

INSIDE:

- Washington marks 30th anniversary of Helsinki Accords — page 4.
- Who's who in Ukraine-related activities in D.C. — page 6.
- The littlest campers take over Soyuzivka — centerfold.

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine eases visas requirements for American and Canadian citizens

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — The Ukrainian government has eased visa requirements for American and Canadian citizens traveling to Ukraine, while in a reciprocal move the United States announced it has eased visa fees for Ukrainian citizens traveling to the U.S.

Effective August 1, Canadian citizens traveling with a valid passport will not need a visa to enter or pass through Ukraine as long as their stay does not exceed 90 days, Ukraine announced in a statement posted on the website of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Toronto on July 29.

The statement said Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko made the announcement in a decree dated July 26. The move was meant to “develop and promote practical implementation of principles of partnership in the relations between Ukraine and Canada.” It was also meant to simplify the process of traveling between both countries and “to foster bilateral contacts in all spheres of mutual relations.”

However, Canadians who are traveling to Ukraine to study, work, immigrate or work with Canadian diplomat-

ic or consular missions will still need a visa, the presidential decree said.

In a similar move, Ukraine also announced changes that would affect American citizens. Effective July 1, Americans can travel to or transit through Ukraine without a visa, but only if they are revisiting the country within six months of their initial trip, according to a statement dated June 30 and posted on the presidential website. In addition, in order to travel to Ukraine without a visa a U.S. citizen's trip cannot exceed 90 days.

However, U.S. citizens who enter Ukraine to work, live, study or work at U.S. diplomatic missions will be required to obtain visas.

Last year Ukraine issued 18,000 non-immigrant visas to Americans through the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York, according to Vice Consul Sergii Kulykov. Additionally, some 20,000 visas were issued to Americans at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, spokeswoman Iryna Bezverkha said. Visas to Americans can also be issued at Ukrainian consulates in San Francisco and Chicago as well as at all Ukrainian consulates throughout the world, though

(Continued on page 26)

Procurator general claims he has completed first phase of investigation into Gongadze case

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun has fulfilled his promise to complete the first phase of an investigation into the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze by the end of July, assistant press secretary Yurii Boichenko announced on August 1.

The first phase's goal was to “establish who committed the murder,” he said. Prosecutors accomplished that task with the March 1 arrest of two former police colonels, Valerii Kostenko and Mykola Protasov, who are charged with premeditated murder.

A third suspect, Yurii Nesterov, is under house arrest and police protection in Kyiv.

Gen. Oleksii Pukach, the fourth suspect, has fled to Israel and is under an international search warrant issued by Ukrainian authorities. Mr. Pukach was the former chair of the Internal Affairs Ministry's criminal investigation department.

“Everything that depends upon the procurator at this given moment has been done,” Mr. Boichenko said.

After learning of the investigation's conclusion, Mr. Gongadze's widow, Myroslava, made statements critical of the procurator general and stated that several key components were lacking.

Investigators have yet to complete their forensic medical examination of her husband's body, she told the British Broadcasting Corp.

They have also yet to analyze the Melnychenko tapes, which was supposed to have been done in conjunction with the Council of Europe or the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The case can't be ready for trial until Mr. Pukach is arrested, she told Channel 4, Ukraine's 24-hour news channel.

“This reminds me of the developments of 2003, when close to his resignation Mr. Piskun announced he was ready to investigate the matter and nothing happened,” Ms. Gongadze said. “I am afraid that the procurator general is sensing his resignation approaching and is making his typical overblown statements.”

In response, Mr. Piskun issued a statement asking Ms. Gongadze to refrain from making “legal assessments” of the activities of the Procurator General's Office as they are considered to be pressure on the pace of the pre-trial investigation.

As for Mr. Pukach, Mr. Piskun said as soon as prosecutors find him and return him to Ukraine, he will “immediately be seated on the bench alongside the other defendants.”

Additionally, authorities are conducting a new analysis of Mr. Gongadze's

remains that will conclude by August's end, Mr. Piskun told Channel 5 on August 1.

Prosecutors will now transfer the 60-volume criminal case file to the Gongadze family for review.

Suspects and their lawyers will have an opportunity to view it, Mr. Boichenko said, after which authorities will submit the file to the court.

According to Mr. Boichenko, Mr. Piskun, Ukraine's top prosecutor, divided the investigation into several phases, with the purpose of expediting the case's transfer to court.

The second phase will attempt to determine who ordered the murder, he said, and it will depend upon the results of the second forensic exam of Mr. Gongadze's body, Interfax reported, quoting the press service of the



Heorhii Gongadze, who was murdered in September 2000.

Procurator General's office.

However, it wasn't clear why an investigation into the murder's organizers would depend on forensic results, and no one answered phones at the press service on August 4.

National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko charged that Mr. Piskun's motive for forwarding the case to the court before an investigation is completed into those who ordered the murder is to “destroy the procedural evidence of guilt of participation in the crime by former President Leonid Kuchma.”

Mr. Omelchenko led a special, temporary Verkhovna Rada committee that investigated the Gongadze murder and produced a report. The 2003 report forwarded documents to the Procurator General demonstrating Mr. Kuchma's criminal violations. “The investigating

(Continued on page 23)

Ukraine's Cabinet forms working group in reaction to possible tripling of gas prices

by Yana Sedova

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A top Russian oil executive's warning that natural gas prices in Ukraine could triple prompted the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers to form a working group to deal with the matter.

In late July, Gazprom chairman Aleskei Miller informed Ukrainian energy officials that natural gas prices could spike in order to match world market prices and provide more revenue to finance the state-owned Gazprom's investment activity, the International Herald Tribune reported.

Soon afterwards, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko called a special session of the Cabinet of Ministers for August 3.

Ukraine's Minister of Fuel and Energy Ivan Plachkov will lead a working group to negotiate with Gazprom's leadership, Ms. Tymoshenko announced at a press conference the following day.

“We will negotiate as a dignified, sovereign state,” she said. “We hope to reach a mutual understanding.”

Natural gas is critical to the Ukrainian economy because industries use it to fuel their machinery and citizens need it to

heat their homes.

The present price for Russian natural gas is \$50 for 1,000 cubic meters, which is the lowest price in Europe, according to Volodymyr Saprykin, an energy analyst at the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies in Kyiv.

Mr. Miller's statement is exaggerated and impossible, he said.

“The average price European countries pay for natural gas is \$150 to \$160,” Mr. Saprykin said. “The closer to Russia a country is located, the lower the gas price. Even Poland doesn't have to pay a price of \$160.”

Ukraine imports a third of its energy from Russia, another third from Turkmenistan and the remainder is produced domestically, according to Agata Loskot, an energy expert at the Center for Eastern Studies in Warsaw.

State-owned Gazprom has top priority among Russia's natural gas exporters, and the few remaining independent Russian natural gas producers have no access to the pipelines that transport natural gas to the European market.

According to Russian law, the price of exported natural gas must be higher than

(Continued on page 17)

ANALYSIS

Ukraine's new leaders embrace Soviet-style conspiracy theories

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko sent an open letter to *Ukrayinska Pravda* on July 26 following his public broadside against the publication at a press conference one day earlier. Mr. Yushchenko has accused *Ukrayinska Pravda* of deliberately trying to discredit his son, Andrii, and his presidency.

Mr. Yushchenko was referring to a two-part article in *Ukrayinska Pravda* (July 19 and 22) provocatively titled "Andrii Yushchenko: Son of God?" The article investigated Andrii's personal characteristics, portraying him as a spoiled brat. The author particularly wanted to know how a 19-year-old could afford to drive around in an expensive BMW M6 (base price: 133,000 euros).

