of mass killings of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1915-1916. Some data indicate that two-thirds of Armenians living in western Armenia and the Ottoman Empire perished.

Ukraine remains one of the countries that still have not recognized the event as genocide. The Armenian community has expressed hope that the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada will soon do so.

A memorial service for the Armenian victims was held at the Church of the Protection of the Mother of God in Kyiv. An Armenian church once stood there in the 14th century, but burned later, never to be rebuilt.

The Armenian community of Lviv also joined the Armenians of the world in prayer for the souls of innocent victims. It is in Lviv, among other cities, that many Armenians found refuge. According to the Postup (Progress) newspaper, about 500 people came together for a meeting at the Taras Shevchenko monument in Lviv.

The Armenian consul in western Ukraine, the Polish vice-consul in Lviv, the Russian consul general in Lviv, as well as representatives of the Orthodox and the Ukrainian Greek-

Catholic Churches gathered at the ceremonial meeting.

"The non-recognition of the Armenian genocide cannot be justified by any national interest" and "Turkey's silence on the Armenian genocide is a falsification of history and a misinformation of the international community" were among the slogans on posters carried by Armenians in downtown Lviv.

"Turkey wants to join Europe. Therefore, it should first do as the Germans once did, who asked forgiveness of the Jews, and are even paying them material compensation now," said Armenian Mykola Kocharian. "We are not talking about material compensation, but we do want moral satisfaction."

The Armenian tragedy has been recognized as genocide by most countries of the world. Meanwhile, Turkey refuses to accept responsibility for the mass killings of Armenians in Ottoman times. Ukraine, too, thus far has failed to recognize the events beginning in 1915 as genocide.

Representatives of the Armenian community in Ukraine say that, even though most of the world speaks of 1.5 million victims, the actual number of Armenians who died in the Ottoman Empire is 2 million, since the annihilation of Armenians lasted much longer than is declared today.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Home Office representatives visit with Connecticut community

by Oksana Trytjak
UNA National Organizer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak and UNA National Organizer Oksana Trytjak on Sunday, April 14, drove from New Jersey to New Haven, Conn., to meet with UNA members of the Connecticut District. They brought with them an array of UNA informational materials, books, current issues of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and an extensive photograph exhibit that illustrates the history and development of the UNA and along with it the Ukrainian community in the diaspora.

The Connecticut UNA District comprises eight branches – the first of which was organized in New Britain back in 1907. Other branches include those in Hartford, founded in 1910 (a second Hartford branch was established in 1950); Stamford, 1913; Ansonia and Bridgeport, 1916; and New Haven in 1938.

The district meeting was held at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven and was organized by UNA Advisor Gloria Horbaty, who also is financial secretary of Branch 414, and Branch President Maria Antonyshyn. There were many UNA'ers present, including Ihor Hayda, chairman of the Connecticut District; Taras Slevinsky, district treasurer; Myroslav Trojan, dis-

trict auditor; Bohdan Doboszczak, secretary of Branch 59; Taras Slevinsky, district treasurer; Myroslav Trojan, district auditor; Frank Stuban, secretary of Branch 67; Adam Platosz, financial secretary of Branch 254; and Dionizia Brochinsky, secretary of Branch 414.

Close to 80 people came to the parish hall to view the archival photo exhibit after the conclusion of the 11:30 a.m. liturgy. There was also a delicious buffet prepared by Donald and Gloria Horbaty.

Ms. Antonyshyn welcomed everyone and then introduced Ms. Horbaty, who, in turn, introduced Ms. Kozak. The national secretary began by greeting all attendees and briefly explained the products that the UNA offers to members.

More specifically, Ms. Kozak described UNA life insurance products, the many fraternal benefits available to members and the new annuities offered at interest rates as high as 5.5 percent per year. She encouraged everyone to check the interest rates on their IRA accounts, underscoring that the rates available from the UNA are very competitive and often are better than what others offer.

Ms. Kozak informed everyone that the UNA's representatives were at the gathering to meet with the community and to answer any questions they might have about the UNA, Soyuzivka and the UNA's publications, Svoboda and The



At a recent UNA district meeting in Connecticut (from left) are: Donald Horbaty, Maria Antonyshyn, UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak, Gloria Horbaty, UNA National Organizer Oksana Trytjak and Dionizia Brochinsky.

Ukrainian Weekly.

Later, Ms. Trytjak briefly reminded the attendees of the great investment the UNA has made in the diaspora over the last 111 years. She described the many projects sponsored by the UNA and the millions of dollars invested in the community, as well as the fraternal benefits

that are a plus to members and the community at large.

Most importantly, the national organizer reiterated the importance of reviewing personal financial portfolios, which she said should include UNA policies.

(Continued on page 18)

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the UNA Seniors, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in our annual UNA Seniors Week, which will be held at Soyuzivka, in Kerhonkson, NY, on Sunday, June 12, through Friday, June 17, 2005. For your general information please note that the UNA Seniors was organized and has been active for over 30 years. The purpose of the club is to support UNA endeavors to preserve and cultivate Ukrainian heritage, promote unity with the community, develop social activities and maintain Ukrainian community life in America. We hope that you will be able to join us. We will try to make the week interesting and fun. If you would like to suggest activities for this week, we will be happy to consider all ideas.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SENIORS

invite you to the

31ST CONFERENCE OF UNA SENIORS

at
SOYUZIVKA

on
Sunday, June 12-17, 2005 – Seniors' Week



Call Soyuzivka and register early. Limited space available.

All-inclusive 5 nights, meals (dinner on Friday night through breakfast on Sunday), banquets and entertainment, including taxes and gratuities

UNA members - Single occupancy \$375.00, Double \$315.00 per person

Non-members - Single occupancy \$425.00, Double \$335.00 per person

Including tax and services - Banquet only \$30.00 Soyuzivka telephone: (845) 626-5641.

If you wish to organize a bus tour of 25 or more persons or need further information,

please call UNA Home Office: (973) 292-9800 ext. 3071 Oksana Trytjak - UNA National Organizer, UNA Seniors President

**Seniors' Week is fun, interesting and affordable.
WE WELCOME GUESTS – JOIN US!**

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine basks in the glow

We wouldn't normally write an editorial about a song contest, but this year's Eurovision was different. After all, the international song contest – which in 2005 marks its 50th year – brought representatives of 39 competing countries to Kyiv, capital of recently reborn Ukraine. And, the extravaganza was watched by an estimated audience of 150 million around the globe.

Still basking in the glow of the Orange Revolution, Ukraine put on a show whose theme, quite appropriately, was "Awakening." It was the first time Ukraine has hosted the event, and the reviews from participants and Eurovision officials alike were highly positive, according to our Kyiv correspondent.

Almost 9,000 visitors from around the world were in the audience of the Sports Palace for the final round of the competition. Perhaps even more importantly, the event brought in countless more visitors to Kyiv – visitors who might not otherwise have visited Ukraine. As one fan put it, Eurovision is "a real door-opener" for the country that hosts the contest. Concerts and other happenings related to Eurovision were held in Kyiv for a whole week leading up to the main event, as the capital city's streets were filled with tourists.

Ukraine's vice prime minister of humanitarian affairs, Mykola Tomenko, summarized the importance of Eurovision to Ukraine: "... this wasn't just a song competition, but, above all, a European presentation of Ukraine." Indeed, Ukraine celebrated European Union Day just prior to the competition, and during one of the concerts held on Independence Square singer Oleh Skrypka yelled out to the crowd: "We want to join Europe, not the Soviet Union, right?" The response was a loud cheer of affirmation.

Even President Viktor Yushchenko got into the act, becoming the first Eurovision host nation's president to present an award to the song contest's winner.

To be sure, Mr. Yushchenko himself is luxuriating in the afterglow of the revolution he led. He was named one of "The 2005 Time 100" – the world's most influential people – in Time magazine's April 18 issue, being listed under the category "Heroes and Icons." (Other categories were "Leaders and Revolutionaries," "Builders and Titans," "Scientists and Thinkers" and "Artists and Entertainers").

Most recently, Business Week listed President Yushchenko among its top "Stars of Europe – 25 leaders at the forefront of change." The list published in the magazine's May 30 issue encompassed the categories of agenda setters, managers, financiers and innovators. (Incidentally, Mr. Yushchenko happened to be the first person in the first group listed – so his was the first name readers saw.)

Citing the Orange Revolution that brought Mr. Yushchenko to power, Business Week wrote: "Now the charismatic Yushchenko is promoting European-style democratic reforms in the former Soviet republic. And he's making common cause with Poland and other new EU members, as he pushes for EU membership for Ukraine."

Six months after the revolution, Business Week noted, "Ukrainians are putting the revolution behind them and picking up the pieces of their everyday lives. Some are disappointed that change isn't coming as fast as they expected. But overall most Ukrainians are feeling pretty positive about the future..."

And so, the Orange Revolution continues to color perceptions of Ukraine and its people as the new Yushchenko administration gets down to the business of governing, and changing, Ukraine.

June
4
1996

Turning the pages back...

After months of political stalemate, a majority of Ukraine's Parliament on June 4, 1996, finally endorsed the country's draft Constitution in its first reading. But government officials warned that a national referendum was possible because it

was doubtful that the document will muster enough votes to ensure a constitutional majority – 301 votes – in the current legislature.

By a 258-101 margin, lawmakers in Parliament voted to approve the draft Constitution in its first reading. They were scheduled to review additions and revisions to the document in a second reading on June 19.

Right-wing and centrist lawmakers welcomed the vote. "This is a major step in the life of the Ukrainian state," said Volodymyr Stretovych, chairman of the Parliament's Committee for Legal Policy and Legal-Judicial Reform. For months, President Leonid Kuchma had tried to push through a draft Constitution, but had run into opposition from left-wing lawmakers who demanded a Constitution reminiscent of the Communist era that would give collective rights precedence over those of the individual and guarantee housing, work and social welfare.

Under the approved draft, however, individual rights would become the centerpiece of Ukraine's fundamental law. The draft guaranteed human rights and freedom of speech, religion and language. For the first time in nearly eight decades, citizens would also have the right to private land ownership. And although the document used language similar to the Ukrainian SSR's 1978 Constitution by stating that citizens have the right to work, housing and social welfare, observers questioned how enforceable these rights were in post-Soviet Ukraine.

Speaking at a press conference, Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the presidential administration, welcomed the result of the previous day's vote, but warned that the vote also showed that left-wing lawmakers had enough votes to block passage of the draft Constitution in its second reading. If the document failed to receive the necessary votes, it would be taken directly to the citizens of Ukraine for endorsement, Mr. Tabachnyk suggested. Mr. Kuchma had the right to call a plebiscite under the constitutional agreement entered into by the president and Parliament in June 1995. The accord, which was, in effect, a petit constitution, was to remain in effect until Ukraine adopted a new Constitution.

Source: "Ukraine's Parliament endorses draft Constitution in first reading," by Natalia A. Feduschak, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 9, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 23.

FOR THE RECORD

Tarasyuk congratulates UCCA

Below is the text of greetings from Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Dear Friends:

I sincerely congratulate the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on the occasion of its glorious jubilee – 65th anniversary – and on behalf of the entire Government of Ukraine I thank you for your support, sincere determination and decisive action in promoting the interests of Ukraine within the international community, as well as assisting democratic development in our state.

Today, the history of our nation has gotten a fresh start. Ukraine's pride and happiness rest on the fact that its people are now the authors of their own history. And so we depend on your continued support in promoting an understanding within the United States and Europe of the bright new spirit emanating from Ukraine; the spirit which has united us, and during our most decisive moment inspired our nation to rise up in defense

of freedom and democracy. Every person should strive to enhance the glory and greatness of their homeland in the world.

The maidan has stirred within the hearts of Ukraine's citizens an immense life-giving force; and now is the time for all Ukrainian hearts to beat as one. This revolution is not the final stage in Ukraine's age-old struggle for freedom, but rather a first step along this path.

I would like to reiterate the words of our President Viktor Yushchenko, which were made during his visit to the United States: "Devote the next two years of your life to Ukraine and we will change it for the better!" Every dollar of American investment, every politician who is no longer indifferent to the fate of Ukraine, every member of Congress, in whose heart an orange flame has been ignited, can be your contribution to the fulfillment of our forefathers' dream.

Through the united efforts of all Ukrainians – in the homeland as well as throughout the world – we will be able to strengthen Ukraine's independence, return it to its proper place in the community of free, democratic states, and realize the hopes and dreams of our wise and proud people.

Reznik notes UCCA's anniversary

Following is the text of greetings from Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Mykhailo Reznik, on the occasion of the UCCA's 65th anniversary.

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to greet the UCCA on this glorious occasion. Many times during my tenure in the United States I have had the opportunity to witness your authority and patriotism. During my work as a Ukrainian diplomat it has been a pleasure to count on the understanding and support of such a politically active organization as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The UCCA, together with Ukraine and Ukrainians throughout the world, is experiencing exciting times. More than one generation of Ukrainians has dreamt of living in momentous times such as these. More than one generation has departed from this world with the unanswered question lingering: Will there ever be a glorious time where the Ukrainian nation will determine its own destiny? Today this time has arrived – and not merely because of fate, but because of the choice

of the Ukrainian people. Let us be conscious of the dreams and aspirations of our ancestors. Let us not allow this historical moment to be overshadowed by grandiose words and declarations.

Ukraine and the United States – these two nations were destined to be partners. Today they are united in their common ideals and interests in the global arena. All the fundamental requirements exist for a Ukraine-U.S. partnership to become an effective attribute in international relations for years to come. And this can only become reality when we begin to work on these goals in a public-diplomatic manner, as well as in an official one. The UCCA is a shining example of how effective such work can be.

As you are aware, the retirement age in Ukraine is 65. However, when it comes to the UCCA this law does not apply. You celebrate this jubilee under ideal political conditions – you are youthful, active and success-oriented.

Wishing you continued strength in these momentous times! May the youthful, energetic and noble spirit of the maidan fill your hearts.

Yushchenko named among "Stars of Europe"

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – President Viktor Yushchenko was recently named one of the 25 "Stars of Europe" by Business Week magazine, adding only more prestigious recognition of the Orange Revolution of November-December 2004.

The segment appeared in the May 20, edition of Business Week, where President Yushchenko was featured among other significant European political, social and economic leaders.

The segment, titled "Stars of Europe: 25 Leaders At The Forefront of Change," focuses on individuals who played a unique, yet significant role in the advancement of modern European society within the past year.

Mr. Yushchenko shared the spotlight with other European leaders such as Willie Walsh (CEO, British Airways), Bo Vesterdorf (president, Court of First Insurance, Luxembourg) and Jean-

Pierre Lebreton (European Space Agency, France).

The nomination came as a direct response to the events of last year which forever changed the tide of Ukrainian politics. The peaceful Orange Revolution served as a testament not only to the will of the Ukrainian people and their desire to be completely independent, but also to a truly powerful and idealistic leader.

"Until recently, most people regarded Ukraine as an international backwater, not a beacon of freedom for the new Europe," wrote Jason Bush and Roman Olearchyk, authors of the segment. Through the power of the people, President Yushchenko was able to "unite the fractious opposition, turning him into a hero to the many Ukrainians who were fed up with corruption and the country's growing political repression."

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

Where do we go from here?

"So, who did you say owns this place, again?" asked Marko, from his familiar perch at the Trembita Lounge bar. "The Ukrainian National Association," I replied. "It owns Soyuzivka, and publishes Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly." I wasn't surprised at the question – over the years, I've discovered that many of my peers are unfamiliar with the UNA.

Marko gave me a quizzical look. "And what, exactly, does the UNA do, other than operate resorts and newspapers?" "It sells life insurance," was my reply. Marko's expression turned from quizzical to incredulous. "Life insurance? You have to be kidding. What is the Ukrainian community doing in the life insurance business? Seems kinda silly to me."

"Silly? Not at all." I was trying not to be defensive, but I was annoyed. "Let me enlighten you," I said, somewhat officiously. Marko knew he was in for it now. I shifted on the barstool, took a deep breath, and began. "In the 1890s, when new Ukrainian immigrants were working in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, and in the 1920s, when they slaved away in Cleveland steel mills or Detroit factories, no American company would insure them. Their life expectancy was just too short. And when they died – as they so frequently did in their 20s and 30s – the UNA was often the only source of support for their families."

Marko wanted to interject, but my momentum kept me going. "Socially, the UNA was the bedrock of our community. As the largest Ukrainian organization in North America (excepting the Churches), the UNA spoke for all of us. Local branches held social events, from zabavas and banquets to bowling tournaments and festivals. And, politically, we were the voice of the diaspora – our events were attended by senators and presidents. Heck, in 1982 the keynote speaker at our convention was then Vice-President George Bush. Silly? I think not."

"Interesting," pondered Marko. "Very interesting, Taras. Thanks for the history lesson. But think about the verbs you just used, my friend. Every one, without exception, was in the past tense. As in 'the UNA spoke,' or 'the UNA was.' How about some current news, Taras? What is the UNA today?"

"Well," I paused, "the UNA owns Soyuzivka, and publishes Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. But I guess I already said that," I muttered, as I nervously stirred my drink. Marko was gracious in making his point. "Yes, Taras, you already did. And I have nothing against the UNA. But what is its relevance today? You have to admit, it's something to think about."

To be honest, I really have not wanted to think about it. After all, I am somewhat of a "genetic UNA-er." My great-grandfather was a UNA branch secretary in 1898, and the list of close family members who have served in the association is long. To question the future of this

organization to which so many of my family gave so much of their time seems, well, almost disrespectful. But as I pondered Marko's question, I realized he was right.

While it has had a long and impressive history, recent years have been less kind to our association. Membership is down, and, more significantly, its role in our community has considerably diminished. No longer is the UNA a major player in the social or political life of the community. Socially, the organization is almost invisible to my peers; politically, groups such as the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America exert much more influence. The products sold by the UNA, while financially sound, are not in great demand. Yes, it is through the UNA that I have the privilege of writing this article and sitting in the Trembita Lounge, but other than those benefits, it's hard to define a role for today's UNA.

I firmly believe that the decline of our association is not the fault of its leadership, either current or former. Indeed, the UNA has always been blessed with dedicated individuals who have worked for the good of its members. But the needs of our community are much different than the needs the UNA was formed to fill more than 110 years ago. The UNA's role in youth programming and activities, prominent before World War II, is now filled by Plast and SUM. There is no shortage of Ukrainian professional and cultural organizations to satisfy the needs of the community. And, of course, we are now able to buy large life insurance policies at competitive rates from a wide range of companies.

So does the UNA still have a role to play in today's community, or have we outgrown "Batko Soyuz"? Do we continue to put our efforts into selling life insurance? Do we look for a way to wrap up our association, using the proceeds to endow the activities of this newspaper and/or our resort, while ensuring that all policyholders are protected? Or do we come up with a new business plan altogether? The time has come to enter into a thoughtful, community-wide discussion in an effort to answer these questions.

I finished my drink and pushed back from the bar. "You're right, Marko. You have given me – all of us – something to think about. Because if we ignore the questions, we will implicitly be making a decision to do nothing. And that's still a decision."

"Taras, don't worry," Marko counseled. "We do not dishonor the UNA's history by responsibly considering its future. In fact, the best way to respect the achievements of the organization is to treat the future deliberately. Sometimes, it's best to end things on one's own terms."

His words, though true, gave me little comfort. I sadly walked out the door and headed home.

Taras Szmagala Jr. may be reached at Szmagala@yahoo.com.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A prince of a fellow

Every vibrant Ukrainian American community has at least one person who everyone agrees represents the heart of the community.

Such a heart is always beating, active, a doer, a person who is reliable, dynamic and a joy to work with.

Such a dear heart was Stephen Wichar for the Detroit-Warren corner of Ukrainian America. His heart stopped beating on May 12.

Born on October 5, 1916, in Hamtramck, Mich., Stephen was a charter member of "The Greatest Generation," someone who grew up during the Depression and went off to fight for freedom during World War II. He once told his daughter Nancy that his service as a combat engineer in Europe was the greatest experience of his life because of what it taught him about patriotism and honor.

Honorably discharged after three years of service, Sgt. Wichar took advantage of the G.I. Bill, graduating from Wayne State University with a B.S. in 1952. Two years later he received his master's of education from the same university. He became a vocational education teacher and, eventually, a department head in the Detroit Public Schools. He retired in 1983.

Steve met his future wife, Nadia Osadchuk, in elementary school. She passed away in 2003 after 63 years of marriage. Both lived to see not only their grandchildren, but great-grandchildren as well.

Mr. Wichar was unique, a man of many talents and passions, a kind of Ukrainian renaissance man. He was a musician – he was once a member of the Kobzar Mandolin Orchestra – a sculptor who molded exquisite figures of Kozaks – and a writer who contributed to The Ukrainian Weekly, Narodna Volya and a host of other English-language Ukrainian publications.

Teacher salaries during Steve's tenure were meager, forcing him to work two and three jobs in order to send Nancy and her brother, Steve Jr., to college. "It was never a question of if we were going to college," Nancy told a Detroit Free Press reporter. "It was 'Where do you want to go?' He paid the whole shot, for both my brother and myself." Nancy and Steve Jr. followed their father into the teaching profession.

During his long life Steve compiled a prodigious list of accomplishments in the

Ukrainian community of Detroit-Warren. As president of the Warren Ukrainian Village Corp. since 1984 he coordinated numerous commemorations, fund-raisers and banquets on behalf of the senior citizens' facility. Steve initiated the Ukrainian Village Children of Chernobyl Fund, as well as the Lviv Oblast Clinical Hospital (LOCH) Henry Ford Hospital/UVCorp Partnership Fund.

Mr. Wichar was a national executive board member of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association for 16 years, eight of these as first vice-president. He helped organize the first UFA Youth Festival at the Verhovyna Resort. He also served as vice-president of the UNA District Committee of Greater Detroit.

Steve was a dedicated member of the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV), serving in a variety of posts, including Michigan UAV state commander. In his remarks at the funeral services, Oleh R. Cieply, present UAV state commander, reminded those present of the many activities Steve organized on behalf of the UAV.

"Perhaps the greatest monument to his work on behalf of the UAV is the UAV Michigan Post 101 Memorial at Fort Custer National Cemetery," Mr. Cieply said. "This memorial was built by a committee under Stephen's able chairmanship, to become a lasting reminder that men and women of Ukrainian descent served in the armed forces of the United States and contributed to the defense of freedom and democracy."

There was hardly a Ukrainian cause, a Ukrainian initiative, a Ukrainian need which Steve was not involved, whether it was teacher curriculum seminars for the promulgation of knowledge about the Holodomor, fund-raisers for the John Demjanjuk Defense Fund, establishment of a local chapter of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU), serving on the executive board of the Coordinating Committee for Aid to Ukraine, the executive board of the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor, as chairman of the supervisory committee of the Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, and as a trustee of the Mary V. Beck Scholarship Program "Ucrainica," or co-chairing a project to restore the Ukrainian room at Wayne State's Manoogian Hall.

His many contributions were recognized and cherished by local Ukrainians who honored him with a testimonial banquet in 1988 for 50 years of community service. The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor presented him with their prestigious "Ukrainian of the Year Award" in 1965.

Like many Ukrainians of his generation, Steve Wichar was a committed and active Democrat who enjoyed a visible presence on the local as well as national American political scene serving, most recently, as Michigan chairman for Clinton/Gore. In this arena of our lives, he and I disagreed, but he never let American politics interfere with our friendship or blind us to Ukrainian areas of common endeavor.

It was a privilege to know Steve Wichar for many, many years. Lesia and I will miss his infectious smile, his warm personality, his optimism, his helping ways. Verily, I say to you, it can be truly said, this man was a prince of a fellow. Vichna Yomu pamiat!

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



Stephen Wichar

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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Chicago prelate visits Ukraine, pays special visit to Ukrainian Catholic University

by Volodymyr Khitsyak

LVIV – Cardinal Francis George, Roman Catholic archbishop of the archdiocese of Chicago, visited the Lviv region and Kyiv from May 10 to 18. A highlight of his trip was a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU).

Among those in the cardinal's delegation were Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Richard Seminack of Chicago, Msgr. Martin Canavan of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cherry Hill, N.J., and John F. Kurey, Esq., president of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

Cardinal George's first stop was St. George Cathedral in Lviv, where he was greeted by Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. On May 11, the two cardinals concelebrated a memorial divine liturgy at the cathedral on the 40th day after the death of Pope John Paul II.

At the end of the liturgy, Cardinal George told the assembled faithful that it was a great pleasure to take part in prayer for the repose of the soul of Pope John Paul II who, in the cardinal's words, was a true mystic and a person of great prayer.

"This pope transformed the papal ministry," the cardinal said. "He was open to the whole world, and we saw that a significant part of the world was present at



Cardinal Francis George, Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago, blesses participants in the walking pilgrimage to the Studite monastery in Univ (Lviv region).



Cardinal Francis George, Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago, talks with Yuriy Helytovych, a first-year student in the Humanities Faculty of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

his funeral. I am sure that this image of ministry and mission to the whole world will remain."

Later that afternoon Cardinal George gave a press conference at the Ukrainian Catholic University. "This is my first visit to Ukraine," the cardinal told reporters. "One of the reasons I came to Ukraine was my desire to visit the Ukrainian Catholic University, for in Chicago a special foundation has been created that tries as much as

possible to help this growing institution."

"The university is developing successfully and I'm confident this will continue," he noted. "I want to get to know it better so that I can share my impressions with the faithful in Chicago. I also want to get to know your church better, to visit my brother bishops in Lviv and Kyiv and to take part in the pilgrimage to the monastery in Univ."

On May 12 Cardinal George concelebrated divine liturgy in the Byzantine rite at the chapel of the Ukrainian Catholic University and then spoke to the students.

Before the cardinal's talk, the Rev. Borys Gudziak, rector of the UCU, introduced him: "Before this, Cardinal George had never been to Ukraine, never seen the UCU. But, not having seen it, he still believed in its purpose and its mission. So he has already been our faithful friend and helper for a long time."

The UCU press office noted that Cardinal George is the 12th cardinal to visit the institution since it was revived as the Lviv Theological Academy in 1994.

On the afternoon of May 12 the cardinal visited Holy Spirit Seminary, another Ukrainian Catholic institution, which his predecessor as archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, visited in the early 1990s.

On May 13 the cardinal celebrated mass in Lviv's Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Assumption and visited the region's Roman Catholic seminary in Briukhovychi.

The evening of May 14 Cardinal George visited the town of Peremysliany, Lviv region, to celebrate a

moleben (prayer service) to Blessed Emilian Kowcz. One of the new martyrs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2001. Blessed Emilian was the parish priest in Peremysliany from the 1920s through the 1940s.

In the modern world, fear often rules people, said Cardinal George during his sermon at the prayer service. But the example of Blessed Emilian teaches us not to fear, for the Lord is with us, noted the cardinal.

On May 15 he concelebrated divine liturgy at Holy Dormition Lavra (Major Monastery) of the Studite order in Univ for youth who gathered there as part of an annual foot pilgrimage.

The next day the cardinal traveled to Kyiv, where, among his stops, he visited the construction site of the new Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Resurrection, the Kyivan Monastery of the Caves and St. Sophia Sobor.

He returned to Chicago on May 18.

Further information about the UCU in English and Ukrainian is available on the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone, (773) 235-8462; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org; website, www.ucef.org. In Canada, the address of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation is 265 Bering Avenue, Toronto, ON M8Z 3A5.

PHOTO FOLLOW-UP: Behind the scenes at Ruslana's benefit concert



Cutty Sark Co.

President Viktor Yushchenko watches as Gryndzholy lead singer Roman Kalyn prepares a pen to sign autographs at the May 17 Ruslana concert to benefit two Ukrainian hospitals and the Dzherelo Children's Rehabilitation Center in Lviv. From left, Gryndzholy keyboardist Andrii Pysetskyi, Mr. Kalyn, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, with her two daughters and President Yushchenko.



Cutty Sark Co.

Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund founders Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky hold bouquets alongside First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, who watched Ruslana perform a concert to benefit two Ukrainian hospitals and the Dzherelo Children's Rehabilitation Center in Lviv.

Thousands converge at Orthodox center for "Providna Nedilia"

by Hieromonk Daniel

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – It has become a tradition among Ukrainians living in the United States, Canada and throughout the diaspora to visit the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J. on the first weekend after Easter. On St. Thomas Sunday, or "Providna Nedilia" faithful gather at the gravesites of their loved ones to share in prayerful unity with them the joy of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As every year, the preparations for the annual pilgrimage began weeks prior to the event.

As the early morning sunlight shed upon the center, the first pilgrims started to arrive in order to avoid the rainy morning promised by weather forecasters. The forecasts were wrong, as it was a beautiful day.

St. Andrew Memorial Church was a place of quiet reflection and prayer that weekend, May 7-8. St. Andrew Cemetery, which is located behind the Church, was a place of spiritual reunions for many visitors. Hundreds of people visited Holy Resurrection Mausoleum, which houses the crypt of Patriarch Mstyslav.

The Ukrainian Cultural Center once again bustled with activity. Numerous Church organizations presented displays about their ministry among the faithful of the Church and in Ukraine. In addition, dozens of vendors offered Ukrainian folk art and other cultural, religious and historical items for sale.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Museum, also located in the Cultural Center, provided hundreds of visitors with the opportunity to come in contact with their historical, spiritual and cultural roots. Only one-fifth of the collection is on display in this temporary location, but it is a powerful display that has enhanced the lives of all who visit.

St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary hosted a social program and meeting with Archbishop Antony for numerous young visitors. The Church/St. Sophia Seminary Library in the Consistory building remained open for the weekend so that the visitors could see and experience the Church's efforts to provide adequate spiritual, theological, historical, cultural social education for seminarians and Church members.

All the points of interest of the Spiritual Center remained opened for the weekend

so that the Ukrainian Orthodox faithful, along with the numerous visitors to the center, had an opportunity to partake in the day-to-day life of the National Headquarters of the UOC of the U.S.A., known as the "Ukrainian Jerusalem" not only here in the U.S., but far beyond the borders of this country, including Ukraine.

The divine liturgy and memorial services at the Great Cemetery Cross and in the crypt of Patriarch Mstyslav and the grave of Metropolitan John, were celebrated by Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod with the dozens of concelebrating clergy, who remained on the center's property for the weekend, sharing in prayers with family members of those that are buried at the cemetery.

In his sermon, Archbishop Antony called to the attention of the faithful the scars of the wounds on the Body of Christ:

"While we celebrate the Glorious and Bright Feast of the Resurrection, we shall not forget the numerous wounds on the Mystical Body of Christ – His Church and her faithful, particularly in Ukraine – scars of persecution are still with us: Genocides against humanity, nuclear disasters in Chernobyl over 19 years ago and the continuing attempts of modern powers and regimes to develop weapons of mass destruction, starvation in Africa and around the globe, AIDS, the ongoing war with terrorism – all of which, among others, destroy the peace and freedom of God's creation.

"In the purity of faith and love in Christ, however, we shall find the path to salvation. No earthly government nor power or material possessions will bring us spiritual comfort and blessedness. Only true sacrificial love, simplicity of human heart and genuine hope will carry us on the road to salvation. It is the quality of our faith, rather than the quantity of our numbers that is most important in the battle against those who would destroy us."

Metropolitan Constantine was not able to participate in this year's spiritual pilgrimage due to a recent accident in which his ankle was broken, but he was with the faithful spiritually and all present were asked to remember him in their prayers during divine liturgy.

Archbishop Antony, president of the UOC of the U.S.A. Consistory and the ruling bishop of the Eastern Eparchy, led prayers at the graves of the other 11 Ukrainian Orthodox bishops interred at the cemetery, at the monument to

Metropolitan Vasyl (Lypkivsky) and at the monument, established by the United Ukrainian Orthodox Sisterhoods, to the women and children who perished in the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

The annual Providna Nedilia pilgrimage has seen many generations of Ukrainians and various waves of immigration visiting the Metropolia Center. The new wave of immigrants from Ukraine joined long-time residents and

the generations already born in the U.S., bringing a sense of unity to the community. It was moving to witness a person telling a young child about the deceased members of their family and their background and roots while standing at the place of repose for their loved ones. It was moving also to see that as the older generations pass on, the younger generations are carrying on family and national spiritual traditions.