It is not unusual for Western leaders to occasionally be disturbed by media coverage that delves too deeply into their personal lives. But in President Yushchenko's case it is unusual to see how much a pro-Western reformist leader has apparently embraced a political culture that regularly sees conspiracies. Former President Leonid Kuchma frequently resorted to such suspicions – a tactic that draws upon vestiges of the Soviet political culture.

Since coming to power in January, the Yushchenko administration has frequently blamed conspiracies for its problems. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn claims the government regularly hurls "insinuations, accusations, intrigue and lies" (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, July 13). The oil crisis, caused by the government's price ceiling, was blamed on Russia. The meat crisis was blamed on "speculators," while the sugar shortage and the failure to fully adopt legislation required by the World Trade Organization were blamed on Parliament and Mr. Lytvyn personally.

Within the government, Minister of Justice Roman Zvarych has excelled at

blaming conspiracies when unpleasant facts arose surrounding his graduate studies at Columbia University (see *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, May 4). Mr. Zvarych recently claimed that the attack on his credentials was staged by an organized conspiracy of persons he refused to identify who had illegally hacked into the Columbia University database (*Ukrayinska Pravda*, July 18).

His penchant for conspiracy theories has ready-made supporters within the Yushchenko administration. National Security and Defense Council Secretary Petro Poroshenko blamed a conspiracy by former Kuchma loyalists when discrepancies first arose about Mr. Zvarych's academic credentials. Mr. Poroshenko claimed that public discussion about Mr. Zvarych's qualifications was planted by forces seeking to divide the Yushchenko camp (razom.org.ua, May 27).

Mr. Zvarych's attitude typifies the view of the radical right of Ukrainian diaspora politics, where Russian-backed conspiracies are the norm. But, by dwelling on intrigue, Mr. Zvarych and others in the Yushchenko administration ignore the right of the news media to investigate legitimate issues.

The Ukrainian opposition and its Russian allies also trade in conspiracy theories. Opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich and his Russian allies believe that the West, specifically the United States, orchestrated Mr. Yushchenko's victory in the 2004 presidential election. Regarding the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yanukovich's website (ya2006.com.ua, May 18) asks, "Where did the large sums of cash come from to finance the transportation of tens or more likely hundreds of thousands of people from western Ukraine to Kyiv and their accommodation in tents, the printing of leaflets, preparation of large numbers of symbols, ensuring support and a lot

(Continued on page 16)

Yushchenko and Orange Revolution: few real signs of crisis are seen

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Western media reports are increasingly claiming that the Orange Revolution is floundering in Ukraine. The Independent (July 25) asserted, "There is a growing consensus in Ukraine that Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko have frittered away much of their political capital." The International Herald Tribune (July 26) focused on the policy divides in President Viktor Yushchenko's coalition and their alleged fear of undertaking tougher reforms.

While these claims hold some truth, overall they misread the Yushchenko administration. Some economic policies in President Yushchenko's first 100 days were undoubtedly misplaced, bordering more on socialist than free market economics. Nevertheless, Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov's description of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko as "very left-

wing, hugely populist, paternalistic and also very charismatic" is a gross exaggeration (*International Herald Tribune*, July 26).

Ms. Tymoshenko's penchant for state intervention in some areas is tempered by her support for free market economics in others. Ms. Tymoshenko is not an ideologically driven socialist, unlike members of the Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) that is allied with Mr. Yushchenko. Yet, during the parliamentary debates over adopting legislation, required by the World Trade Organization, Ms. Tymoshenko backed the government while the SPU voted against them.

The government has not been given sufficient credit in three areas.

First, despite talk about re-privatization, Ukraine has not followed Russia in filing false charges against oligarchs to put them behind bars. No oligarch in Ukraine is set to go to prison just because he is an oligarch who supports the opposition.

Second, the Yushchenko government is sincerely committed to combating corruption, which must be curbed in order to attract foreign investment and to facilitate Ukrainian business.

Third, the government is more favorably disposed toward small- and medi-

(Continued on page 17)

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

NEWSBRIEFS

Kolesnykov released from custody

KYIV – The Kyiv Appellate Court on August 2 released Donetsk Oblast Council head Borys Kolesnykov from custody on his own recognizance, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Mr. Kolesnykov was arrested in April on charges of extortion. The Procurator General's Office subsequently charged Mr. Kolesnykov with abuse of office and threatening murder. The arrest of Mr. Kolesnykov – a close political ally and business partner of former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich – sparked a number of protests by opponents of President Viktor Yushchenko in Kyiv and Donetsk. The opposition believes the persecution of Mr. Kolesnykov is part of the authorities' revenge campaign against officials who supported Mr. Yanukovich during the 2004 presidential campaign. (RFE/RL Newswire)

House legislation includes Chornobyl

WASHINGTON – House Resolution 2601, which authorizes appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes, includes language on "assistance for maternal and prenatal care for certain individuals of Belarus and Ukraine involved in the cleanup of the Chornobyl disaster." The resolution was passed on July 20 by the House of Representatives by a vote of 351 - 78. (Helsinki Commission) The measure's sponsor was Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission. The resolution noted that funds "are authorized to be available for assistance to improve maternal and prenatal care, especially for the purpose of helping prevent birth defects and pregnancy complications for individuals in the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine involved in the clean-up of the region affected by the Chornobyl disaster. (Helsinki Commission)

Orange Revolution copyrights owned by president's son

KYIV – Mykola Katerynychuk, deputy chief of the State Tax Administration, has told Ukrainian media that Andrii Yushchenko, President Viktor Yushchenko's son, owns the copyrights to symbols and logos of the 2004 Orange Revolution in Ukraine, Ukrainian news agencies reported on August 2. "I passed [these copyrights] to [Andrii Yushchenko] personally, after the [Yushchenko] victory in the third round," Mr. Katerynychuk said in an interview with *Kommersant-Ukrayina* on August 2. "During an election campaign our symbols should be protected from being misused by someone else," he added. Mr. Katerynychuk was Viktor Yushchenko's representative in the Central Election Commission in the presidential campaign. According to experts quoted by *Kommersant-Ukrayina*, the symbols and logos associated with the Orange Revolution could be worth "millions of dollars." Mr. Katerynychuk's statement came in the wake of reports alleging that Andrii Yushchenko, a university student in Kyiv, lives a lavish lifestyle on funds of unknown origin. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ukrainian language in Transdnier

CHISINAU – Moldova's Parliament has passed legislation offering broad autonomy to the Transdnier in exchange for the separatist region's agreement to drop independence ambitions and to disarm. According to the new law setting guidelines for negotiations between Chisinau and Tiraspol, the Transdnier region would have its own legislative body. The region would also have three official languages: Romanian (as in Moldova), as well as Russian and Ukrainian. The plan also calls for demilitarizing the Transdnier, where some 1,500 Russian troops are based. The Transdnier region declared independence from Moldova in 1992 after a short war that left more than 1,500 people dead. This would mark the first time in history that Ukrainian achieved official status as a language beyond Ukraine's borders. (Action Ukraine Report Monitoring Service, Kyiv Press Bureau)

Peace Shield operations in Crimea

KYIV – Ukraine is hosting the multinational peace operations training exercise, Peace Shield Phase II 2005, in Crimea on August 2-15. During the exercise, which is conducted in the spirit of the Partnership of Peace, approximately 200 U.S. Marines

(Continued on page 27)

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House subcommittee hearing focuses on Ukraine after the Orange Revolution

by **Marta Matselioukh**
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

WASHINGTON – “Ukraine: Developments in the Aftermath of the Orange Revolution” was the topic of a July 27 open hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats. Chaired by Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), the hearing was attended by Subcommittee Ranking Member Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), and Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.). The well-attended hearing was divided up into two panels. Daniel Fried, assistant secretary of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, spoke during the first panel. The second panel comprised Nelson Ledsky, senior associate and regional director at the National Democratic Institute; Stephen Nix, regional program director at the International Republican Institute, and Taras Kuzio, visiting professor at George Washington University.

Chairman Gallegly opened the hearing with an overview of post-Orange Revolution Ukraine and an outline of the hearing’s agenda. Economic reform in Ukraine, World Trade Organization accession and graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, as well as EU-Ukraine and NATO-Ukraine relations were set as the main discussion points.

The text of Rep. Gallegly’s statement may be read at: http://www.house.gov/international_relations/109/gal072705.pdf.

Complex political environment

Drawing on his recent visit to Kyiv, Mr. Fried commented on the current complex political environment in Ukraine, the impressive successes of President Yushchenko’s administration, concerns over some of the government’s reforms, and the “New Century Agenda for the American-Ukrainian Strategic Partnership.”

With regard to the “New Century Agenda” the U.S. supports Ukraine’s desire to draw closer to NATO. However, the pace and intensity of Ukraine’s relationship with NATO will depend on Ukraine’s own wishes, and on its willingness and ability to meet NATO performance-based standards through progress on reforms. The U.S. is committed to ensure that NATO’s door remains open, Mr. Fried explained.

The U.S. deeply appreciates Ukraine’s substantial military contribution toward building a peaceful, secure and democratic Iraq, and its assistance in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, he continued. Also, the U.S. applauds Kyiv’s decision to expand dialogue on non-proliferation issues.

(Continued on page 20)

Ukrainian trade union leader praises revolution, continues fight

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

WASHINGTON – On November 22, 2004, Mikhail Volynets led a large group of miners into Kyiv’s main square to support Viktor Yushchenko and helped achieve democracy for his country in what is referred to as Ukraine’s Orange Revolution.

According to Mr. Volynets, the president of the Confederation for Free Trade Unions of Ukraine, “the revolution took place at the top level only” with the election of a democratic president and prime minister, “but on the local level nothing has changed.”

Speaking to an RFE/RL audience in late July Mr. Volynets said that is why he is concerned that economic reforms continue and political reforms deepen across the society.

Mr. Volynets and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of Ukraine have been staunch advocates for workers’ rights and human rights in Ukraine.

He reviewed the growth of the independent labor union in Ukraine, which began in 1989 with a miners’ strike. “Our protest movement grew into a workers’ movement” said Mr. Volynets. “The Solidarity Center [of the AFL-CIO] visited us,” and soon the leaders of “the strike committees became leaders of trade unions.”

Over the last decade, “we made lots of mistakes,” but when finally “we understood there was no democracy in our country, Mr. Volynets said, “journalists

were [being] killed and this was connected to [the] top leaders. There was no plan to integrate with the West, so we moved to the opposition movement.”

The independent labor unions have had lots of political experience because the political parties remain weak in Ukraine. Mr. Volynets said he brought miners to Kyiv to support Ukraine’s independence in 1991, and the miners supported the failed protests to oust President Leonid Kuchma in 2002. They actively supported Mr. Yushchenko in the presidential election of 2004.

Mr. Yushchenko’s opponent, Viktor Yanukovich, had much support in the industrialized eastern and southern regions of Ukraine. According to Mr. Volynets, all information flows from Ukraine’s democratic opposition to this area of the country were blocked, but 100 percent of Ukraine has information flowing from Russia. Because of this it was very difficult to gain supporters for Mr. Yushchenko in this part of the country.

After the run-off election in which the democratic opposition documented massive voter fraud and other election violations, Mr. Volynets argued for the protest tactics to remain peaceful. “Because I knew how to direct large groups of people,” Mr. Volynets said, Mr. Yushchenko encouraged him to apply his organizational talents to the growing crowd of supporters.

(Continued on page 23)

U.S. Embassy works to facilitate visa process, warns against unscrupulous intermediaries

by **MaryKay Carlson**

KYIV – A great spirit of cooperation marks today’s U.S.-Ukraine relations, and I feel privileged to be working at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv during such a time. The enhanced cooperation between the U.S. and Ukrainian governments on consular issues in particular has already benefited the traveling public, both Americans traveling to Ukraine and Ukrainians traveling to the United States.

Facilitating bona fide travel to the United States has long been a U.S. government priority, and the consular section in Kyiv has also taken some independent steps to facilitate the visa application process.

Improvements in consular services

Recent joint action by the U.S. and Ukrainian governments has facilitated travel between our two countries. On July 1, Ukraine’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs moved toward eliminating the visa requirement for U.S. citizens traveling to Ukraine for short-term family, tourist or business visits. [Editor’s note: See story on page 1.] Correspondingly, the U.S. State Department has eliminated the \$65 issuance fee for successful Ukrainian applicants for U.S. non-immigrant visas. Currently, we charge only the \$100 visa application fee, which is a congressionally mandated fee for every non-immigrant visa applicant worldwide.

Second, the U.S. government has invested over \$180,000 in renovating our consular building in Kyiv, which has allowed us to add consular services and create a more comfortable environment for our clients. Specifically, immigrant visa processing for Ukrainian citizens has been moved to Kyiv from Warsaw.

MaryKay Carlson is consul general at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

Ukrainians who are immigrating to the United States to join family members no longer have to travel to Warsaw to apply for their visas. The savings of time and money for these applicants is significant.

Third, the consular section has a free-of-charge, transparent and fair appointment system, accessible either online or by e-mail. Applicants are able to select the date of their interview, either the next available appointment date, or a later appointment date of their own choosing.

Demand for short-term U.S. visas is extremely high – up 30 percent for the first six months of this year, as compared to 2004. More than 6,000 B1/B2 visas were issued to Ukrainians wishing to travel to the U.S. for tourism or business during the first half of this year, as compared to approximately 4,600 during the same period a year ago. As a result of this increased demand, the waiting period for a visa appointment is currently between six and eight weeks. The online appointment system, however, lessens the challenge of the waiting period by allowing applicants to see when the next appointment slot is available and plan travel accordingly.

There are also expedited appointments available to students, business travelers, those with family or medical emergencies, and those who are able to complete the Electronic Visa Application Form (EVAF).

Detailed information about scheduling an interview is available on the consular section website at http://www.usembassy.kiev.ua/visa_appointment_eng.html. This information is also available in Ukrainian at http://www.usembassy.kiev.ua/visa_appointment_ukr.html.

Finally, I would like to point out that while the visa issuance fee for Ukrainian citizens has been eliminated, U.S. law

regarding the issuance or refusal of visas has not changed. In the consular section in Kyiv, visa decisions are made as they are in every U.S. consular operation all over the world: according to the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act.

For applicants seeking tourist or business visas to the United States, this law requires that the consular officer presume that the applicant’s intention is to immigrate to the United States. The burden of proof is on the applicants to show that they have ties to their home country that will compel them to return after a temporary, lawful stay in the United States. Adequate financial solvency and the purpose of the applicant’s travel are the two other legs of the “three-legged stool” that makes up a qualified visa application.

Our goal in the consular section is to issue non-immigrant visas to 100 percent of qualified applicants. At the same time, however, U.S. law requires that we refuse 100 percent of those applicants who are not qualified.

Combating misinformation, fraud

Unfortunately, a great deal of misinformation about American visas is in the public realm, both in Ukraine and in the United States. Also unfortunately, despite our efforts to make the process transparent and accessible, unscrupulous people falsely claim that they have links to the consular section or U.S. government and can “help” Ukrainians obtain U.S. visas. These people cheat Ukrainian visa applicants by promising to get people visas quickly, or for a fee, or both. These people are lying. Please don’t use these unscrupulous people and their so-called services, and please counsel your friends and family in Ukraine to avoid them.

The usual pattern of fraud is for these individuals to sell an applicant a package of documents, including a phony or exaggerated invitation letter, false bank state-

ment, forged letter of employment and other fraudulent information. Consular officers are extremely familiar with these packages and can identify them immediately – we see them every day.