Hierarchs and clergy during services at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery.



A view of a portion of the crowd gathered for memorial services.

Ukraine's Mission to the U.N. organizes Chornobyl Charity Bazaar



Volunteers at the Chornobyl Charity Bazaar held at the United Nations.

UNITED NATIONS – The traditional Chornobyl Charity Bazaar took place on April 26 at the United Nations Headquarters at the initiative of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations.

This charity event once again drew the attention of the international community to the Chornobyl tragedy – the worst technological catastrophe in the history of humanity, the 19th anniversary of which was marked recently.

As usual, numerous delegates from U.N. member-states, representatives of the U.N. Secretariat and attendees from various countries took part in this event, tasting Ukrainian dishes and purchasing Ukrainian souvenirs.

All the money raised during the bazaar is earmarked for hospitals in Ukraine

where children from the Chornobyl zone are treated.

The participation of the Ukrainian community in this event has become a tradition. The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations expressed gratitude "to all our friends for fruitful cooperation." The Ukrainian Mission singled out Julian Baczynsky, Andriy Ilnytsky, Bohdan Kekish, Nicholas and Mariya Drobenko, Dora Genza, Nadiya Sawczuk, Nina Nenadkevych and Tamara Denysenko for their involvement in the 2005 Chornobyl Charity Bazaar.

The mission also thanked Marta Kokolskyj for her energetic efforts and invaluable contribution to the organization and successful conduct of Chornobyl bazaars for about 10 years.

Tired of searching and surfing?

The Ukrainian Weekly – your one reliable source for all the news about Ukraine and Ukrainians.

Ukrainian Festival celebrates St. George Parish's centennial

NEW YORK – Some 10,000 to 15,000 people, according to police estimates, made their way to East Seventh Street, between Second and Third Avenues here on Friday through Sunday, May 13-15, for the 29th annual Ukrainian Festival sponsored by St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church.

This year's festival, which brought together the usual array of performers – dancers, singers and musicians – was dedicated to the centennial of St. George Parish, whose church is located at the

corner of Seventh Street and Taras Shevchenko Place.

The program on Saturday afternoon (seen in the photos on this page) showcased the talents of young Ukrainian folk dancers from the tri-state New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area. Also performing that day was singer Olya Fryz, assisted by two young dancers; and the New York Svitlychka (pre-school).

Stage shows were held also on Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as Sunday afternoon. Throughout the

course of the weekend, vendors and organizations sold craft items, artworks and, of course, food; various organizations also showed displays highlighting their activities.

The festival was officially opened on Friday evening with remarks by the Very Rev. Bernard Panczuk, OSBM. Masters of ceremonies were Ulyana Kekish-Solodenko and Zenon Czornij.



The youngest dancers concentrate on their performance.



The Barvinok dance troupe of Astoria, N.Y., in a Hutsul number.



The Iskra Dancers of Whippany, N.J., present the Hopak.



Children of New York's Svitlychka appear at the start of the Saturday program.

The public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend the next meeting of the

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Hartford Ukrainian community activist receives Connecticut's Outstanding Achievement Award



Presenting the Outstanding Achievement Award to Ihor Rudko are Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz and Hartford Superintendent of Schools Robert Henry.

by Alex Kuzma

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Immigrant Coalition and Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz on April 14 honored Ukrainian American Ihor Rudko for his outstanding efforts promoting economic development and service to the Ukrainian community. The Outstanding Achievement Award was presented in the ornate Judiciary Hall of the Connecticut State Capitol Building.

In a ceremony attended by many state dignitaries, including Gov. Jodi Rell, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, and State Senate President Kevin Sullivan, Mr. Rudko was honored for his many years of service as chairman of the Ukrainian Self Reliance New England Federal Credit Union, as president of the Council of Ukrainian-American Organizations of Greater Hartford, and executive secretary of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association.

In recent years, Mr. Rudko has been especially active as a member of the executive board of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives, which has pioneered the creation of credit unions in Ukraine.

Mr. Rudko was born in Germany,

where his parents had been forcibly deported by German soldiers during World War II. He received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Connecticut, and has been a consultant and engineer on many projects for major corporations in Connecticut. As the president of the Council of Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater Hartford, he played a leading role in last year's community demonstrations in support of the Orange Revolution.

Mr. Rudko is also an active member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its Khmelnychenky Fraternity.

A long-time resident of the small town of Colchester, Mr. Rudko has been married for 33 years to his wife Natalia, a current president of the Hartford chapter of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. The Rudkos have three children; Taras, Andriy and Motria, and recently became grandparents.

Among the other honorees at the April ceremony were the highly respected superintendent of schools for the city of Hartford, Robert Henry, a native of Costa Rica, and Nicholas Paindiris, the chairman of the Connecticut Democratic Party.

Catholic mission parish is established in Brighton Beach to serve new immigrants

by Danylo Peleschuk

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – In Brighton Beach, N.Y., sits a small Roman Catholic church, St. Margaret Mary's, which has recently opened its doors to the neighboring Ukrainians.

The need for a Ukrainian Catholic church in the Brooklyn area arose when the number of Ukrainian immigrants began to grow significantly. The tide of immigration that has so noticeably affected much of the northeastern U.S. is becoming increasingly evident in the Brighton Beach community. Of the 37,000 Ukrainians who now live in the area, up to 15,000 remain "churchless," according to the Very Rev. Bernard Panczuk, OSBM, who is credited with providing these Ukrainians with a new center for spirituality.

The proposal for the newly organized parish was introduced by Father Panczuk, superior and head pastor of the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City. With the help of Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of the Brooklyn diocese and Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Father Panczuk succeeded in establishing a parish for those Ukrainians who sought a proper place of worship.

The establishment is meant to be a mission parish – a small church that draws a crowd of faithful, hoping to attract them to the mother parish, which is, in this case, St. George's. Father Panczuk said he hopes to attract as many of the faithful as possible, as well as provide liturgical services for those unable to make the trip from Brooklyn into Manhattan.

The church – situated at 215 Exeter St.

in Manhattan Beach – is the property of the Brooklyn diocese, yet its Ukrainian members are claimed by St. George's. St. Margaret Mary's hosted its first Ukrainian Catholic liturgy on May 8, and has offered a weekly, 3 p.m. Sunday service since then.

Father Panczuk's plans for the future of the parish include offering weekly catechism lessons for children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion, as well as summer Bible study courses held on weekdays for students who are on their summer break.

At the moment, Father Panczuk has gathered several nuns from St. George's to assist him, and hopes to have up to five full-time staff members serving the needs of the faithful at the mission parish. Those aiding Father Panczuk in establishing the parish include Sister Theodozia, Principal of St. George's elementary school, Sister Julia, Sister Luba and Sister Cornelia, superior of the staff.

The sisters, however, are not leaving St. George's by any means. During the summer months, while the elementary school is on break, the staff will commute to St. Margaret Mary's and spend several days of the week at the church, running the summer study courses Father Panczuk plans to offer.

Father Panczuk encourages all Ukrainians in the immediate and surrounding area to help support the newly established parish, and if possible, to assist him in providing a beneficial and vital summer study program for those youngsters who seek further education in the traditions of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

For further information, Father Panczuk may be reached at his office at St. George's, at (212) 674-1615.

The Ukrainian Weekly announces a special section Congratulations, Graduates!

Every year tens of thousands of students throughout North America receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities, cresting a pinnacle of personal achievement.

The Ukrainian Weekly's special section – Congratulations, Graduates! – offers readers of The Ukrainian Weekly the opportunity to place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This annual section will be published on July 10, 2005.

To place an ad congratulating a recent graduate, please send us the following by June 25:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
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Ukrainian Canadian's musical dramatizes Winnipeg General Strike

by Christopher Guly

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

OTTAWA – In Canadian history, June 21, 1919, is known as “Bloody Saturday.”

That day – more than a month after the country's most-famous labor disruption involving more than 30,000 people broke out in Winnipeg – the Royal North-West Mounted Police and military forces charged into a crowd of strikers.

About 150 shots were fired, and an estimated 30 people were sent to the hospital.

One person – Ukrainian-born Mike Sokolowski – who allegedly threw a brick at police, died after being shot through the heart on Main Street, directly in front of today's city hall.

No family member claimed his body. Sokolowski, believed to be 40 years old at the time, was buried in obscurity in the pauper's section of a Winnipeg cemetery.

Now, almost 86 years after his death, Sokolowski's name will be remembered in a musical conceived by a fellow Ukrainian Canadian about the famous Winnipeg General Strike.

But “Strike! – The Musical” (strikemusical.com), which runs from May 26 to June 14 at Theatre in the Park in Winnipeg's Kildonan Park, won't necessarily tell the real story about Mike Sokolowski's life.

“He was not a left-wing member of the [pro-socialist] Ukrainian Labor Temple in Winnipeg,” explained Danny Schur, who wrote the music and lyrics, and co-wrote the script for “Strike!”

“He might have sympathized with the need to go on strike, but could never have for fear of being deported – and indeed might have been a strike breaker.”

Mr. Schur says that during his research he discovered that Sokolowski was reportedly wearing an employee badge from the Winnipeg health department and likely had a job – perhaps sweeping streets – that was typically handed out to “poor immigrants.”

Furthermore, Mr. Schur found an eye-witness account that suggests Sokolowski might not have even been the one who threw the fateful brick and was in fact standing on the opposite side of the street.

And while it was left to a stranger to drag his bloodied corpse to a nearby funeral parlor, Sokolowski did have family in Winnipeg. He was married and had three children.

But Mr. Schur explains that Sokolowski's wife, Kasha, “may have been too scared” to come forward and identify her husband's body. “Had she shown up and it was determined she no longer had a husband to support her, maybe she would have been deported since she and Mike were considered to be enemy aliens at the time.

“Another theory was that their third child had yet to be born and she was in labor at the time of Mike's death. But who knows why she wasn't there.”

However, Mr. Schur says that Kasha's daughter-in-law from her second marriage, Corrine Siddon, told him the family never talked about Sokolowski.

“There was absolute shame dying in that way, and you can see that in the tone of the writing in the Winnipeg newspapers at the time of his death. Immigrants like him were considered disposable,” explained 38-year-old, Manitoba-born Mr. Schur, whose first musical, “The Bridge,” presented in



Danny Schur

2000, told the story of a famous rock band whose members have Ukrainian roots.

But all of the facts surrounding Sokolowski's life don't figure in telling the story of Mike Sokolowski, the character played by Winnipeg-born Jay

Brazeau in “Strike!”

In the musical, his wife and kids live in Ukraine and Sokolowski is trying to bring them to Canada.

Mr. Schur has also substituted Sokolowski's name for a real person who had a role in events leading up to Bloody Saturday.

Four days earlier, the Canadian government ordered the arrest of a group of men identified as leaders of the strike. However, not all of them were legitimate organizers, including Moishe (Moses) Almazoff, who later moved to New York and became a leading member of that city's Jewish community.

Almazoff got caught up in the raid after his Ukrainian Canadian neighbor, Harry Damaschuk, fabricated evidence that incriminated Almazoff as a Bolshevik revolutionary.

“He was charged with conspiracy to overthrow the government of the Dominion of Canada,” Mr. Schur explained. “He spent 60 days in prison before his self-defense resulted in his release.”

Almazoff appears as a character, portrayed by Israeli-born actor David Friedman, in “Strike!” But Damaschuk is fictionalized to become Mike Sokolowski. Mr. Schur says he did that to help illustrate the virulent anti-Semitism present in early 20th century Winnipeg.

“I'm mining the Ukrainian-Jewish divide,” he added.

(Continued on page 20)

Yevshan Vocal Ensemble brings Ukrainian composers' works to new audiences

by Roma Gina Thibodeau

HARTFORD, Conn. – This spring, the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble under the direction of Alexander Kuzma issued a new CD of liturgical music titled “Icons of Faith” that features rarely heard works by Leontovych, Arkhangelsky, Bortniansky and Vedel, as well as original works by Yuri Hodovanets and Mr. Kuzma.

Since its first full-length concert in 1999, the Yevshan ensemble has collaborated with several Connecticut-based choirs in reaching out to new audiences that had not been exposed to Ukrainian choral literature.

Most recently, Yevshan organized a festival at the Theater for the Performing Arts in Hartford titled “A Mosaic of Slavic Music.” The April 1 program included performances by the Yale Slavic Women's Chorus, the Yale Russian Chorus and the Yevshan Ensemble.

“For us, this was a very interesting collaboration with two renowned student choirs at Yale,” said Ihor Stasiuk, the artistic director of Yevshan. “Although the vocal styles of each choir were very distinctive, our audience had an opportunity to enjoy the rich diversity of Slavic choral traditions and to appreciate the unique qualities of each musical culture.” At the conclusion of the concert, all three choirs united for a performance of Taras Shevchenko's epic poems “Dumy Moyi” and “Reve ta Stohne” as a tribute to the victory of the democratic Orange Revolution in Ukraine.

The concert opened with a performance by Yevshan, a mixed choir of men and women comprising selected singers from various Ukrainian churches in Hartford, New Haven, New Britain, Bridgeport and Colchester. After singing several a cappella arrangements of Ukrainian secular and sacred works, the



The combined voices of the Yale Russian Chorus, the Yale Slavic Chorus and the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble perform a setting of Shevchenko's “Reve ta Stohne” at the conclusion of the April 1 concert at the Theater of the Performing Arts in Hartford.



Hannah Farber directs the Yale Slavic Chorus and the women's section of the Yevshan Ukrainian Vocal Ensemble in a performance of Leontovych's arrangement of “Vyshni-Chereshni.”

ensemble was joined by a quintet of accomplished bandura players: Olya Chodoba-Fryz, Irene Kytasty-Kuzma, Joanna O'Flaherty, Daria Richardson and Christina Jamahian. The instrumental set included several works by Hryhory Kytasty and Julian Kytasty, including the beloved “Echo of the Steppes” and “Metelytsia” (The Whirlwind).

In the second portion of the concert, the Yale Russian Chorus performed under the direction of Mark Bailey. Established in 1953, this student choir has won acclaim in major concert halls of Western Europe, Russia, Georgia and the United States. The Yale Russian Chorus performed several liturgical works by Chesnokov and Ippolitov-Ivanov, as well as several popular marching songs such as “Borodino” and “Soldatushky.”

After intermission, the Yale Women's Slavic Chorus charmed the audience with exotic and harmonically intricate works from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Poland,

Bosnia and Russia. Under the direction of Hannah Farber, the chorus showcased several works from its new CD “Kolo Sertsia” (Close to the Heart).

The women's section of Yevshan joined the Slavic Chorus for a performance of the Ukrainian folk song “Vyshni-Chereshni” and, finally, all three ensembles – combining 60 voices – sang the finale, “Reve ta Stohne,” which elicited a lively standing ovation.

“We really enjoyed working with Yevshan on this project,” said the Slavic Chorus's Ms. Farber during a reception at the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford following the concert. “We were very impressed with the beauty of the bandura, and we would gladly include more Ukrainian material in our repertoire.”

As a result of the April 1 program, Yevshan also received an invitation to perform as special guests at a June 12 festival hosted by the Connecticut Polish Choral Society.

INTERVIEW: Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi on Ukrainian topics

In the abridged interview below, award-winning Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Zanussi discusses history, Ukrainian identity in film, the revival of the Ukrainian language, Polish-Ukrainian-Russian relations, Ukrainian filmmakers and more. Mr. Zanussi, born in 1939, is a film, theater and opera director, as well as an author. He is director of the film studio TOR and has received many international prizes in recognition of his work. The interview was conducted on March 24 in New York City with Yuri Shevchuk, director of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University.

What links you to Ukraine?

My interest can be explained by my fascination with Rus' [the historical name of the Great Principality of Kyiv in the 10th – 13th centuries, also known as Kyivan Rus'] as a cultural and historical phenomenon. At a certain moment I began to look critically at history, because we had been forced to accept false views of history, which we attempted to reject. The Hungarians approached the problem of historical truth in a very interesting way, in terms of their relations with the Slovaks, in which I see a real analogue to the relations between Poland and western Ukraine. In my view, this was something similar to Silesia, where the Polish or Slavic element was ousted by the Germans. I observed similar processes and compared them with the Spanish conquest of the Moors on the Pyrenean peninsula.

What specifically interests you in Ukrainian history?

I have been interested for a long time in the question of why certain nations have succeeded in history and others haven't. Some were able to accomplish their goals, while others were not as successful. I am still making unexpected discoveries on this subject. Once I was in the German city of Aachen, which was one of the later capitals of the Holy Roman Empire. Then I went to Kyiv, and there I understood that it is entirely possible to compare the two cathedrals located in each city – the Cathedral of St. Sophia in Kyiv and the Charlemagne Cathedral in Aachen. Both were built at approximately the same time. The only thing is that St. Sophia's Cathedral in Kyiv is incomparably larger and grander, because the Russian [i.e., Ukrainian] civilization of the time was much stronger compared to the civilization of Charlemagne. This was in Ukraine, which many in Western Europe cannot find on the map to this very day. Such changes in historical fates, the rise and fall of civilizations, elicit strong emotions in me. I don't want to be a member of a losing nation. For that reason I closely follow the destinies of those peoples who have lost. For the most part, Ukrainians have lost in the most direct sense, but now have gained their historical opportunity. Until recently, however, it appeared that Ukrainians had lost it irretrievably, but suddenly this opportunity presented itself! Such things are incredibly interesting to me.

My interest in Ukraine also comes from my wife, who is descended from the Czetwertynski line and related by blood to the Sheptytsky family. At a certain moment, the Sheptytsky's felt themselves to be more Rus'ian than Polish. This Rus'ian princely dynasty split in two, one part of which gravitated towards Poland and the other towards Rus'.

In what way is the issue of national identity connected to film?

I wanted to find among my Ukrainian colleagues in filmmaking their national identity. From my first contacts I tried to draw out of them some sort of purely Ukrainian traits, but they didn't understand me. For them, the capital was

Moscow and Ukraine was little more than a Russian province. It is this mindset that they brought to their films. Ironically, the first person who revealed a strong sense of Ukraine was an Armenian. This fellow, like me, was very much interested in Ukraine. He spoke Ukrainian very well, even better than my Ukrainian colleagues.

Are you talking about Serhii Paradzhanov?

No, Paradzhanov is Georgian. For me, the Ukrainianness of Paradzhanov had something tourist about it. It was the Ukrainianness of a tourist. Of course he had his own aesthetics, but in my view he did not demonstrate a very sensitive ear for the local culture.

Last September, just before the revolution, before your elections, I unexpectedly received an award in Ukraine from your vice-premier, who is a historian and apparently distant from [President Leonid] Kuchma. We had a long conversation. He had read somewhere that every time I met with Ukrainian filmmakers I tried to convince them of the need to demonstrate their Ukrainian uniqueness, not their similarity to Poles or Russians. "Show me how you are different. Who is your hero? How can I tell that he is not a Pole or a Russian, but specifically a Ukrainian?" I would say.

Here, for example, is something that happened with one of my Ukrainian students. I love to tell this story because anyone who knows it will say that only a Ukrainian could have done that. In 1992 a group of film students from Ukraine came to study with me. In our classes I told them about the necessity to remove from their consciousness the so-called "Soviet man," or "sovok" (pejorative reference to a person of Soviet mentality – ed.), because this "sovok" is in every one of us. One of the traits of the "Soviet man" is his inability to dream; he is passive and agrees to everything.

One student said that this was actually good, because why should you dream if all you get from your dreams is disappointment? Yet I persisted in asking what he would dream about if he were to dream? He said that he would dream about the West, even if he couldn't travel there because he didn't have enough money for a bribe to get a visa. That's why he didn't even want to hear about the West.

Several days later, I tell my Ukrainian guests that I am going to have a party in my garden, and there will be Western diplomats, ambassadors. I encourage the student to approach a diplomat. "Even if he refuses, you should still try." I tell him.

At the party my student approaches the German ambassador and, like a zombie, says, "I want visa." The ambassador becomes flustered and asks what my student is after. I say, "You heard him, he's asking for a visa." The ambassador then made a mistake, for which I love him to this day. He said to me, "Krzysztof, can you vouch for him that he won't stay? I'll issue him a visa as an exception." I reply, "Listen, I invited 20 Ukrainians here whom I have never seen before in my life. No one gave me any guarantee that they wouldn't stay or that they wouldn't slit my throat. I don't know anything about them. And you are worried that Germany will fall apart if one Ukrainian stays?" He blushed and said, "I'll give him a visa."

So my student hitchhiked his way to Germany. This is what began to convince me that his mentality is not the same as that of Poles or Russians. When I offered to give him a few Deutschmarks, he answered that he wouldn't accept; that with his Kozak pride he would go as he is, taking only a little food for the journey. Later he told me how he had rejoiced like a child when he arrived in Berlin, how he sang and embraced passers-by on the

street, and was even arrested for trying to kiss a pretty policewoman on the Europa-Zentrum Square. After three days he returned completely changed. Now he, too, believes that one can and must dream.

What does this story tell you about Ukrainian identity, if anything?

In my view, such a thing could not have happened with a Russian. In a similar situation, a Russian would not have expressed his joy, but would immediately have said, "And what about Russia, my great Russia? What are these Germans to me?" At the same time, a Ukrainian thinks differently. He experiences the joy of a simple discovery.

This story got your vice-premier interested. He expressed the view that Ukraine needs to create a distinctly Ukrainian national idea. What, I ask, again like the Russians? The need for a national idea is itself a very Russian way of thinking. It is high time Ukrainians recognized their own uniqueness, experienced their own specificity. Why, for example, does a Portuguese not kill the bull in a bullfight, while a Spaniard feels compelled to kill it. You must, after all, take a closer look at yourselves. Russia took away your mirror and you have not yet taken a good look at yourselves at all.

We, Poles, also played a marked card against you; we also did not help you to discover yourselves. Instead, we sought

to conquer you. We did the worst thing possible to you. We took away your elite, having Polonized it at a time when the Ukrainian people would not be Polonized.

That is why today I am taking a closer look at Ukrainians. That is why today I am interested in Ukrainian cinematographers. I would prefer that they not make films imitating the poetic realism of Illienko, which I feel is false. These films are shown at festivals, but at the same time I see that the Ukrainian public does not understand them, that they are not really for it. This is true of Illienko's film about Hetman Mazepa. It says nothing to Ukraine about what she truly is.

In that case, what type of films should Ukrainian filmmakers be making now? On what subjects?

My students from Lviv told me how they had staged Ionesco in the basement of their experimental theater. In response I asked them, "What does that have to do with the here and now, with that universal marketplace or the hardships that you are experiencing today, with that wretched and helpless Ukrainian village, with those who today are struggling to awaken and discover their self-identity?"

I tried to convince them of the urgent

(Continued on page 22)

NEW RELEASE: Live concert CD by famed Kyiv Chamber Choir

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Kyiv Chamber Choir, Ukraine's premiere a capella choir which since its founding in 1990 has earned international recognition as one of the outstanding chamber choirs in Europe, has recently come out with its first live concert CD recording.

Titled "Sounds of Kyiv," the CD was recorded for broadcast on CBC Radio by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., during the choir's November 5, 2004, concert held in the George Weston Recital Hall at the Toronto Center for the Arts. The CD has been released by Toronto-based Dotcom Recordings.

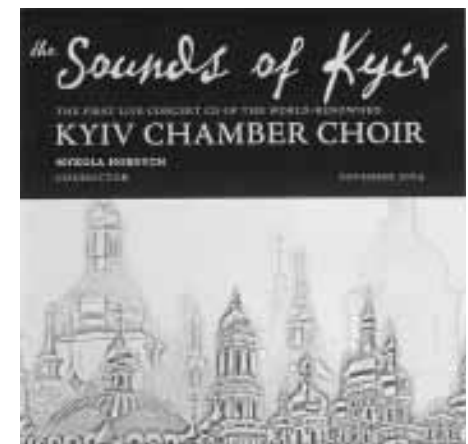
Included in the recording are selections of sacred choral as well as Ukrainian folk music in choral arrangements performed by the Kyiv Chamber Choir as part of their first concert tour of Canada, which comprised 17 performances in 14 cities during November, 2004.

Under the direction of its founder, Mykola Hobdych, the 21-member choir has gained international renown for performing many of the best choral pieces found in Ukrainian music history combined with the highest level of professional performance.

The choir's repertoire, which features both sacred and secular music, focuses on restoring ancient liturgical Ukrainian music, while also being actively engaged in performing contemporary works of Ukrainian composers.

A recipient of numerous prizes at international choral competitions, including three grand prix awards, the choir consistently attracts sold-out audiences to concerts in Europe and Great Britain. To date, the choir's discography numbers 21 CDs.

Comprising "Sounds of Kyiv" are three sacred choral music works from various centuries: "God is With Us," Petro Turchaninov; "Resurrection Canon," Mykola Dyletsky; and "O Give Thanks Unto the Lord," Viktor Stepurko; as well as 11 choral arrangements of Ukrainian folk songs as represented by Anatoly Kos-Anatolsky and Mykola



Leontovych, as well as such contemporary composers as Olha Budarina, Olexander Bondarenko, Heorhiy Chernenko, Hanna Havrylets, Maestro Hobdych, Myroslav Skoryk, Yevhen Stankovych and Volodymyr Zubytzky – who in their works often utilize modern musical tonalities to advantage.

"Sounds of Kyiv" is available, for \$21.50 (shipping included) by calling Dotcom Recordings Inc., toll free, at (877) 232-9835; (416) 242-5052 (in Toronto); or by e-mail: info@dcbynet.net.

Maestro Hobdych, a graduate of the Kyiv Conservatory, has worked throughout his career to preserve and promote Ukrainian choral music. Among his endeavors has been the establishment of a music library in Kyiv, as well as the initiation of a program to research and transcribe Ukrainian scores that have been lost or are not available in print, and to distribute recovered scores to choirs throughout Ukraine.

A graduate of the Kyiv Conservatory, he was choirmaster of the Revutsky National Men's Choir (1983) and the Dumka choir (1984), going on to found the Kyiv Chamber Choir in 1990. Since 1996 he has also served as director of the annual Kyiv of the Golden Domes Choral Festival. Maestro Hobdych, 44, is a laureate of five international choral competitions and a frequent adjudicator at such competitions.



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych



Treaty of Brest-Litovsk commemorations revisited

A couple of years ago, on the 85th anniversary of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (February 9, 1918), I submitted a "Focus on Philately" article about this famous agreement and displayed some commemorative items created for the occasion. Since then, with the help of some friends, I have come across more

Brest-Litovsk photographs and souvenir materials, which I would like to share with readers.

About the treaty

By the terms of this treaty, Ukraine was able to withdraw from the first world war in the spring of 1918 and enjoy a



Figure 1. Three members of the Ukrainian delegation to the Brest-Litovsk talks are shown in the center front of this Austrian post card: Mykola Liubynsky; (second from left, wearing bow tie), Mykola Levytsky (center); and Oleksander Sevriuk third from right (wearing bow tie). The inscription reads: "The peace with Ukraine. The concluding night session of February 9-10 in which the peace protocol was signed."



Figure 2. Map showing the extent of Ukraine after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.



Figure 3. The cover and two interior pages of the Bulgarian Brest-Litovsk Treaty ratification document signed by Czar Ferdinand.

period of relative peace that extended for most of the remainder of the year. This time was crucial for the nascent state in establishing all types of new Ukrainian institutions, many of which would help it survive the turbulence of the next few years before finally succumbing to Bolshevik forces.

Most importantly, however, the treaty also granted Ukraine international recognition by the four Central Powers: Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria and Turkey. Eventually, about a dozen countries would extend diplomatic recognition to Ukraine.

It was in the interest of both sides – the Central Powers and Soviet Russia – to conclude a peace when they met at Brest-Litovsk in late 1917. Russia had suffered crushing defeats earlier in the year and many returning disillusioned Russian soldiers were creating instability in the countryside.

The Soviets desperately needed peace to consolidate their hold on the country and on December 16, 1918, they signed a three-month armistice with Germany.

The Central Powers on the other hand did not wish to move any further east and occupy more Russian territories. They were interested in eliminating their Eastern Front so that they could concentrate their forces against France and Italy in the west.

There was still another powerful force that drove the Central Powers to the bargaining table. Both Germany and Austria-Hungary were in dire need of foodstuffs and raw materials, both of which they hoped to obtain from Ukraine. So it was for these reasons that the Central Powers welcomed delegates from the newly independent Ukrainian National Republic, or UNR, which had declared its independence from Russia on January 22, 1918.

The delegates from Ukraine included Oleksander Sevriuk, Mykola Liubynsky, Mykola Levytsky, Vsevolod Holubovych and S. Ostapenko (Figure 1). The Soviet Russian delegation was headed by Leon Trotsky, who at a session of the conference on January 10, 1918, recognized the independence of the UNR and agreed to have its delegation participate in the proceedings. Subsequently, when he tried to discredit the Ukrainian delegation, he was ignored by the Central Powers.

The treaty provided for the recognition of Ukraine by the Central Powers and the establishment of frontiers between Ukraine and Austria-Hungary to run along the prewar boundaries between Russia and Austria-Hungary. The territory of the Ukrainian state recognized by the treaty included not only the nine former Russian imperial provinces claimed by the UNR's Central Rada, but also the province of Kholm and the southern third of the Minsk and Grodno provinces, including Brest-Litovsk itself (all of which had sizable Ukrainian pop-

ulations); see Figure 2.

Additional treaty passages renounced the payment of the costs of the war and of reparations for war damages. Regulations for the mutual exchange of agricultural and industrial surpluses were set up and principles set forth for the establishment of customs, legal, diplomatic and consular relations. The release of prisoners of war and the exchange of war prisoners and interned civilians were also agreed to.

The day the treaty was signed was also the day Kyiv fell to Bolshevik troops. It was, therefore, necessary for Ukraine to request military assistance of its new allies. Initially, the Ukrainian government only asked for (western) Ukrainian units in the Austrian Army or special volunteer units formed in Germany from Ukrainian POWs, but complications arose and the plan was abandoned. Instead, it was mostly regular German and Austrian units that ended up clearing Ukraine of Bolsheviks.

In return for the above-described diplomatic recognition, trade agreements and military aid, Ukraine was obligated to deliver one million tons of grain to the Central Powers by the end of July.

On March 3, 1918, another peace treaty was signed at Brest-Litovsk, this time between Russia and the Central Powers. By its terms, Russia acknowledged the independence of Ukraine, as well as Poland and Finland, and was bound to quickly make peace with these countries. On July 12, 1918, Russia signed an official armistice recognizing Ukraine, but a formal peace treaty was never signed.

Ukraine and Bulgaria exchanged ratification documents on July 15, 1918 (Figure 3). Germany ratified the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Ukraine on July 24, 1918 (Figure 4), while Turkey ratified the treaty on August 11 of that year. Austria-Hungary repeatedly postponed its treaty ratification and the empire eventually fell apart at the conclusion of the war in November of 1918.

Ukraine ratified the treaty on June 12, 1918 (Figure 5), but was able to deliver only a portion of the amount of grain it had promised by the end of July. In the end, however, it made little difference, since by then it was becoming obvious that the Central Powers were going to lose the war and that the post-conflict situation in Europe would be changing dramatically.

Celebrating the treaty

The previous article focused mostly on medal and pin commemorations of the Brest-Litovsk Treaty. It turns out there were quite a few commemorative seals (labels) created for the occasion. Figure 6 shows a pair of these seals prepared in Berlin. The one on the right – proclaiming "Peace" in large letters and the names of Germany, Ukraine and Austria-Hungary in celebratory balloons – was previously reported, but at the time its mate was not known. That seal indicates the direction Russian troops would now be heading, from Brest-Litovsk to Petrograd (the Russian capital). The center German rhyming text is a Leon Trotsky quote from February 11, 1918, that states: "The war is done, we're going home." The two labels were printed on cream-colored paper in either red or black and perforated 11 1/2.

Another label arising in the German capital was more elaborate and printed in four colors (Figure 7). Prepared imperforate by the German Trade Mission, it depicts an example of agricultural machinery that Germany was to deliver to Ukraine in return for grain. The inscription simply states: "From Germany to Ukraine."