The particularly unfortunate fact is that these applicants are then refused, and their refusal records remain in the worldwide consular computer systems forever. While the applicant’s circumstances might change in the future and they may become qualified for a U.S. visa, the hurdle of once having presented fraudulent documents is a difficult one to overcome.

One more point on fraud, and that is that only American consular officers make visa decisions. There is no consular office of the U.S. Embassy outside of our facility at 6 Pymonenko St. in Kyiv. So, if a Ukrainian citizen operating out of an office somewhere near, or far, from our office promises to obtain a visa for a friend or family member, that is undoubtedly fraud. This kind of fraud hurts legitimate travelers as well, because it causes consular officers to question and scrutinize all the documents they receive. We would like to combat this fraud as much as we can, and we appreciate your support in keeping Ukrainian citizens, and their families and loved ones living in the United States, from being cheated.

The United States government is committed to facilitating legitimate travel to the United States, and welcomes bona fide Ukrainian citizen travelers to the U.S. The consular section in Kyiv is working every day to build on the improvements already mentioned, so that the application process becomes ever quicker and easier. Avoiding unscrupulous intermediaries, and counseling your friends and family to do the same, will significantly aid our ongoing efforts to provide higher levels of customer service.

Senate passes resolution marking anniversary of Helsinki Final Act

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate on July 27 passed a joint resolution to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Senate Joint Resolution 19, which was introduced on May 17 by Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), chairman of the Helsinki Commission, had 22 co-sponsors.

Sens. Gordon H. Smith (R-Ore.), Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.), Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) were the joint resolution's original co-sponsors in the Senate.

The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is known also as the Helsinki Final Act and the Helsinki Accords, was signed on August 1, 1975, in the capital of Finland.

The resolution calls on the president of the United States to issue a proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the milestone international agreement, which paved the way for human rights to become a focus of international relations. The Helsinki Accords spurred the establishment of Helsinki monitoring groups in such places as Moscow and Kyiv, which functioned for years as unofficial watchdogs of Soviet compliance with the accords' human rights provisions.

S.J. Res. 19 awaits action by the House of Representatives, where it was referred on July 28 to the House Committee on International Relations.

The full text of the resolution follows.

Whereas August 1, 2005, is the 30th anniversary of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), renamed the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in January 1995 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Helsinki Final Act");

Whereas the Helsinki Final Act was the first international agreement to accord human rights the status of a fundamental principle in regulating international relations;

Whereas, during the Communist era, members of non-governmental organizations, such as the Helsinki Monitoring Groups in Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania,

Georgia and Armenia and similar groups in Czechoslovakia and Poland, sacrificed their personal freedom and even their lives in their courageous and vocal support for the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas Congress contributed to advancing the aims of the Helsinki Final Act by creating the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe to monitor and encourage compliance with provisions of the Helsinki Final Act;

Whereas, in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States in the OSCE (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "participating states") declared that "[h]uman rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings, are inalienable and are guaranteed by law" and that "[t]heir protection and promotion is the first responsibility of government;"

Whereas, in the 1991 Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the participating states "categorically and irrevocably declare[d] that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the state concerned;"

Whereas, in the 1990 Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the participating States committed themselves "to build, consolidate and strengthen democracy as the only system of government of our nations";

Whereas the pro-democracy revolution in Serbia in 2000, the Rose Revolution in Georgia in 2003, the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004 and the popular revolution in Kyrgyzstan in 2005 demonstrate the primacy of popular sovereignty and the importance of OSCE commitments on free and fair elections;

Whereas the OSCE and the participating states have undertaken a series of measures aimed at combating anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia and discrimination, and should report on related progress during the OSCE Conference on

(Continued on page 21)

FOR THE RECORD: White House statement on Helsinki Accords' 30th anniversary

Following is the text of a statement by the White House press secretary released on August 1 to mark the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Accords.

Today, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, an agreement of principles by Cold War adversaries which helped lift the Iron Curtain by undermining despotism with the simple ideals of freedom and human rights.

Signed at a time when security was defined by the strength of a nation's arsenal, the Helsinki Final Act was premised on the revolutionary belief that security should also be defined by the ways that countries treat their own citizens and cooperate with their neighbors. In the 15 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Helsinki process and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which grew out of this historic process, have made a vital contribution toward achieving a Europe whole, free and at peace.

President Bush believes that peace depends upon the expansion of freedom, and during the past 30 years, 54 nations have joined the United States in this fundamental belief as members of the OSCE. Despite tremendous progress, much remains to be done to achieve a democratic, prosperous, and secure Euro-Atlantic community. The men and women who have dedicated themselves to promoting the work of the OSCE are on the front lines confronting tyranny. They labor to create a better, more peaceful world by promoting free and fair elections, strengthening respect for human rights, building democratic institutions, and enhancing security and economic prosperity. They offer hope to those living under repression.

On behalf of all Americans, the president congratulates the OSCE on this anniversary. The United States stands with this organization dedicated to the cause of freedom.

OSCE chairman, invoking spirit of Helsinki, calls for political courage

HELSINKI – Invoking the spirit of Helsinki of three decades ago, the chairman-in-office of the OSCE, Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, said the organization's members needed to display the same political courage in plotting its future course and in standing up for its ideals.

In a keynote address during commemorations in the Finnish capital to mark 30 years since the signature of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on August 1, 1975, Minister Rupel recalled the prevailing spirit of cooperation and goodwill and urged this should be cultivated again.

"We have managed to achieve what we have in the last 30 years because this vast community has learned to reject ethnic hatred, discrimination, corruption, poverty ... and totalitarian politics," he said.

"For that we can thank the Helsinki process. This process was, on the one hand, a series of meetings and commitments that followed the Final Act and created a momentum for dialogue, confidence-building and openness. At the same time," he recalled, "it was the underground movement inspired by Principle Seven of the Act – dissidents across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union rallying around the human rights commitments to force their leaders to

keep the promises that they had made."

"The combination of these inter-governmental and non-governmental streams created a river of change that swept away the foundations of communism and a polarized European security system. This helped the process of détente, and built trust and confidence. It linked human rights and security," said the chairman-in-office.

"In short, the CSCE/Helsinki process was a key element in ending the Cold War and making Europe safer and more united," Mr. Rupel underscored.

In a speech that devoted as many words to looking forward as to reflecting on the history of 30 years ago, he said recent events had shown the process of creating a Europe whole, free and prosperous was not yet complete and terrorist attacks were also an attack on OSCE values.

"Peace in the Balkans is still fragile, while in parts of Europe reforms are only a few years in the making. It is important that we keep vigilant and that the OSCE remains involved in Southeastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and in Central Asia," the chairman-in-office said.

The latter region is an area in urgent need of the OSCE's attention and the organization remained a key partner in its

(Continued on page 20)

Jewish-Ukrainian society seeks recognition of Sheptytsky among "Righteous of the World"

Religious Information Service of Ukraine

LVIV – Yakiv Suslensky, an Israeli civic activist, is planning to turn to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko to enlist his assistance in pressing for posthumously recognizing Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) from 1901 to 1944, as one of the "Righteous of the World."

Israel bestows such recognition on those who saved Jews in the Holocaust, risking their own lives. The beatification process for Sheptytsky, who died in 1944, started in 1958.

At the same time, attempts were under way to justly assess the metropolitan's heritage and actions in the field of Jewish-Ukrainian relations.

According to Mr. Suslensky, the administration of the Yad Vashem Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, which is responsible for studying the historical materials and awarding the title, has been putting up the most obstacles to the recognition of Sheptytsky. Mr. Suslensky and a group of his supporters have turned to the courts 18 times already to no avail.

A direct appeal to the president of Ukraine is seen by Mr. Suslensky as the only way out of the difficult situation with the museum. He said that he had already turned to Ukraine's two previous presidents, Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid

Kuchma, but that they ignored his request.