A commemoration from Austria is the

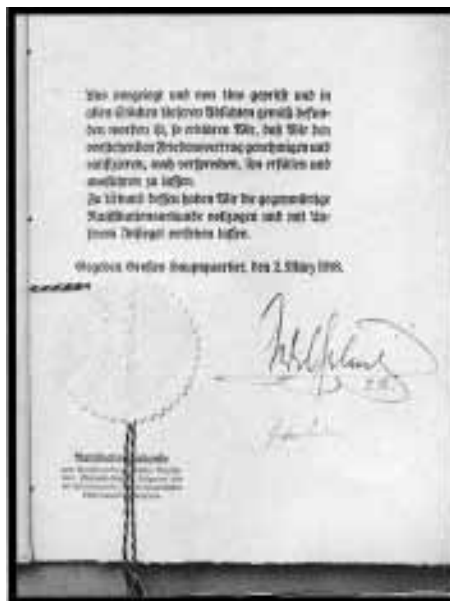


Figure 4. The cover and two inside pages of the German Brest-Litovsk Treaty ratification document signed by the German Emperor Wilhelm II.

so-called Grillparzer Issue. The central text reads: "Peace with Ukraine/Brest-Litovsk February 9, 1918," in the outer ring it reads: "Member of the Grillparzer Society in Vienna, Est. 1974"

World War 1914-1918. These were supposed to be charity labels, but were actually produced by a Viennese stamp dealer who had no scruples about preparing them as a way to make some money for himself. It was issued embossed with black ink on nine different colored papers.

Several other German-language commemorative seals are known. Figure 9 shows a rectangular label depicting a hilly landscape with a rising sun bearing the Latin word "Pax" (Peace). The upper text reads: "World War 1914-1918"; the bottom statement relates: "In commemoration of the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk." This seal is known to be printed in five colors, but others may exist.

Figure 10 depicts a modified version of this label. The scene is quite similar to that described above, but here the white shading lines in the hills have been removed. This version is known in eight colors.

Another seal – this time in a vertical format – depicts a standing figure holding aloft what looks like a palm branch and looking up at the word "pax" (Figure 11). On the right is the text "World War 1914-1918"; below is the inscription "Int.[ernational] Peace Conference Brest-Litovsk." This label design is known in at least 14 colors. Figure 12 displays a similar format, but is cruder in appearance; it is known in gold and dark red, and gold and green.

Even though the above-described labels were created abroad, likely all in Austria and Germany, they hold a particular relevance to collectors of Ukraine-related materials and should not be overlooked.

I wish to extend my sincerest appreciation to Peter Cybaniak, Roman Dubyniak and Borys Fessak for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

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Figure 5. The cover and interior of the Ukrainian ratification document signed by Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky. The inscription reads: "Therefore, I, Hetman of all Ukraine, have resolved to confirm, ratify, and firmly and steadfastly execute today and for future times, the above-cited peace agreement, and I order the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian State to exchange the ratification of this treaty at the designated place mentioned in this agreement. Resolved June 12, 1918, in Kyiv. Hetman of all Ukraine Pavlo Skoropadsky."



Figure 6. Two-color seals printed in Berlin to commemorate the Brest-Litovsk Treaty.



Figure 7. Multicolor German label depicts a multiple plow device that Germany was prepared to deliver to Ukraine in return for grain.



Figure 8. Embossed commemorative label from Austria.



Figure 9. Sunrise scene depicting the onset of peace.



Figure 10. Scene similar to previous, but without details on hillsides.



Figure 11. Greeting the arrival of peace.



Figure 12. Cruder version of previous design.

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only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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Analysts turn...

(Continued from page 2)

The lack of economic reforms is compounded, Stratfor and Dr. Aslund believe, by high inflation, declining economic growth, fears of re-privatization, and extravagant social spending. A higher tax burden is also forcing some small and medium-size businesses to again operate in the shadow economy. Mr. Yushchenko has promised to deal with this issue and demanded that governors reduce regulatory measures for registering new businesses.

Ukraine's economic growth of 12 percent last year was the highest in Europe and was unlikely to continue at such a record pace. As polls showed during the election year, most Ukrainians did not personally feel any improvement in their living standards as a consequence of this high growth and did not therefore give credit to the government headed by Viktor Yanukovich.

The criticism of high social spending is misplaced on political-institutional grounds. The Yushchenko team inherited very high pensions and state salaries, which the Yanukovich government had deliberately increased as an election bribe. By increasing state salaries still further, the government seeks to complement a widespread anti-corruption drive by making it no longer necessary for state officials to steal to survive.

President Yushchenko's team also must take into consideration the upcoming 2006 parliamentary elections. They must secure a pro-Yushchenko parliamentary majority if the reforms are to work in the near term. This, in turn, will have a great influence on the success of Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration during a second Yushchenko term, which would begin in 2009.

The authorities in eastern and southern Ukraine in particular may need higher social spending between now and the elections to secure popular support. Different polls show the Yushchenko-Tymoshenko team supported by around half the population, with only 16-24 percent opposed (Dzerkalo Tyzhnia/Zerkalo Nedeli, May 14; Ukrayinska Pravda, May 26). On its own, Mr. Yushchenko's People's Union-Our Ukraine party can only muster a maximum of 30-35 percent of the vote. This figure is forcing him to ally with Ms. Tymoshenko and People's Party leader Volodymyr Lytvyn in the 2006 election campaign to secure a parliamentary majority.

The Orange Revolution dramatically improved Ukraine's international image. A growing number of foreign investors are interested in Ukraine but have stopped short of moving from intent to actual investment (Financial Times, May 13). They remain unclear about whether the threat of reprivatization is across the board or officially restricted to a limited number of companies. President Yushchenko and Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh have spoken of 29 reprivatizations, a figure that Prime Minister Tymoshenko was publicly contesting until Mr. Yushchenko's threat to remove her.

Other areas of concern reflect impatience with certain reforms not yet having been undertaken. These include land reform, which is unlikely with a Socialist agricultural minister, and a neo-Soviet commercial code, which Justice Minister Roman Zvorych has called to be changed. These reforms are more likely to be adopted by next year's Parliament – that is, if it has a pro-Yushchenko majority.

President Yushchenko has launched a challenging agenda, and his second 100 days in office may determine its chances of success.

Yushchenko, Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 2)

port with all my soul our union, our teamwork, our joint political activity for many years ahead."

But some skeptics in Ukraine immediately recalled another election alliance made in Kaniv, by four presidential candidates during the 1999 presidential campaign (Yevhen Marchuk, Oleksander Moroz, Volodymyr Oliinyk, and Oleksander Tkachenko), which lasted no longer than three weeks.

What actually transpired between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko on May 19? According to the influential and usually well-informed Zerkalo Nedeli, which attributed its information to four unnamed participants in the meeting, Mr. Yushchenko apologized to the Russian oil traders for the Tymoshenko Cabinet, which, the president claimed, had obstructed their work. Mr. Yushchenko purportedly said he wished he had never appointed Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister.

He also is said to have suggested that she might tender her resignation and join the opposition Social Democratic Party – united and the Party of the Regions in order to "blow their pipes and beat their drums." To add insult to injury, Mr. Yushchenko reportedly invited everyone except Ms. Tymoshenko to the next room to have champagne. All this purportedly took place after Ms. Tymoshenko categorically and repeatedly disagreed with Mr. Yushchenko's assessment that she had dealt with the fuel crisis by way of essentially administrative and non-market levers.

Leaving aside the shocking nature of the Ukrainian "family quarrel" under the Russian eyes, as Zerkalo Nedeli put it, one could argue that Mr. Yushchenko was

to a large extent correct. Gasoline prices began to rise in Ukraine in early April, presumably stimulated by a more than 50 percent rise in the price of crude oil, a 30 percent increase in the excise tax, and increased tariffs for rail transport. Ms. Tymoshenko ordered in mid-April that prices for gasoline be stabilized at a level below 3 hrv (\$0.6) per liter.

Simultaneously, the Ukrainian Ministry of the Economy warned Russian oil companies that it would guarantee their property rights for Ukraine's refineries only if they agreed to cut retail fuel prices – which they did. But following the cuts, some Russian-owned refineries in Ukraine significantly decreased their daily output or halted it altogether for "planned repairs." As a result, Ukrainians saw long lines at gasoline stations run by LUKoil and TNK-BP, some of which reportedly introduced rationing.

Seeking more market-oriented methods to defuse the fuel crisis, the government hurriedly drafted a bill to abolish import duties on fuel; the Verkhovna Rada equally hurriedly passed the legislation earlier this month. The aim of the legislation is twofold: to stop fuel prices from rising, and to create a more competitive environment for fuel imports from refineries not owned by Russians, notably from Lithuania and Romania. And the law seems to be working, at least for the time being. Fuel prices have now been fixed at 3.2 hrv, 3 hrv, and 2.85 hrv per liter of A-95 gasoline, A-92 gasoline, and diesel fuel, respectively. And some suppliers have begun looking for Lithuanian fuel.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Tymoshenko's argument that the fuel crisis was a "plot" by Russian oil traders to destabilize the government that is not liked by the Kremlin, seems to convince many Ukrainians as well. A poll conduct-

ed by the Razumkov Center among some 700 Kyiv residents last week found that more than 50 percent of respondents attributed the fuel crisis to "Russia's economic pressure as a means of influence on Ukraine's policy," according to Zerkalo Nedeli. That should not come as a surprise, not only because of the popular belief in Ukraine that Russia is to blame for most of Ukraine's political and economic troubles but also because of the situation on the Ukrainian fuel market.

Russian oil traders control 75 percent of fuel supplies to Ukraine, which effectively creates an informal foreign cartel that can easily coordinate its pricing policies in Ukraine not only to secure higher margins but also to achieve other economic or political objectives, especially when such policies are consecrated by "market rules."

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with Komsomolskaya Pravda on May 23 that Russian companies need to apply market-based pricing policies in the export of energy resources. Referring specifically to Georgia and Ukraine, Mr. Putin said it is necessary to find "transparent, market

tools for interaction" with these countries. But Mr. Putin singled out Belarus, saying it is an exception in Russia's market-based export policy, since, the Russian president explained, "We are trying to find a way to build a union state with Belarus." This seems to be a circuitous way of saying what Ms. Tymoshenko essentially, and less diplomatically, said about the roots of Ukraine's fuel crisis.

"There is no Russian conspiracy here [in the fuel crisis]," Mr. Yushchenko said at a business forum in Kyiv on May 25. "I demand only one thing of the government: Learn lessons like that of oil markets." To which, according to Reuters, Ms. Tymoshenko, who sat alongside him, responded: "May my president forgive me."

But an equally essential question here is whether she has forgiven Mr. Yushchenko for his words during last week's meeting with Russian oil traders – for what seemed to be a severe blow to her self-worth if not an outright humiliation. The answer to this question might also include an answer to the question about the viability of the current political establishment in Ukraine.

U.S. energy secretary...

(Continued from page 1)

Tymoshenko told reporters.

Earlier this month, Ms. Tymoshenko ordered Energoatom, the company that runs the operations of Ukraine's nuclear industry, to conduct a feasibility study for a domestic nuclear fuel reprocessing program. She said that the company should boost domestic production of uranium and zirconium, both components of nuclear fuel rods.

After meeting with Mr. Bodman, the Ukrainian prime minister invited American companies "to take part in the development of Ukrainian uranium mines, in the overhaul of thermal power plants, geological surveys and oil and gas production."

Ukraine's uranium industry is based on large deposits in the Kirovohrad region. The country is currently developing three uranium fields in Vatutinskoye, Michurinskoye and Tsentralnoye.

Uranium is produced by the Vostochny ore dressing works, with Russia's TVEL Corp. as its major customer.

Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Bodman also reviewed efforts to build a new structure that will cover the crumbling concrete and steel sarcophagus hastily erected over the destroyed reactor at Chernobyl, which exploded and burned in 1986 in the world's worst nuclear disaster.

In addition to the European Union's financial aid programs aimed at upgrading safety at Ukrainian nuclear power plants and for the handling of nuclear waste, Western countries, including the United States, pledged additional funds at a recent donor conference in London for a new, more permanent shelter over the current structure.

Mr. Bodman and Petro Poroshenko, secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, on May 27 discussed the conversion of some Ukrainian reactors to the use of low-enriched uranium. Such a conversion would lower the risk of accidents and possible leakage of nuclear components to terrorists.

On May 26 Secretary Mr. Bodman and David Zhvanya, Ukraine's minister for emergency situations, signed an agreement that would allow the U.S. Office of Global Radiological Threat Reduction to work more closely with its Ukrainian counterparts on improvements in the security of nuclear waste.

Many Western countries have expressed fear that poorly guarded Ukrainian nuclear waste could be used by terrorists to make a dirty bomb, a device that uses conventional explosives to disperse radioactive material and contaminate large areas.

"This Implementing Arrangement is a significant step forward in our partnership to safeguard these radioactive materials and advance the security of the region," Mr. Bodman told reporters.

Presidents Bush and Yushchenko, who met in Washington earlier this year had, pledged cooperation "between our two nations to promote nuclear safety, security of nuclear materials, and non-proliferation," Mr. Bodman noted as he began his visit to Ukraine.

"I'm proud to be in Ukraine to strengthen the cooperation of our two nations on energy and nuclear security issues. And I'm proud because many of us in the United States see a number of parallels between the events that unfolded here this past winter, and the American Revolution of 1776," stressed Secretary Bodman.



We regret to announce that

MARY SOWIRKA HRYSHCHYSHYN,

our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and aunt has fallen asleep in the Lord on Friday, May 20, 2005.

She was born on November 23, 1928 in Philadelphia, Pa.

She was an active member in her church, church organizations, Ukrainian choirs, The Ukrainian Orthodox League and All Saints Church Camp. She served as the treasurer of St. Vladimir's Church Credit Union in Philadelphia for 12 years.

On Monday, May 23, His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine conducted a Parastas for the family. On Monday evening a Parastas was served by Father Steve Repa, Father Tim Tomson and Father Robert Popichak in the Corba Funeral Home in Carnegie, Pa.

Father Steve Repa and Father Tim Tomson conducted the Funeral Liturgy on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie, Pa.

She is survived by:

Bohdan, her husband of 53 years of Bethel Park, Pa.
son Mark with wife Deborah of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
daughter Donna Hryshchyshyn of Laguna Beach, Ca.
grandchildren Larissa with husband Michael Brady of Durham, NC;
Stephanie Hryshchyshyn of Raleigh, NC;
great-granddaughter Lana Mikaela Brady of Durham, NC
sister Olga Hustak of Norristown, Pa.
brother Taras Sowirka with wife Dora of Meadowbrook, Pa.
brother-in-law Michael Hryshchyshyn with wife Olga of Flourtown, Pa.

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Armenians...

(Continued from page 4)

"I thought it was a kind of signal," he said. "There are clearly policy changes in Turkey."

Fear of Armenian territorial and financial claims is widely seen as a major factor behind the Turkish denial policy. The Armenian position on the issue is rather ambiguous. The authorities in Yerevan say that they recognize Armenia's existing border with Turkey and have no intention to seek any reparations from the latter. "We are not talking about compensations, this is only about a moral issue," President Robert Kocharian told Russian television on April 23.

However, influential nationalist groups in Armenia and the diaspora, notably the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaksutiun), want Yerevan to keep the door open for future territorial claims. Earlier this month Dashnaksutiun condemned the Bush administration for allegedly trying to

have the Turks acknowledge the genocide "without any consequences."

Critics point out, however, that none of the genocide resolutions adopted by about two dozen countries to date calls for any consequences. They say Dashnaksutiun itself welcomed a 1987 resolution by the European Union that stressed that "neither political nor legal or material claims against present-day Turkey can be derived from the recognition of this historical event as an act of genocide."

The controversy highlights a lack of debate in Armenia and the diaspora on what exactly would constitute international recognition of the genocide and what should follow it.

"Debate is definitely needed and I think it has to include Turks," Mr. Krikorian said. "It's always easy to negotiate with somebody who is not in the room. But when the person you are expecting something from comes to the room, it's a different situation. I think that discussion ought to take place more and more with Turkish officials, at the government-to-government level as well."

UNA Home Office...

(Continued from page 5)

She mentioned that old \$500 and \$1,000 paid-up insurance policies are of little value today and that everyone should re-evaluate their insurance policies and upgrade to those that are more in tune with their particular financial needs.

Ms. Trytjak also reported on recent improvements at the UNA resort and its focus on the younger generation, especially all the camps and fun weekends geared toward younger adults. Last but not least, she invited everyone present to the upcoming Seniors Week scheduled to take place at Soyuzivka on June 12-17.

Discussions about UNA matters con-

tinued over lunch, with the Home Office representatives addressing a variety of concerns expressed by members. Mmes. Kozak and Trytjak took advantage of the opportunity to explain what constitutes membership in the UNA (some thought that subscribing to one of the UNA's newspapers makes them members) and why the UNA is an institution worthy of individual and community support.

During the gathering, attendees also had an opportunity to view the photo exhibit and to purchase books related to the UNA and its history. At the end of the afternoon, door prizes for weekends at Soyuzivka were won by Mr. Stuban and Stefan Tarasiuk.

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Truzyb's men soccer team headed for regional semifinals

HORSHAM, Pa. – On Sunday, May 22, before a respectable home crowd at Tryzubivka, the Ukrainian Sport Center Tryzub's Ukrainian Nationals over-30 men's soccer team decisively defeated Badgernecks Red Star, the Maryland State champion, by a score of 5-2.

The victory vaulted the powerhouse team to the semifinals of the U.S. Region I (East Coast) championship. Winning the Region I title would qualify the Nats for a four-team playoff for the coveted U.S. over-30 national championship.

At approximately the five-minute mark, the guests from Maryland stole an errant pass and converted a two-on-one breakaway into the game's first goal.

Stirred to action, the Ukrainian Nationals went on the offensive and never looked back. Wolodymyr Kitsul drilled two successive crossing passes from Dino Thomazos into the back of the net with his left foot and then his head.

Several minutes later Thomazos dribbled to the center of the field and blasted another one home from about 15 yards.

Some poor defensive play in the Nats' goal mouth resulted in an unexpected second Badgernecks goal and the teams went into half-time with a 3 to 2 score.

The Badgernecks started the second half with a thundering offensive onslaught, but the Ukrainian Nationals weathered the storm with a counter-attacking style that resulted in two more goals for the home team through great individual breakaway. The Ukrainian Nationals won by a score of 5-2.

The Ukrainian Nationals will next play in the Region I semifinal in Virginia, on Sunday, June 5, against Bier, the D.C.-Virginia State champion that beat Kearney, the New Jersey state champion, 1-0.

The Region I finals will be held on Sunday, June 26, at the United German-Hungarian Club located in Oakford, Pa.

Tournament at Tryzubivka opens 2005 Ukrainian tennis season



Some participants of the tournament (from left) Gene Serba, George Petrykevych, Boris Tatunchak, Greg Serba, George Hrabec, Jerry Tymkiw, Ihor Buhaj, Ivan Durbak, George Sawchak and Walter Dziwak.

HORSHAM, Pa. – USO Tryzub's 18th annual Spring Tennis Tournament was held at Tryzubivka on May 14-15. Besides opening the Ukrainian tennis season for year 2005, this tournament was dedicated to two golden anniversaries in the history of Ukrainian sports in North America.

Fifty years ago USCAK, the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, was established. Also, this is the 50th season of modern Ukrainian tennis tournaments which started on a single court at Soyuzivka, the UNA estate, in Kerhonkson, N.Y. Both events will be properly celebrated during this golden anniversary year.

Ivan Durbak, last year's USCAK and Tryzub tennis tournament champion, again won this year's spring tournament, defeating his neighbor from northern New Jersey, Steven Sosiak, 6-3, 6-1.

Mr. Sosiak advanced to the finals defeating Ihor Buhaj in the semi-finals 6-1, 6-1, and Walter Dziwak in the quarters

6-1, 6-0. Mr. Durbak, defeated George Hrabec from Denvers, Mass., in the semi-finals, 6-1, 6-0, and George Petrykevych from West Hartford, Conn., in the quarters 6-2, 6-3.

Mr. Hrabec gained third place in the tournament by winning the finals of the feed-in group 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 over Mr. Petrykevych.

Other interesting matches in the tournament were Mr. Buhaj's win over George Sawchak 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, and George Walchuk's win against Gene Serba 6-3, 7-6 (3). Overall, 18 individual matches were contested in the tournament.

At the conclusion of the play, trophies were presented to the winners and finalists of the main draw and feed-in tournaments by Mr. Hrabec and Mr. Sawchak, the tournament and USCAK tennis director.

The next Ukrainian tennis tournament will be USCAK-East singles and doubles scheduled for Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y., on July 2-4. For information contact Mr. Sawchak at (215) 576-7989.

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UKRAINIAN SPORTS FEDERATION OF U.S.A. AND CANADA USCAK - EAST 2005

Tennis Tournament Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Dedicated to the 50th anniversary of USCAK and the 50th year of tennis tournaments at Soyuzivka

Dates: July 2-4, 2005

Place: Soyuzivka, UNA Resort, Kerhonkson, NY

Starting Times: Singles will start 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 2
Doubles will start 1 p.m. on Saturday

Entry: *Advance registration is required for singles.* Entry fee is \$20 per individual or a doubles team. Send registration form including the fee to:
George Sawchak
724 Forrest Ave., Rydal, PA 19046
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Singles registration must be received by June 25. Any inquiries about the tournament after this date should be made to Sawchak at Soyuzivka, tel.: (845) 626-5641. Doubles teams may register at Soyuzivka by 10 a.m. on Saturday. *Do not send entry form to Soyuzivka.*

Rules: All USTA and USCAK rules for tournament play will apply. Participants must be Ukrainian by birth, heritage or marriage. Players may enter up to two groups of either singles or doubles.

Awards: Trophies will be presented to winners and finalists in each group.

Host Club: KLK, USCAK Tennis Committee will conduct the tournament.

Registration Form Make checks payable to KLK

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Doubles _____ Partner _____ Mixed Doubles _____ Partner _____

EAST 2005

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Ukrainian Canadian's...

(Continued from page 12)

"At the time, Ukrainians would have been from the peasant class in Galicia" – very much anti-Bolshevik. "In the mind of my character, Mike Sokolowski, Bolshevism was a Jewish movement." Thus, Mike Sokolowski is portrayed as being anti-Semitic – at least at the beginning of the musical.

But he turns against Almazoff, in part, to prevent his Ukrainian-born godson, Myron Dudar (a fictionalized character, yet based on Myron Didur, a Ukrainian immigrant who was hospitalized with injuries on Bloody Saturday) from marrying Almazoff's sister, Rebecca, played by Broadway star Catherine Wreford, a Winnipeg-born actress set to marry film actor Jeff Goldblum this summer.

"To Mike, if his godson gets in with the radicals, he and Myron are going to be deported and that will prevent Mike from getting enough money together to bring his wife and children over from Ukraine," Mr. Schur said.

Without revealing the story's conclusion, it can be noted that Mike eventually warms to Myron's relationship with

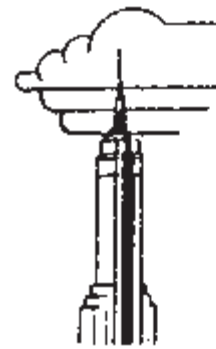
Rebecca – and in the process, emerges as the play's tragic hero.

In addition to paying tribute to Sokolowski in the \$575,000 (about \$461,000 U.S.) production, Mr. Schur has also made a personal gesture to remember the man who died tragically during the Winnipeg General Strike. Two years ago, Mr. Schur arranged to have a headstone donated from a Winnipeg company and be placed on Sokolowski's previously unmarked grave at Brookside Cemetery.

The Bloody Saturday victim is remembered on the three-foot-wide monument as the "forgotten immigrant."

Also inscribed on the headstone is a message for the ages, which reads, in part: "The Winnipeg General Strike was one of the watershed events of 20th century Canadian history ... [that] lasted for six weeks, but divided the city along ethnic and class lines for decades thereafter. While today viewed as a struggle for better wages and collective bargaining, the strike had an anti-immigrant undercurrent, and culminated in riot and bloodshed."

A memorial in honor of Mr. Sokolowski was held on May 14 at his gravesite – an annual event that also coincides with the anniversary that marks the start of the Winnipeg General Strike.




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UNWLA branch in Florida sponsors two-day art exhibit



NORTH PORT, Fla. – Branch 56 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America organized a two-day exhibit of works by 17 artists of Ukrainian heritage. Held on April 9-10, the exhibit encompassed works rendered in oil, watercolors, acrylics, woodcuts, clay and mixed media. Seen above are the participating artists with committee members: (front row, from left) Dr. Maria Dycio, Bohdanna Bilowchtchuk, Halyna Shramenko, (second row) Lida Bilous (publicity), Pat Zalisko, Tania Silecky, Irena Radzykewycz, Tania Flis, Odarka Horbachewsky, Vera Trycieckyj, Christine Sheldon (press) and Vera Bodnaruk (press). Other artists whose works were displayed were: Anna Bilynsky, Christine Guran, Irena Harris Koczerzuk, Iwanna Hawryluk, Nina Pantschak, Christine Stecyk, Olia Tatarko and Kalynna Thompson.

– Vera Bodnaruk

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Polish filmmaker...

(Continued from page 13)

need to produce plays and films that would depict the qualities of the Ukrainian hero, or what is current, the yearnings of the nation, the Kozak spirit, the nation's bitterness as well as optimism, an optimism that did not appear to manifest itself in earlier historical times and which now must compensate for lost time. That's what I think and I wish Ukraine the best of everything.

Lately, Polish-Ukrainian relations have improved considerably, not only on the level of capital cities and the social elites, but also on the ordinary human level. What possibilities for continued improvement do you foresee?

It seems to me that a very important task for my generation consists of finally coming to terms with our historical past and considering our responsibility to history, so that we will fare better in history. As a matter of fact we are bound by specific obligations toward Ukraine.

Whenever I travel to Vinnytsia, where my wife's family comes from, I attend public gatherings in the local library. They are

attended by huge crowds. Suddenly I learn that about 600 people from that region went to Poland to learn about democracy. This was entirely a local initiative. The significance of this is not that people went to Poland. They are drawn not to Poland but to the fact that in its villages the mayor is answerable to his constituents, not to some other higher authority. They saw how this has an impact on life; they visited the economically depressed and not exactly exemplary provinces of Lodz and Piotrkow. They were struck by the fact that the villagers there do not hesitate to voice their opinions. Ukrainians are drawn to and have a drive for self-government. No one from Russia would ever come to learn similar things because such a drive does not exist for Russians. They believe that it is necessary to defer to higher authorities. Their thinking is far more hierarchical. Meanwhile, in Ukraine there is a persistent spirit of freedom. This is precisely what made the Orange Revolution possible.

Did the Orange Revolution come as a surprise to you?

No, I was glad that it succeeded because it could have failed. I recall how many of my

politician friends said after Mr. Kuchma's victory [election] that this was the end for Ukraine, that he would bring about another, final, merger of Ukraine with Russia. I did not agree with this view. I saw a virtual analogy to homeopathy where, as in homeopathy, the nation needs a bit of poison to develop antibodies to fight it. I think that without Mr. Kuchma there would not have been the breakthrough that is now forthcoming. He was crucial in helping people see the definite threat to Ukraine's very existence. Only then did that energy surge forth to propel the people to Ukraine's defense.

I don't know if the putsch staged by Yanayev (in 1991) was not necessary for Russian democracy. We should perhaps regret that it was so short-lived. Maybe if the putsch leaders had been successful for a longer period of time, democracy in Russia would have eventually evolved in a better way. However, nothing in history vanishes absolutely and forever. The same thing happened in Ukraine. Soon, great disillusionment will inevitably emerge. The people think that a new administration has arrived with unlimited powers over everything. That will not be the case. Perhaps the new government will be able to point history in a different direction or

even restore the people's long-lost faith.

What is now of primary importance for this country and its people is to actively seek a galvanizing, indispensable opportunity for self-realization. To this day Ukraine has not yet realized itself.

And Russia?

Tragic as it may be, Russia still has not realized itself. It likely went farther in its historical development; it had greater successes; it held its own destiny in its own hands in significantly greater measure. What good is all this when today the Russian is forced to go to America to develop a career whether as a scientist or an athlete or in the sphere of arts and culture. There exists in Russian civilization, in spite of its mighty potential, some flaw that prevents it from realizing itself. Why are Americans not standing in line at Russian Consulates to get visas? Those who bear responsibility for Russia should be seriously disturbed by this. I am not responsible for it, although I also wish the Russians well. Their expansionism is a genuine misfortune for them. Russia is forever spilling over its borders, thereby missing chances to do anything worthwhile on actual Russian territory; after all, they have everything it takes within their own land. Why is it necessary for them to constantly spill over into Ukraine for whom, other than raw materials, they have nothing good to offer? Maybe, Russia should break apart and become more masterful as a country. Perhaps then it would be in a position to guarantee its people better conditions for self-realization. It is possible, but I don't know this. How can you keep on believing in Ivan Kalita and be driven to keep hoarding and hoarding everything? What did they gain from this hoarding mentality? At this point in time their hoarded booty gives them nothing.

Sometimes in discussions with Russians I ask them in which language, in their opinion, did the people of ancient Kyiv speak, not likely in Muscovite Russian. It may be Russian that is a dialect of Ukrainian and not the other way around. Culture and civilization existed in Kyiv.

Getting back to the subject of cinematography, what Ukrainian films have you seen in the past 10 years and what do you think of them?

Of the very few that I did see, none made a significant impression on me. The Ukrainian film industry is fighting for its survival. I was intrigued by students' films. In them I see cause for hope.

Do you recall the names of these young cinematographers?

For example, the films of Taras Tomenko, who has been a guest in my home. I see that he has not been very fortunate as far as favorable conditions for filmmaking are concerned. He long ago earned the right to have at least one full-length feature film.

During the screening and discussion of his films at the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University in March, he said that he already has a screenplay for a full-length film.

The screenplay was ready five years ago, but to this day he hasn't had an opportunity to realize it. Speaking more broadly about Ukrainian films, when I was observing attempts to make Ukrainian historical films, I saw that their creators lacked stylistics and an understanding of what should be told in those films. In effect, they were being made according to Soviet principles, meaning that they should be acceptable in the same way as they might have been during Soviet times. But today it is crucial to relate and portray something completely different. That is

(Continued on page 23)



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Polish filmmaker...

(Continued from page 22)

why I told them that I would be delighted to see a Ukrainian Till Eulenspiegel. Every free country has its Eulenspiegel, so I would like to see the Ukrainian one.

Meaning a hero who would portray the general human quest for freedom and at the same time embody a distinct national archetype?

Precisely, a Ukrainian Eulenspiegel, and not another Russian Petya.

Was there a period in Polish filmmaking similar to the one that has been experienced in Ukraine since independence, i.e., the availability of talented people and creative resources, but a dearth of financial means for self-realization?

Such a moment occurred as recently as two years ago. At that time a neophyte liberal had become the minister of culture. After declaring that the marketplace determines everything, he withdrew all funds for the support of cinematography. He was ousted within a few months, but not before causing a good deal of harm.

What advice would you give to individuals like Taras Tomenko, who find themselves with no financial support?

In order to survive, one needs to work even harder and not spread oneself too thin. I have heard accounts of how hard it is to survive; however, on the other hand, they need to mobilize themselves and find ways to work on projects in cooperation with others, because they cannot do it alone. They need to look for funding abroad. On the other hand, of course, it is challenging to do a national project when you are funded with foreign money.

Is there an interest in Poland in such cooperative projects with Ukraine?

Jerzy Hoffman actively sought ways of doing such projects. I give Mr. Hoffman credit for his great efforts in purging the creative works of Henryk Sienkiewicz from the lies imposed by others. It was his new reading of Sienkiewicz that altered the insulting, for the Rus'ians, depiction of the Polish-Ukrainian struggle. To be more exact, the struggle was of the Ru'sians against the Poles: at that point they were not calling themselves Ukrainians yet, but Ru'sians. Mr. Hoffman simply had to do something together with the Ukrainians. In any case, the potential for carrying out Polish-Ukrainian projects is out there.

What do you think about the Molodist (Youth) Festival?

It is a wonderful festival because it is vibrant, truthful, and so small – it doesn't spill over. Had it spilled over, it would have died. It has certain energy.