Mr. Suslensky said he hopes the new Ukrainian government will give more attention to the Sheptytsky case.

This initiative enjoys support from the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church itself. According to Father Oleksa Petriv, head of the UGCC Bureau for Contacts with State Authorities, "Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, and the risky system he started back then, brought a lot of real help for the Jews, so of course it would be good to tell the truth about this."

To attract societal attention, Mr. Suslensky and the members of the Society for Jewish-Ukrainian Relations that he heads are planning to organize a scholarly symposium in Kyiv dedicated to Sheptytsky. The warm words that Pope John Paul II spoke about Metropolitan Sheptytsky during his 2001 visit to Lviv, and the call to acknowledge the metropolitan as a "Righteous of the World" in Israel, provide hope that this eminent leader of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church will finally be properly honored, reported postup.brama.com.

Postup also noted that Mr. Suslensky served a seven-year term in the camps and prisons of the Soviet Union for his democratic convictions, together with many Ukrainian dissidents. He founded

(Continued on page 26)

Trilingual plaque in France to honor Konowal

TORONTO – A trilingual plaque honoring World War I veteran Filip Konowal will be unveiled on Monday, August 22, at Lens, France, near the location of the Battle of Hill 70, where Cpl. Konowal's valor earned him the highest military distinction awarded by the British Empire, the Victoria Cross.

The event is being organized by Branch 360 of the Royal Canadian Legion, in asso-

ciation with the City of Lens, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, the Royal Westminster Regiment Association and the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain. The public is invited to attend.

Additional details about the ceremony may be obtained from: Betty Reinhold, at Mairie de Lens Service Relations Publiques, 03-21-69-86-01 (in France) or BREINHOLD@mairie-lens.fr.

Kobzar Society equips schools and monasteries in Ukraine with computers

PITTSBURGH – The Kobzar Society recently launched a new initiative designed to equip schools and monasteries in Ukraine operated by the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great with computer equipment. The new technology will enable them to improve communications within the order and enhance their ministerial work throughout the country.

Sponsored by the Kobzar Society, a matching grant from the Maria Hulai Foundation and individual donations to the Philadelphia Province of the Sisters of St. Basil, the new program is viewed as an important step in the order's mission. Since emerging from religious underground after the fall of communism, the Ukraine Basilian Sisters' Province continues to recruit and educate novices and is in need of ongoing support.

The society shipped an initial installment of 12 computers from its Pittsburgh technical center in May, and hopes to send additional computers in the near future. The first shipment was distributed to the mother house in Lviv, a catecheti-

cal institute in Ivano-Frankivsk, plus monasteries, seminaries, retreat centers and schools in the Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia, Lviv and Zaporizhia oblasts.

"We are very grateful to the Kobzar Society and the Maria Hulai Foundation for the donation of computers," stated Sister Ann Laszok, OSBM, who is missioned to the Pastoral Ministry Office of St. Josaphat Eparchy, located in Pittsburgh. "They will enable Ukraine to improve its education programs, bring unity to the activities of the Order in Ukraine, and help us rekindle the flame of faith throughout Western and Eastern Ukraine."

The Order of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great is an international order whose ministries include education, pastoral ministry, social work, retreats, and spiritual direction. In addition to the United States and Ukraine, the order has other provinces in Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Brazil, Australia and Argentina that have educational and social ministries.

(Continued on page 23)



Meeting to discuss computer donations are: (from left) Sister Ann Laszok, Sister Monica Jaciuk, and Sister Olga Marie Faryna of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great, and Karl Skutski, director of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Kobzar Society.

Ukrainian Fraternal Association decides to rejoin the UCCA

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian Fraternal Association has decided to rejoin the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The decision was made during the UFA's annual meeting on June 23-24, and an announcement was published by the association's newspaper, Narodna Volia, on July 7.

Following is the full text of the statement signed by the UFA executive board, which was published in Narodna Volia.

At the annual meeting of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, held June 23 and 24 at the Clarion Hotel, Scranton, Pa., it was decided to rejoin the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. UFA is following the slogan made popular during the Orange Revolution in Ukraine, "We are many – you cannot defeat us" and also "together we are strong." UFA is an organization made up of over 11,000 members with different views and opinions.

Sixty-five years ago, UFA was a co-founder of the UCCA and today historically decided to rejoin the organization. We have taken the next step towards a much-needed consolidation of the Ukrainian community in America.

The Ukrainian Fraternal Association is also a member of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and other organizations.

Empire State Building to glow blue and yellow

NEW YORK – For the second year in a row, the Empire State Building in New York City will be illuminated in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, blue and yellow, on Ukrainian Independence Day, August 24.

News of this commemoration of Ukrainian Independence Day was released on August 3 by the national executive board of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM).

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

30th anniversary of Helsinki Accords

Thirty years ago, on August 1, 1975, in Helsinki, Finland, the representatives of 35 states, including the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Among them were President Gerald R. Ford of the United States and General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

By signing the document that became known as the Helsinki Final Act, or simply the Helsinki Accords, states pledged to respect human and civil rights and fundamental freedoms – such as freedom of thought, religion and conscience, to allow their citizens to travel freely, to provide for reunification of families and to allow free exchange of information and ideas. As well they agreed to respect the territorial integrity of participating states, to refrain from the threat or use of force, to seek peaceful settlement of disputes and to cooperate with each other in various fields of endeavor, ranging from science to commerce. These provisions were contained in the three sections of the accords known as “baskets” – covering political, economic and cultural-humanitarian issues – all of which were designed to enhance security and cooperation.

Immediately, the West began to hold the Soviet Union to the standards set forth in Helsinki. A mere week after the signing of the accords, Rep. Millicent Fenwick (R-N.J.) led a delegation of 18 members of Congress on a trip to the USSR. They arrived in Moscow on August 8. Two days later the congressional delegation met with 18 Jewish dissidents in the lobby of the Moscow hotel where the U.S. legislators were staying. On August 12 the members of Congress met with their Soviet counterparts, members of the Supreme Soviet, and presented a list of 1,000 Ukrainians and Jews who were political prisoners and/or refuseniks. The Soviet legislators accused Rep. Fenwick – who had stated that one of the delegation’s aims was to meet with Soviet political prisoner Valentyn Moroz of Ukraine – of damaging U.S.-Soviet relations by constantly bringing up human rights. One official said to her: “It’s an obsession with you, isn’t it?”

Actually, it was.

Rep. Fenwick and others like her staunchly defended human rights and fundamental freedoms for all people. They used the Helsinki Accords expertly to press their case and they did so at various international fora, including the regular follow-up meetings of the CSCE.

At the same time, Helsinki monitoring groups sprang up. First in Moscow, then in Ukraine (where the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote Implementation of the Helsinki Accords was founded on November 9, 1976), Lithuania, Armenia and Georgia. Their activists were severely repressed by the Soviet authorities; they were jailed, exiled, sent to psychiatric institutions, sentenced to hard labor, convicted on trumped-up criminal charges, beaten and terrorized. Some lost their lives in the process of standing up for human, national, religious and civil rights. But their collective voice never wavered. As the Ukrainian Helsinki Group’s memorandum No. 1 underscored: “The struggle for human rights will not cease until these rights become the everyday standard in social life.” Indeed, the Helsinki movement grew and became more powerful.

The Helsinki Accords were once characterized as a “beacon of hope” to victims of oppression worldwide. On their 30th anniversary we pay tribute to the beacon that ultimately brought freedom to millions.

August
9
1998

Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago in August the world learned about the death of Nina Strokata, well-known activist of the Ukrainian human rights movement, a founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and a former Soviet political prisoner. Dr.

Strokata died at the age of 72 on August 2, 1998, several days after she suffered a heart attack; news of her passing was reported in The Ukrainian Weekly’s August 9 issue.