The most important thing is for the festival to continue to take place and present to audiences in Ukraine new films that otherwise they would not have an opportunity to see because of everything being either so Americanized or Russified.

A heated debate is under way regarding the plight of Ukrainian cinematography. According to the predominant opinion, one should not make films in the Ukrainian language because, allegedly, no one in Ukraine will watch them.

If one followed this logic, one should not use the Ukrainian language because greater languages exist. Maybe everyone should learn Russian, but wait! We've already tried that. Then why not learn English right away – that would be even better! Obviously, this is stupid. One cannot render national identity without the language. True, there are nations with a

national identity but no language of their own – Ireland is an example. But that would not work for Ukraine because Ukraine has a poorly developed identity. Ukraine has survived an overly-long occupation by its neighbors.

In my opinion, those who think that films in Ukrainian should not be made are simply saying that the films they make are of no interest to anyone. Had anyone had an interest in those films, people would go to see them; people would watch them, regardless of what language they were in. It cracks me up that I have to speak Russian in Ukraine because that makes me easier to understand. I tell my interviewers to ask their questions in Ukrainian. My ear is trained in Ukrainian and I understand this language very easily. I would like very much for the Poles to make their contribution to honoring the Ukrainian language. I know that today it is rising from the ashes.

What is your latest project about?

I have just finished working on the film "Persona Non Grata," which is co-produced with Russians and Italians. It is about diplomats. I believe it would be interesting for Ukrainians as well, for it tells about our tense relationships with the Russians. Two weeks ago in Moscow I was asked about "Polish interference" in Ukrainian affairs. My answer was, "I can't see why it surprises you. You should have gotten used to it after 400 years." I don't see Ukraine's relations with other countries as interference in Russia's domestic affairs.

Does Polish film have good prospects to win a wide audience in Ukraine and achieve at least part of the popularity that it enjoyed in Soviet times?

This is impossible at the moment, for you don't have a distribution system. Ukraine hasn't set up anything like a system that, say, the Germans have in the form of a network of so-called municipal cinemas, which protects its cinema production from the American monopoly. In democracy, it is essential to protect one's market from monopolies. Russia has improved the situation somewhat, for it began to actively assist with film distribution.

I remember during Gorbachev's time I spoke at a congress of Soviet cinematographers. At that time all of them were obsessed with the problem of creative freedom. I told them they already had freedom, but what was really important was to protect the system of distribution. Nobody understood me then and said I was pessimistic. A couple of years later they lost all their movie theaters together with the whole system of distribution. In those days the Russians couldn't believe they could be betrayed by their own audience and that it was important to secure their distribution system in administrative terms.

Ukraine should create a system that would allow a plurality of offers and would primarily show European films, and I don't mean only Polish ones. There are huge cultural riches that Ukraine needs. It can't be eternally divided between Russia and the United States and see only two images of the world. In searching for itself, Ukraine should have much more, so that it would be possible for Ukrainians to watch Irish film, for example, or to learn about the issues that the Dutch have to deal with in their everyday lives. With such a weak national consciousness, which is now manifested in the state of Ukrainian culture, Ukraine should be very careful not to become a victim of the market, and avoid becoming gradually enslaved as well. Here the state plays the role of a regulator and should not leave such things to the mercy of fate.

Is there anything in your films about Ukraine or Ukrainians?

Yes, actually there is. This is a matter of personal pride and a fact that should interest

film historians. I was the first director under communism to depict members of the Ukrainian Uniate Church [the Ukrainian Catholic Church – ed.] in a Polish film. This film is called No Matter Where You Are (Gdzieskolwiek Jest). It was made in 1987, with Julian Sands and Rene Soutendijk in the leading roles. Our government got angry, saying, "Why do you have to show this – the Russians will go berserk, such things are prohibited in their country. Why show that Poland honors the Greek-Catholic Union?" Certainly the episode with the Uniate Church priest lasted only for a couple of seconds, but I did that on purpose in order to remind people of these things. The film is set in the part of Ukraine that was under Poland during the war. There is a very sick person, who is visited by a Ukrainian Catholic priest. I could have easily substituted a Roman Catholic priest but then the atmosphere would have been different. Then I was asked, "How can it be that a married man is a Catholic priest?" I answered that there is a Uniate Church in Slovakia, Romania and Poland. There were three such different Churches in all.

I get the impression that the Ukrainians' church union with Rome is of great interest to you.

You now have such an extraordinary church leader, Lubomyr Cardinal Husar, a man of exceptionally charismatic and broad intellect. I see him being attacked within the Catholic Church because by the breadth of his vision he is ahead of his times at least by half a century. He says that all Churches can unite and it is not about the exceptionality of the Union but about the necessity to get rid of inter-religious hatred. Why should Christian Churches compete with each other? That is such a bold idea.

Here is another interesting story about the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. The remains of St. Josaphat (Kuntsevych), a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic saint, are in St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. Once I was shooting a film together with Russians for Russian television about the origins of Christianity. They invited me to be a narra-

tor in that film. The director was a respected Russian professional called Khotynenko.

A Ukrainian?

It would be better to say a Ukrainian renegade, for although he is Ukrainian by birth, he feels more Russian. And I told him that I was an Italian renegade myself, for I felt more Polish than Italian. Russians with Ukrainian roots are often particularly hostile towards independent Ukraine. During the shooting in Rome I took the whole Russian crew together with Khotynenko to the sarcophagus with the remains of St. Josaphat, saying, there's nothing doing if your name is Khotynenko; that must be your saint.

As far as I know, your attitude towards the union of Brest [1596] is more of an exception than the rule among Poles.

It is only now that we are finding out how the Polish Commonwealth treated the union and how Uniate bishops were not allowed to take their seats in the Senate. In other words, the union pact was violated. We don't talk much about it these days.

When the Ukrainian students were visiting me in Poland, they asked me to show them the place in Warsaw where Ukrainian hetmans were executed. I didn't know anything about this place and called my friend, Prof. Geisstor, director of the Warsaw Castle Museum, and asked him whether this had really happened. He told me about the place where Ukrainian hetmans were indeed executed. So the Poles are not that innocent either.

The interview above was translated from Polish into Ukrainian by Yuri Shevchuk, and from Ukrainian into English by Milla Brushkivska, Andriy Kononenko, Anna Tomiak, Svitlana Carson and Natalia Zheleznova, Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University. Copyright: Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, 2005; reprinted and abridged with permission. For the full text of the interview readers may log on to <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/>.

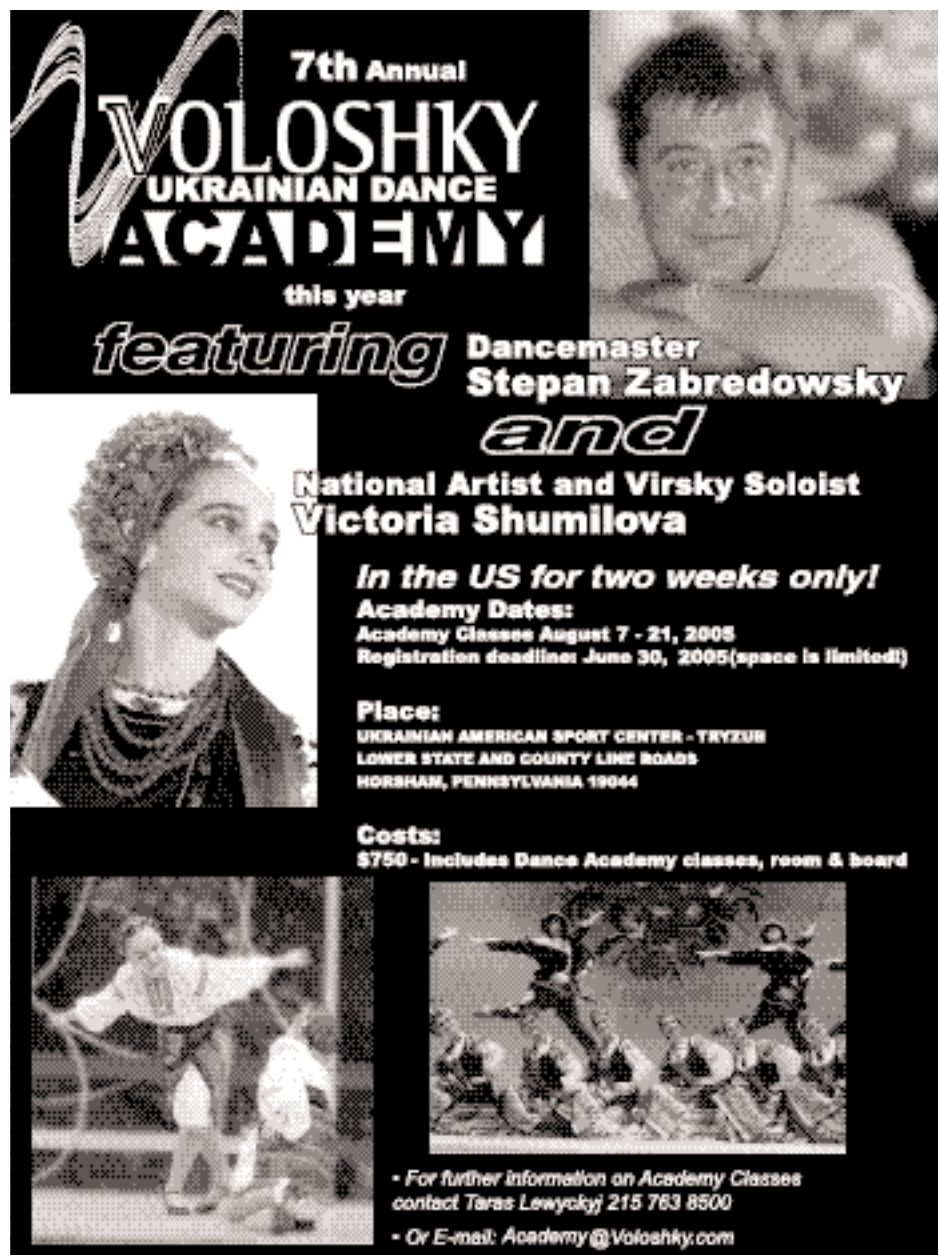
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5/28- Olya Fryz performance
5/28- Zabava with Fata Morgana
6/12-17 UNA Senior's Week
6/19- Father's Day Luncheon and Program
6/26- 7/3- Tabir Ptashat Camp, Session #1
6/26-7/8 Tennis Camp
6/27-7/1- Exploration Day Camp, Session #1

JULY

7/1-7/4 Fourth of July Festivities
July 1 Luna performs at Tiki Bar
July 2- Zabava- LUNA AND Teen Dance Night- HRIM & DJ
July 3- Zabava, band to be announced
7/3-7/10 Tabir Ptashat Camp, Session #2
7/4-7/8 Exploration Day Camp, Session #2
7/10-16 Discovery Camp, Session #1
7/20- Hutzul Night with performance by Olya Fryz
7/17-22 Chemney Camp Session #1
7/17-7/23 Discovery Camp, Session #2
7/17-7/23 Adventure Camp, Session #1
7/22- Odessa Seafood Night with Chemney Camp Performance
7/24-29 Chemney Camp Session #2
7/24-7/30 Discovery Camp, Session #3
7/24-7/30 Adventure Camp, Session #2
7/27- Hutzul Night with performance by Olya Fryz
7/29- Entertainment at Tiki Bar, performance TBA
7/29- Odessa Seafood Night with Chemney Camp Performance
7/29,30,31- A Day in the Life of an UPA Partisan
7/30-Zabava- Na Zdorovya AND Teen Dance Night-HRIM & DJ
7/31-8/5 Scuba Diving Course

AUGUST

8/1-5 Golf Week
8/5-7 Sports Jamboree
8/5 Caberet Show with Ron Cahute and company
8/6-Afternoon Performances- Barabolya Show
with Ron Cahute & Company followed
by entertainment with HRIM
Zabava with Burya on Veselka Patio and
DJ in Veselka Hall
8/7-8/20 Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp
8/12 Twisted Kieshka performs at Tiki Bar
8/13 Miss Soyuzivka Weekend & Zabava with Tempo
8/20 Dance Camp Recital Performance
and Zabava with Fata Morgana

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend Festivities

9/2 Zabava with Luna
9/3 Afternoon festivities- Dance Ensemble,
Palylyk and DJ
9/3 Zabava with Luna and Fata Morgana
9/4- Afternoon Dance Ensemble performance
followed by entertainment at the Tiki Bar
Zabava with Fata Morgana and Teen Dance
Night with Hrim & DJ



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UMANA board travels to Toronto for directors' meeting



Oksana Zakydalsky

Seen at an UMANA board of directors meeting in Toronto are (from left): Dr. Wayne Tymchak (president, Edmonton branch), Dr. George Hrycelak (UMANA executive director), Dr. Wolodymyr Medwidsky (president, Toronto branch), Dr. Bohdan Iwanetz (president), Dr. Andrew Iwach (president-elect).

by George Hrycelak

TORONTO – The board of directors of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held a regular board meeting on Saturday, May 7, here in Toronto. In keeping with its goal of involving UMANA chapters in administrative deliberations, the board welcomed the UMANA Branch of Toronto to the meeting, and held a reception on Friday night for its Canadian colleagues.

The Toronto Branch responded with a large turnout of members, both stalwart supporters as well as inquiring prospective members. The informal meeting lasted late into the night, with wide-ranging discussions about potential member activities and association projects.

This board meeting was scheduled to coincide with the 70th anniversary celebration of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto (UCPBA). Both business meetings took place at the Ukrainian National Federation (UNF) Trident Hall on Evans Avenue in Toronto all day Saturday. The gracious host, Roman Nazarewycz, president of UCPBA-Toronto, made the UMANA board meeting possible by providing a comfortable venue and allowing networking by both organizations in a memorably congenial atmosphere.

UMANA Toronto Chapter President Wolodymyr Medwidsky, M.D., officially welcomed the board while greeting his branch members at the meeting. UMANA Board members present were:

Bohdan Iwanetz, M.D., president; Andrew Iwach, M.D., president-elect; Roxolana Horbowyj, M.D., liaison to the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations; Maria Hrycelak, M.D., archivist; George Hrycelak, M.D., executive director; and Roman Worobec, Ph.D., editor-in-chief of the Journal of UMANA.

Wayne Tymchak, M.D., president of the Edmonton Branch of UMANA, was present representing the western provinces. In addition to Dr. Medwidsky, Toronto Branch members participating were Maria Fischer-Slysh, M.D., vice president; Peter Jacyk, M.D., treasurer; and guests Marika Paquin and Ihor Golubka.

At the morning session, 11 new members were inducted to various chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada. The board voted to eliminate the collection and use of social security numbers in the database.

Dr. Iwach summarized the preparations under way for the 37th Scientific Convention and 31st Assembly of Delegates to be held in Edmonton on June 29-July 3. Drs. Iwach and Tymchak informed the group that the guest of honor, Mykola Polischuk, M.D., minister of health of Ukraine, had confirmed his participation in the conference.

All afternoon was devoted to analyzing the history and impact of the Likarskyi Visnyk (the Journal of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America). Various proposals were exam-

ined that would streamline the production and dissemination of this journal, including publication on the Internet and distribution among Ukrainian medical schools, libraries and institutions. The board resolved to prepare a plan of action to present to the Assembly of Delegates in July.

The UMANA board's visit to Toronto concluded with participation in a gala banquet on Saturday night at the UNF Trident banquet hall. Attendance by over

300 people underscored the significance of this event. Luminaries honored included retired Canadian Member of Parliament John Yaremko, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and journalist Victor Malarek.

The board and Toronto Chapter members spent a pleasant evening together, establishing contacts for the upcoming conference in Edmonton and strengthening relationships between colleagues in North America.

Membership in UMANA experiences a renaissance

by George Hrycelak

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) continues to experience a renaissance of growth, reaching new heights for the second straight year. Surpassing the 2003 record figure of 456, the 2004 UMANA membership stands at 475 active colleagues.

New inductees cover all categories of membership, from students and residents, to associates recently arrived from Ukraine and regular practicing physicians. Growth is greatest in the large urban centers, but also increasing in outlying areas such as Texas and the western U.S.