Dr. Strokata was born January 31, 1926, in Odesa, Ukraine. After completing studies in microbiology she worked at the Odesa Medical Institute and then as a physician.

In 1961 Dr. Strokata married Sviatoslav Karavansky, a political prisoner who had been freed in 1960 under Khrushchev’s general amnesty. He had been arrested in 1945 for membership in the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and sentenced to 25 years of hard labor. In November 1965 Mr. Karavansky was arrested once again, this time for statements condemning discrimination against Ukrainians and the 1965 wave of arrests of Ukrainian intellectuals. He was sentenced as a recidivist without trial to eight and one-half years in a strict-regime labor camp.

From that time on, his wife became known as a human rights defender. She spoke out in behalf of her husband and other national and human rights advocates as well, among them Valentyn Moroz.

Mr. Karavansky continued to write even while he was imprisoned and, as a result, found himself re-arrested in prison in 1970. He was sentenced to another 10 years’ imprisonment because of his writings on topics such as the Soviets’ 1941 mass execution of Polish officers in the Katyn Forest.

In retribution for her activity in defense of her husband, Dr. Strokata was subjected to various forms of repression, such as searches, anonymous phone calls, interrogations and harassment on the job. Ultimately she was forced to leave Ukraine in the summer of 1971 and move to Nalchyk in the Russian SFSR.

Dr. Strokata herself was arrested in December 1971 as she was returning to Odesa; she was sentenced to four years of imprisonment in a severe-regime camp for “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.”

The case of Dr. Strokata became a cause célèbre among the worldwide community of microbiologists; American and Canadian colleagues appealed on her behalf to the United Nations and sent letters to the Mordovian camp where she was imprisoned.

(Continued on page 17)

COMMENTARY AND ANALYSIS

A guide to who’s who in D.C.’s Ukraine-related activities

by Taras Kuzio
and Orest Deychakiwsky

The United States has long been the most engaged Western country in Ukraine; this level of involvement has only increased since Viktor Yushchenko was elected president. Yet, little information is made public about activities pertaining to Ukraine in Washington. Little is reported in most Ukrainian American, American or Ukrainian media on these regular, if not daily, developments.

This article has three purposes. First, it attempts to direct a spotlight onto the high level of activity in Washington, and the U.S. more generally, regarding Ukraine. This article focuses on myriad non-governmental actors who interact with the U.S. government on Ukrainian issues, as well as provides a “Who’s Who” of U.S. government officials who work on Ukraine.

Second, we feel that the issues it raises – particularly the changing nature of Ukrainian affairs in Washington – requires more open discussion, especially as it relates to the Ukrainian American community. The environment in Washington has evolved in the last five to 10 years. Yet, this changing environment has largely bypassed the Ukrainian American community.

Third, the election of Mr. Yushchenko and the Orange Revolution have radically altered Western images of Ukraine for the better. Ukraine-U.S. relations have now returned to the strategic partnership they were in the second half of the 1990s under President Bill Clinton.

The United States will be the key Western country supporting President Yushchenko’s reform drive and desire for Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration. To give one example of how rapidly the situation is changing, next year Ukraine will obtain a Membership Action Plan (MAP) that will provide the roadmap for Ukraine’s membership in NATO later in the decade.

Therefore, the time has arrived for Ukrainian Americans and their organizations to reassess how they can assist and become involved in these processes and take advantage of the new, more positive image of Ukraine.

Washington during the Yushchenko presidency is very different from what it was under Leonid Kravchuk in the early 1990s, when Ukraine became an independent state. Two important changes have taken place. First, today, it is well-placed individuals in government or think-tanks, far more than Ukrainian American organizations, that have the greatest influence. Second, many non-Ukrainian individuals or organizations are today more active and influential than many Ukrainian American organizations.

Declining community organizations

The Orange Revolution witnessed a burst of activity within the Ukrainian American community – one not seen since independence. Ukrainian

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The views expressed in this article represent Dr. Kuzio and Mr. Deychakiwsky’s private views and do not reflect those of George Washington University or the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

Americans acted as election observers, especially during the third round of the presidential election, provided financial resources and held demonstrations in numerous cities, including Washington.

This burst of activity must be seen against the backdrop of a decline in community political activity and presence over the last decade or so. It remains to be seen whether it can be translated into a sustained, active and professional presence in Washington with sufficient personnel and resources.

If one were to look at the landscape of interest in Ukraine in Washington prior to Ukraine’s independence, one would have seen a relatively small, albeit active, universe. This universe consisted largely of the Ukrainian American community and its friends in the U.S. Congress and the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), with whom various community organizations and individuals worked closely. Because Ukraine was not a separate state entity, the attention given to Ukraine by the State Department and other executive branch agencies was limited.

Prior to Ukrainian independence, the U.S. Congress would pass resolutions pertaining to human rights matters in Ukraine, including on behalf of imprisoned Ukrainian political prisoners and Helsinki monitors, or regarding the Millennium of Christianity in Rus’-Ukraine, which called for the legalization of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches. These issues were raised by U.S. delegations to various international meetings, much to the displeasure of the Soviets.

There were also annual Captive Nations Week events, several large rallies – in 1983 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide, in 1984 protesting the Russification of Ukraine, and in 1988 marking the Millennium of Christianity. The Ukrainian American community successfully lobbied many of these human rights-related resolutions, was instrumental in the creation of the important U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and vocally protested the return of Ukrainian seaman Myroslav Medvid to the Soviets.

With the active involvement of the Ukrainian American community, hearings were held before the Helsinki Commission on the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group, including with former dissidents who had made it to the U.S., as well as on the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The Ukrainian American community also supported efforts to establish a U.S. Consulate in Kyiv. Shortly before independence, a resolution introduced by Helsinki Commissioners Don Ritter in the House of Representatives and Dennis DeConcini in the Senate called for the administration to recognize Ukraine’s independence. It was passed over the objections of the State Department.

Few U.S. government entities published reports on developments in Ukraine, with the exception of the Helsinki Commission, which published documents of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and, later, reports on elections held in Ukraine in 1990 and 1991, which also discussed the political context of these elections, thereby helping to inform the State Department and other executive branch agencies, think-tanks and NGOs about what was going on in Ukraine.

(Continued on page 9)

NEWS AND VIEWS

A trip to Kyiv suggests that Ukraine's orange blossoms have started to wilt

by Lubomyr Luciuk

Kyiv is a city of cupcakes. Not the baked kind. These morsels jiggle about like the eye candy that contaminates trashy music videos, the probable source of the floozies' sense of what is in vogue.

Now I'm no prude. At first blush all these promenading pseudo-strumpets are titillating. They are particularly evident in Kyiv's Independence Square, the "maidan," lurching about on stilettos in the shadow of a 64-meter granite column, atop which stands a gilded female figure holding a guelder rose, or "kaly-na." With much fanfare Ukraine's "Lady Liberty" was unveiled in 2001, on the 10th anniversary of the country's independence. Now the thrill is gone. The locals call her "Chick on a Stick." Likewise their libertine pageant soon becomes pedestrian, if you're not on the prowl. I wasn't. Others were.

You find them wherever you detect desperation. Just as I started lunch in a café off the Khreschatyk, the city's grand boulevard, the next table over filled up. I immediately recognized the type. They all look like me: middle-aged, pot-bellied white men. Two locals fluttered over, not particularly pretty but compensating by being pretty revealing. Even so stimulated, their table talk was stilted, more barter than banter, which happens when flab finds flesh, as Rogainers negotiate with those who give it up for gain.

I ate quickly and moved on, seeking sanctuary in the 11th century St. Sophia Sobor, the legacy of a Kyivan prince, Yaroslav the Wise. Ahead in line stood a mother and daughter. Just as they reached the cathedral's entrance, their escort butted in, brusquely ordering them not to "waste" too much time inside – "thirty minutes, 'kay!"

Thinking he might not know what he was missing I suggested this balding Brit join them, mentioning the Virgin Orans – her pensive face and outstretched arms reflecting her role as an intercessor between humanity and Christ – an icon crafted by masters working in malto, an alloy of glass, salts and oxidized metals, one of the most remarkable Byzantine mosaics of its kind, at least in this world.

He laughed in my face. He couldn't care less. This man came to Ukraine to

find a woman, and not a Virgin Mary, being the kind of bloke who would not have much chance of finding either back home. As for a mother's desire to teach her child something about her culture, that was of no account. So I watched over them as they moved through the sobor, witnessed careful explanations of the history of this holy place, overheard how intent this good woman was on ensuring her daughter would, at least this once, connect with their ancestors. I admit to being pleased when I realized she had taken more than a half hour before exiting. Much more.

Not every man arriving in Ukraine from the West is trawling for a tart, and most Ukrainian women, thankfully, aren't interested in those who are. But, arriving at Boryspil Airport, you might think otherwise.

Being a geographer I look at maps. You can get a free one of Kyiv, just past Customs and Immigration. It's a good map, too, save for being festooned with advertisements flogging "dream wives," "beautiful and real women," "fantasy socials" and strip clubs.

I saw no public health service announcements warning that Ukraine suffers from the highest rate of HIV/AIDS in Europe, with at least 1.4 percent of the adult population age 15-49 infected, compared to 0.1 percent rates in neighboring Poland and Turkey. While, in 1997, 11 percent of Ukraine's afflicted were women that had increased to 42 percent by 2004. So this plague has moved well beyond a drug-addled underclass and into the mainstream, meaning that some sex-starved sex tourists are going home with more than they bargained for.

Given that chain smoking seems to be the second most passionately pursued indulgence over there, venture capitalists should consider opening a chain of funeral parlors across Ukraine. Business will be good. They can bank on it. Perhaps they already are.

The Orange Revolution generated lots of chaff, and still does. Perhaps that's why Ukraine's government seems more intent on preening than performing. I went over thinking I would find a freer Ukraine. And, most certainly, I did. It's also fouler. Too many post-Soviet Ukrainians – and here to my shame I will steal a line from Stalin – are "dizzy with success." Purlblind to how they were once victims of genocide, they are being victimized again, catastrophically, as they will soon find out. Ukraine's orange blossoms have started to wilt.

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

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PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Harry Potter and other orphans

It was quiet as I drove my son, daughter and nephew back to the Pysanyi Kamin ("PK") Plast camp from "dozovillia" – free time. All three had their noses deep into Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince. Later, as Olesia and I walked the trail toward her barrack, we passed a father lugging a sack of clean laundry, his daughter walking beside him, expertly navigating the craggy, down-sloping trail while engrossed in the same book. Once in the barracks as I helped my own daughter put her things away, I noticed Harry Potter books lying on nearly every bed.

Harry Potter, of course, tells the story of an adolescent orphan engaged in a battle against evil – a struggle he didn't choose and can't escape. Afflicted by atrocious stepparents, Harry discovers magical powers, which play a central role in his intrigues and adventures at Hogwarts Academy, where young witches and warlocks learn their ancient craft.

Since 2001 hundreds of millions of kids have been devouring every volume, now translated into dozens of languages including Viktor Morozov's Ukrainian version. Naturally, there's also a successful series of movies. As original as it is, Harry Potter fits into a rich genre of legend, literature and cinema featuring orphans as central figures.

Look no further than the Bible, where Moses' mother, to save his life, casts him adrift in a basket on the Nile. Finding him in the bulrushes, Pharaoh's daughter adopts the orphan as her own. Raised as an Egyptian, Moses goes on to discover his Jewish identity and using miraculous powers to part the Red Sea, leads his people out of slavery into the Promised Land.

Ancient Romans told the story of Romulus and Remus, twin sons of none other than Mars, the god of war. The infants are left out in the elements to die, only to have a she-wolf miraculously appear and suckle them until a shepherd discovers the boys and adopts them. The orphans go on to make history by founding the city of Rome.

Then there's King Arthur, another orphan. Starting with the magical ability to pull a sword from a stone, he organizes a nation and then, more than a thousand years later, provides inspiration for novels, epic poems, a Broadway musical and the administration of President John F. Kennedy. Moses, Romulus, Remus, King Arthur – stories born at the intersection of history and myth, at the crossroads of collective unconscious and popular culture.

Now ponder how many other stories begin with orphans: there's Cinderella, Heidi, Pollyanna, "Anne of Green Gables," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farms" and Dorothy in the "Wizard of Oz." And those are just the girls. The guys include Henry Fieldings' Tom Jones, Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, Faulkner's Joe Christmas, Dickens' Oliver Twist, David Copperfield and Pip from "Great Expectations." In the comics there's Superman, Batman, Spiderman and Little Orphan Annie. In the movies, Walt Disney's Bambi becomes an orphan when a hunter kills his mother; Aladdin harnesses magical powers that make it possible for a "street rat" to marry the sultan's daughter.

George Lukas's "Star Wars" features

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two generations of orphans: Anakin Skywalker, who becomes the dreaded Darth Vader and his twin children, Luke and Leia, who become orphans when their mother dies in childbirth and Darth abandons them to pursue "the dark side." Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" was made into a film trilogy featuring the orphan, Frodo Baggins, who goes through hair-raising adventures to dispose of the magical ring that causes the world enormous grief. Now there's "A Series of Unfortunate Events," based on the books by Lemony Snicket, with the Baudelaire Orphans who lose their parents in a mysterious fire.

I was not an orphan, thank goodness, and, at best, I'm an amateur psychologist, so whatever insights I might have on the subject are based on my own childhood and from observation. Without a doubt, children thrive in an environment where their material needs are taken care of, where they get kisses for their boo-boos and parents tell them what's right and what's wrong. All the while, they push the envelope, yearning to be independent and free.

In my view, the orphan genre is attractive because kids can participate in the trials, adventures and more often than not, triumphs of children forced by circumstances to be on their own, all the while enjoying the comfort of the back seat of Tato's car or the shade of a tall tree, knowing that Mama's inside cooking dinner. Fortunately, many orphans have been blessed with wonderful adoptive parents who gave them what's essential. But not all.

Real life offers many inspiring stories of orphans – Alexander Hamilton, who became the architect of America's political economy and is now on the ten-dollar bill; Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's fast food restaurant; columnist Art Buchwald; novelist Leo Tolstoy.

Perhaps the most dramatic orphan story, nearly on a par with the Moses story, involves a serf who loses his parents at an early age and is raised by the village until his owner takes him in as a houseboy. Driven by genius, the boy steals paper and pencil to sketch and draw. Discovered by the master, who is impressed by the boy's talent, he is apprenticed in the imperial capital where artists and intellectuals are astonished by the young slave's talent and buy him his freedom. Instead of savoring his good fortune, he's embittered that he's free but nobody else. Tapping into mysterious powers, he writes exquisite poetry exhorting his illiterate countrymen to embrace one another, study, learn and rend the shackles that keep them enslaved. Arrested and exiled by the empire, the poet-artist continues to inspire, even after he dies and his language is banned. Generations later, he leads his people to freedom from the very empire that had enslaved him and everyone he knew.

The story of Ukraine's Taras Shevchenko is a great orphan story because it's so improbable and because it's true. It's worthy of books, movies, a Broadway musical, a student term paper. So go ahead and encourage your kids to read the wonderful literature based on the theme of orphans. But, while you're at it, get them a copy of the "Kobzar," along with a Ukrainian-English dictionary or a translation, and tell them why Shevchenko is every bit as special as Harry Potter. Both stories are true, to be sure, but Shevchenko's actually happened. Now that's magic.