Interest among the many UMANA chapters scattered throughout the United States and Canada remains high, with renewed vigor visible in the Illinois, New York Metro, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Toronto and Edmonton chapters in particular. Undoubtedly, the recent explosion of activity in the Ukrainian diaspora related to the Orange Revolution has resulted in a rebirth of consciousness in some lapsed UMANA members.

The quality of UMANA's professional journal, the Ukrainian language

Likarskyi Visnyk (UMANA), has progressed to international levels, with academic articles and translations on a level seen in many sister publications. The efforts of its editor-in-chief, Dr. Roman Worobec, are leaving an indelible mark on this journal, which began publication in 1954, and has been in continuous circulation since then. The journal is now available online for perusal by the general public at www.umana.org making it accessible to our colleagues in Ukrainian at any time.

The administrative management of UMANA continues to advance the needs of the membership. E-mail communication has proved its mettle during the recent diaspora actions in support of the Ukrainian election process. The list-serves, which so admirably spread information, became templates for similar group mailings to UMANA members. The officers and administrators of UMANA continue to respect the constraints set by each year's budget, and the financial basis of the group remains strong.

To ensure quick communication between branch officers and the nation-

(Continued on page 26)

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Crimea-Independence Tour	Aug 12	15 days	Yalta, Lviv, Kyiv
Independence Tour	Aug 17	10 Days	Lviv, Harpaty Enc., Kyiv
Hutsul Festival Tour	Sep 1	11 Days	Rakhiv, Lviv, Kyiv
Best of Ukraine	Sep 15	15 days	Odessa, Kyiv, Lviv, Crimea
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

State Property Fund [as claimants],” Ms. Semeniuk said. In April, the Kyiv Economic Court ruled that the purchase of 93.02 percent of shares of Kryvorizhstal by the Investment-Metallurgical Union, a consortium owned by Ukrainian oligarchs Rynat Akhmetov and Viktor Pinchuk, was illegal. Now the consortium is appealing against the verdict with the Kyiv Appellate Economic Court, at which it has reportedly called for an amicable arrangement with the government. Ms. Semeniuk also said the State Property Fund can question previous privatizations if new owners have not fulfilled their investment commitments. She said she has blacklisted 199 privatized companies that have failed to meet their investment pledges. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Media registration order is suspended

KYIV – Transport and Communications Minister Yevhen Chervonenko on May 26 was suspended for 10 days for his instruction of April 27 in which he ordered all electronic media, including Internet sites, to apply for registration with his ministry, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Chervonenko told journalists that he wants to organize a roundtable in the ministry with all interested sides to discuss the instruction. “Nobody from the Yushchenko team will force anybody to register,” he added. The instruction has provoked a flood of indignant reactions and protests in Ukraine, particularly among Internet users. “This step could damage freedom of expression on the Internet. We will be watching closely to see that this registration procedure does not become obligatory for private websites,” the Reporters Without Borders media watchdog group said in a recent statement. (RFE/RL Newsline)

PM vows harmony with president

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko told journalists in Kyiv on May 26 that she has agreed to work together with President Viktor Yushchenko in order to harmonize relations in the state-power system, Interfax reported. “I’ve had a wonderful talk with the president and I think that 99 percent of [issues] have been settled,” Ms. Tymoshenko said. “Nothing will stop us from doing our business, even meteorites falling from the sky.” Asked to comment on Mr. Yushchenko’s proposal last week that she resign, Ms. Tymoshenko responded, “It [was] necessary to frighten Russian oil traders.” Mr. Yushchenko reportedly made this

proposal during a government meeting with Russian oil traders on May 18. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko underscores market rules

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said at a business forum in Kyiv on May 25 that the recent fuel crisis in Ukraine should serve as a lesson to the government to respect the laws of the market, Ukrainian and international news agencies reported. “I will guarantee that the government will apply only market measures to respond to challenges on the fuel market, the market of meat, and other markets,” Mr. Yushchenko said. The president rejected Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko’s earlier allegations that the fuel crisis in Ukraine resulted from a “plot” by Russian oil traders, which control four of Ukraine’s six oil refineries. “There is no Russian conspiracy here, no Ukrainian conspiracy. The lesson to be learned is not to make up legends and myths,” Mr. Yushchenko said. He also dismissed as “idle talk” rumors that he intends to sack Ms. Tymoshenko over her handling of the fuel crisis. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kinakh for synchronizing WTO entry

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh said in a television interview on May 25 that Ukraine and Russia should synchronize and coordinate their efforts for joining the World Trade Organizations (WTO), Interfax reported. Mr. Kinakh also spoke in favor of Ukraine’s active participation in the formation of the Single Economic Space (SES) with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. “This is a unique opportunity for the four states to create more favorable conditions for economic integration,” he noted. Mr. Kinakh said the first stage in the SES formation should be establishing a free trade zone “without any restrictions and exceptions, on the basis of free movement of commodities and services.” According to the vice prime minister, deeper integration within the SES is possible only after the four countries join the WTO and apply WTO and EU trade rules to such integration. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian president visits Kazakhstan

ASTANA – Ukrainian President Vladimir Yushchenko met with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev in Astana on May 30 for talks focused on economic cooperation, reported Kazakhstan Today. After their meeting, Mr. Nazarbaev told journalists that the two discussed the possibility of extending Ukraine’s Odesa-Brody oil pipeline to

(Continued on page 27)

Membership...

(Continued from page 25)

al office, UMANA has instituted a monthly, two-page newsletter called The UMANA Banana. It serves as a conduit for late-breaking news, as well as a handy reference for information on running a local branch by providing examples of how other branches operate. Upcoming activities, dates and locations, as well as the latest UMANA administrative statistics are readily available to all leadership personnel.

UMANA is also revitalizing its contacts with Canadian chapters. A board meeting with the UMANA Toronto Branch was held on May 7, and planning is ongoing for the biennial Scientific Convention and Assembly of Delegates in Edmonton on June 29-July 3. The minister of health of Ukraine, Dr. Mykola Polishchuk, will be the guest of

honor at the conference.

Many Canadian colleagues from various provinces will deliver scientific presentations, with some conference sessions open to the public. Many of UMANA’s social activities will be integrated with Edmonton’s vast Ukrainian cultural resources, further expanding the contacts of Ukrainian health care professionals with colleagues north of the border.

UMANA activity for 2005 continues at a heightened pace. President-elect Andrew Iwach, M.D., said “We are going through a period of renewed growth and transition, which can only expand the capabilities of health care professionals both in North America and the world. We encourage all professionals in the field of health to consider membership in UMANA.”

For more information, readers may log on to www.umana.org or call (773) 278-6262.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 26)

Gdansk to provide an outlet to the Baltic, as well as the construction of a 52-kilometer pipeline from Dnipropetrovsk to Ukraine's Pivdennyi terminal. Mr. Nazarbajev said that in order to gain access to the Baltic through Odesa-Brody, "we are ready to act as pipeline shareholders," ITAR-TASS reported. For his part, Mr. Yushchenko said that Ukraine is ready to move ahead with the Single Economic Space (SES), Interfax-Kazakhstan reported. He said, "Participation in 16 of 29 documents of the first stage has already been considered and approved at government level." Mr. Yushchenko added, "We welcome all SES-related initiatives that would ensure mutual ties in transit, customs, budget and fiscal relations." (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ukraine still subject to sanctions

WASHINGTON – The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on April 29 announced the publication of its annual review of countries' intellectual property rights (IPR) practices. Ukraine once again was the only country designated as a "Priority Foreign Country," and thus remains subject to trade sanctions of \$75 million per year, the USTR said. The report found that weak IPR protection continues to be a serious problem and calls for tough actions to combat global piracy and counterfeiting. The U.S. government is working globally, regionally and bilaterally, using all available tools, to establish strong legal protections for intellectual property, promote effective enforcement, and solve problems identified in this year's Special 301 Report (which is required by U.S. trade law), including piracy of copyrighted

works in Ukraine, China, Paraguay, Brazil, Russia, India, Thailand, Bulgaria, Pakistan and other markets and inadequate protection against unfair commercial use for test data submitted by drug companies to health authorities in Israel, Turkey and elsewhere. The Trade Act of 1974 instructed the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to identify annually those countries that deny adequate and effective protection for IPR or deny fair and equitable market access for persons that rely on intellectual property protection. Countries are placed into a hierarchy of categories: Priority Foreign Country (reserved for the worst situations); Priority Watch List; or Watch List. Currently, only Ukraine is designated as a Priority Foreign Country and remains subject to \$75 million in sanctions. Fourteen countries are on the Priority Watch List, while 36 are on the Watch List. (U.S. Department of State)

Depardieu to promote Ukrainian wines

SYMFEROPOL – French movie celebrity Gerard Depardieu, who visited Crimea through President Viktor Yushchenko's personal invitation, unveiled his intention to start producing Franco-Ukrainian wines. As an owner of several vineyards in France and a known connoisseur of vintages, Mr. Depardieu told journalists in Symferopol on May 6 that he intends to support Ukrainian viticulturists. As he noted, though he knows Ukraine has superb quality wines, he had little idea about Crimea's unique natural conditions, which are ideal for growing vines. Mr. Depardieu said he wants to study Crimea's varieties of vines, some of which will be bought to make new brands of wines. The actor also noted his intention to meet with Ukrainian First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and take a familiarization tour of the famous Massandra Winery. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich...

(Continued from page 1)

Wednesday, June 1, before investigators in the western city of Ivano-Frankivsk. Neither man appeared for the hearing.

President Viktor Yushchenko has pledged to crack down on the corruption and government links to organized crime that plagued former President Kuchma's decade-long tenure.

Mr. Yushchenko has pointed to the Donetsk region, where hostility to him runs highest, as having one of the worst records of corruption.

Investigators have arrested about a dozen regional and local officials over the last two months on suspicion of various crimes ranging from abuse of office

and extortion to making death threats and plotting assassinations.

All the officials being sought by the government are allied with Mr. Yanukovich, whose supporters accuse the new government of political persecution.

Taras Chornovil, a key Yanukovich ally, dismissed the arrests and warrants as "well-performed theater" staged for the Ukrainian public as proof that the government is cracking down on the murky dealings of people linked with the former regime.

"First they inform a person about minor accusations, then they give him time to leave the country, and after that they accuse him of major crimes and announce fierce measures against him," Mr. Chornovil commented.

RFE/RL back...

(Continued from page 3)

Yushchenko." Ukrainian Service programs of RFE/RL were previously rebroadcast on FM by Ukraine's Dovira national network, but dropped under pressure from the Kuchma regime in February 2004, prior to the contentious fall 2004 presidential elections.

"Voice of Kyiv" airs RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service programs two hours daily in prime time. A live morning show, "Morning Liberty," produced in RFE/RL's Kyiv bureau is on the air from 06:00 to 06:55 [03:00-03:55 UTC]. "Evening Liberty," a nightly, call-in talk show is broadcast five times a week from 20:00 to 20:55 (17:00-17:55 UTC). The show is moderated from RFE/RL's Prague operations center and features two guests of opposing views in Ukraine.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service Director

Alexander Narodetsky said, "the impact of 'Voice of Kyiv' is already significant, with many listeners from Kyiv calling in comments, whereas previously we had no calls from Kyiv listeners."

Outside of Kyiv, RFE/RL Ukrainian-language broadcasts can be heard on shortwave and satellite and, in Kharkiv and several other cities, on FM, AM, UKW and cable radio frequencies. The Ukrainian Service is actively working to expand partnerships with other radio stations, in an effort to achieve nationwide FM coverage for RFE/RL Ukrainian language broadcasting.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service broadcasts nearly seven hours of programming a day Monday through Friday, and three hours every Saturday and Sunday, with programs produced in Prague and the service's Kyiv Bureau. Ukrainian Service programming is available via the Internet at the service's website www.radiosvoboda.org and at www.rferl.org.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- | | |
|---|--|
| June 6, 2005
Highland High School Senior Day | July 22-24, 2005
Ukrainian Language Immersion
Weekend offered at SUNY
New Paltz |
| June 6-9, 2005
Clergy Days | July 24-July 29, 2005
Chemney Day Camp – Session #2,
for ages 4-7 |
| June 10-12, 2005
Ukrainian Language Immersion
Weekend offered at SUNY
New Paltz | July 24-July 30, 2005
Discovery Camp – Session #3,
for ages 8-12
Adventure Camp – Session #2,
for ages 13-16 |
| June 11, 2005
Wedding | July 24-August 6, 2005
Teachers Seminar, Ukrainian
Educational Council
of New York City |
| June 12-17, 2005
UNA Seniors' Week and Conference | July 29-31, 2005
"A day in the life of a UPA Partisan
Soldier" event |
| June 18, 2005
Wedding | July 31-August 5, 2005
Scuba Course for ages 12 and up |
| June 19, 2005
Father's Day Program | August 1-5, 2005
Golf Week |
| June 25, 2005
Wedding | August 5, 2005
Cabaret Show with Ron Cahute &
company |
| June 26-July 3, 2005
Tabir Ptashat – Session #1 | August 5-7, 2005
Sports Jamboree Weekend |
| June 26-July 8, 2005
Tennis Camp for ages 10-18 | August 6, 2005
Afternoon Barabolya Show with
Ron Cahute & company, followed
by entertainment by band HRIM
Saturday Zabava with Burya on
Veselka Patio & DJ in Veselka Hall |
| June 27-July 1, 2005
Exploration Day Camp – Session #1,
for ages 7-10 | August 7, 2005
UNWLA Day and Sunday concert |
| July 3-July 10, 2005
Tabir Ptashat – Session #2 | August 7-20, 2005
Traditional Ukrainian Folk
Dance Camp |
| July 4-July 8, 2005
Exploration Day Camp – Session #2,
for ages 7-10 | August 13, 2005
Miss Soyuzivka Weekend
and Zabava with Tempo |
| July 8-10, 2005
Ukrainian Language Immersion
Weekend offered at State
University of New York at New
Paltz | August 20, 2005
Dance Camp Performance
and Zabava with Fata Morgana |
| July 10-July 16, 2005
Discovery Camp – Session #1,
for ages 8-12 | August 27, 2005
Wedding |
| July 17-July 22, 2005
Chemney Day Camp – Session #1,
for ages 4-7 | |
| July 17-July 23, 2005
Discovery Camp – Session #2,
for ages 8-12
Adventure Camp – Session #1,
for ages 13-16 | |



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, June 17-19

YONKERS, N.Y.: The 20th annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival will take place on the grounds of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at Broadway and Shonnard Place. It will be held on June 17 at 6-10 p.m., June 18 at 1-10 p.m. and June 19 at 1-7 p.m. This three-day event will feature free outdoor entertainment, demonstrations of Ukrainian arts and crafts, Ukrainian food, carnival rides, amusements and exhibits. On Saturday at 1-4 p.m. Pay-One-Price bracelets are \$10 for all the rides. For further information visit the festival website at <http://www.brama.com/yonkersukrainian-fest>, or call (914) 375-4418.

Saturday-Sunday, June 18-19

HORSHAM, Pa.: Tryzub will host the North American Ukrainian Soccer Club

Eastern Conference (USCAK-East) Championship Tournament. Play commences at 9 a.m. on each day. The championship game will be played at noon on Sunday. On Saturday, June 18, a club night "vechirka" mixer with music and dancing featuring the orchestra Pladd will commence at 7 p.m.; food and refreshments will be available. Admission: \$5, members; \$10, non-members. On Sunday, June 19, the Father's Day Folk Festival commences at noon. A stage show featuring the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Academy and folk music by the Sisters Oros, the Novyj Denh (New Day) Orchestra and soloist Jurij Melnychuk begins at 2 p.m., immediately following the USCAK-East Cup final game. A zabava-dance to the music of Novyj Denh Orchestra will follow the stage show. Ukrainian food, standard picnic fare and refreshments will be available. Admission: \$5; children under 13: free.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

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

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

Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear in the July 3, 2005 issue.

For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by June 24.

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

We hope you will announce your wedding in The Ukrainian Weekly, or send a greeting to your favorite newlyweds.

Rates for announcements and greetings:

- One-column wedding announcement: \$100
- Two-column wedding announcement: \$200
- Wedding greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 (Maria). Visit www.ukrweekly.com to view a wedding announcement sample page.

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