TRAVEL TIPS: Ukraine ever more popular as tourist destination

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's attractiveness as a tourist destination is more popular than ever, partly because the Orange Revolution has demonstrated to North Americans that Ukrainians want to steer their nation and its culture toward Europe.

More importantly, President Viktor Yushchenko signed decrees easing visa requirements for those Americans and Canadians visiting Ukraine for 90 days or less. (See story on page 1 for details.)

Those still planning trips to Ukraine this summer should make note of a few nuances that have either arisen in recent years or persist.

Arriving at the airport in Kyiv

Boryspil Airport is as crowded as it's ever been. After you get off the passenger-transfer bus and reach passport control, be sure to immediately reach for a flimsy ID form and fill in your personal information twice in the minuscule boxes. After waiting in line for anywhere between 15 minutes to an hour and a half, you'll proceed to customs where you'll need to fill out a second form, which is available in English or Ukrainian.

When entering the main terminal, you will be approached by at least half a dozen men who are paid to steer you to one of three taxicab companies that have

booths set up. You can either allow them to guide you to their company, or proceed directly outside and hail a cab yourself. Twenty dollars is the going price for the ride to Kyiv, and if you have the gift of persuasion you'll get a better deal.

Taxi drivers are as feisty about fares as ever. Once they hear your American or Canadian accent, most will try to tack on an extra \$2 or \$3, if not more. A 20-minute cab ride in Kyiv should cost no more than six dollars, and in Lviv it shouldn't cost more than \$4. Negotiate before riding, and make sure the cabby has change (a common trick is to be taken to a destination, where the cabby will then shrug his shoulders in utter bewilderment that you only have a 50 or 100 hrv bill that you need change for).

Gasoline prices are constantly rising in Ukraine, currently at about \$2.62 a gallon (that's 69 cents a liter), so cab drivers have used that excuse to gouge foreigners as well. Although it's not courteous in the West, there's no need to hesitate in refusing a fare or walking away while feigning disgust. In all likelihood, such gestures will prompt the cabbies to offer more reasonable rates.

Train travel the best bet

Trains remain the best way to travel between cities. The lines aren't as long as they used to be, with more ticket windows operating than in the past, so your average wait might be 20 minutes to 40 minutes, instead of an hour plus.

Ukrainians are less pushy, though the typical Westerner will still find the customary absentee reservations, shuffling between and cutting of lines utterly nerve-wracking.

Summer Sunday night trains are typically sold out days in advance. If you ride platz-kart, which provides a place to sleep, but no privacy, be prepared for no air-conditioning. An "SV" (spalnyi vagon) ticket is a summer delight, complete with a comfortable bedding already arranged and refreshing air conditioning in a compartment for two persons. However, the typical SV ticket costs about \$35 between Kyiv and Lviv. Avoid as much as possible the food sold at train stations or in the trains themselves, as many a traveler has suffered stomach ailments as a result.

Ukrainians' Mecca

Getting to Kaniv, Ukrainians' equivalent of Mecca, will require a taxi cab or driver now that the boat rides from Poshtova Ploscha have been done away with. If you want to get the real experience, ask your driver to take you to the very bottom of the steep, winding steps to Taras Shevchenko's grave, rather than dropping you off at his statue overlooking the Dnipro River. Climbing the 370-plus steps under the hot, humid sun will provide that sense of struggle and suffering needed to truly appreciate Shevchenko.

The museum is still under repair, with no apparent end in sight. Be sure to be prepared for beggars and drunks at the site's lone refreshment stand located at the bottom of the steps just beside the Dnipro. Do not, however, prepare for a swim – the water's filthy at the rocky beach behind the stand.

Kyiv hotels are more expensive than ever, with some rooms costing hundreds of dollars a night (the least expensive room in a four-star hotel will run you about \$118, while expensive rooms can cost up to \$480 a night, according to a survey by the Kyiv Post). A less expensive alternative is to visit Vash Dim, a real estate firm whose offices are a two-minute walk up Triokhsviatytska Street from Yevropeyska Ploscha (European Square). Their agents can help find you apartments at European standards for \$60, \$80 or \$100 a night, depending on how much space you need and how close you wish to be to the city's center. The firm's website is www.yourhome.com.ua.

The restaurant scene is as diverse as ever in Ukraine's biggest cities, offering sushi bars, wide-ranging Asian menus, Ukrainian buffets and even Tex-Mex. Service is adequate at most restaurants, but don't hold your breath waiting for your waiter or waitress to greet your table with a peachy Georgia smile.

A \$1 or \$2 tip is enough for even the more expensive dinners. The advantage in Ukraine is that you can assemble your own meal because restaurants offer the option of ordering a main course (strava) and a side item (harnir) separately. A check is a "rakhunok" and waitress is an "ofitsiantka."

For casual dining fanatics, T.G.I. Friday's has opened in Kyiv. Other than McDonald's, there are no other foreign fast food chains in Kyiv or Lviv, which is likely a relief to many visiting Americans.

Perhaps the biggest new tourist attraction in western Ukraine this summer is the Orliata Memorial at Lviv's Lychakiv Cemetery. Surrounding the graves of 2,500 Polish soldiers who died in the first world war are impressive limestone arches and an enormous monument forming an altar leading to a second-tier chapel. Adjacent is the Ukrainian Galician Army (Ukrainska Halyska Armia, or UHA) monument, which has as its center a dark gray granite tower propping up a defiant St. Michael the Archangel.

The UHA monument rests on a hill, towering above a smaller memorial dedicated to Veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Ukrainska Povstanska Armia, or UPA) that would be of particular interest to western Ukrainian descendants. Visitors can talk to those placing flowers on their parents' graves, who visit the adjoining UPA cemetery daily.

Certainly among the biggest tourist attractions in eastern Ukraine is the annual Sorochynskyi Yarmarok (Sorochyntsi Fair). Held in the village of Velyki Sorochyntsi in the Poltava Oblast between August 18 and 21, the yarmarok draws nearly a million visitors who become acquainted with the nation's most talented craftsmen and folk artists, as well as their work, according to the festival's organizers. The fair also has a particular agricultural influence, with Ukrainian and international companies displaying their agricultural wares and a variety of livestock to admire, as well as a petting zoo.



UKRAINIAN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS of U.S.A. and CANADA LABOR DAY, 2005

Dedicated to the 50th anniversary of USCAK
and the 50th year of tennis tournaments at Soyuzivka

Dates: September 3-5, 2005

Place: Soyuzivka, UNA Resort, Kerhonkson, NY

Starting Times: Play will start Sat., Sept. 3 at 8:30 a.m. For individual starting times contact the tournament committee at Soyuzivka after 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2.

Rules: All USTA and USCAK rules for tournament play will apply. Participants must be Ukrainian by birth, heritage or marriage. Players should enter only one playing group. However, players wishing to play in the second group should indicate so on the entry form but designate the first choice group. Play in two groups will be determined by the tournament committee.

Awards: Trophies, funded by the Ukrainian National Association, will be awarded to the winners and finalists in each playing group. Financial stipends, funded by Winner Ford Group, Mr. John Hynansky owner, will be awarded to winners and finalists of men's, women's and junior groups.

Host Club: KLK, Ukrainian American Sports Club.

Entry: **Advance registration is required and must be received by August 30th.**
Send entry form including \$20 fee **made out to KLK** to:
George Sawchak
724 Forrest Ave., Rydal, PA 19046
(215) 576-7989

Additional information about the tournament will be available in the UNA's publications Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

Registration Form Make checks payable to KLK

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Group Men _____ Men's 35 _____ Men's 45 _____ Men's 55 _____

Boys _____ Age _____

Women _____ Sr. Women _____ Girls _____ Age _____

USCAK 2005

Paris designer Gaultier shows designs inspired by Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – On July 6-9 Kateryna Yushchenko, along with her daughter Sophia, attended, as guests of honor, Paris designer Jean Paul Gaultier's collections show during Paris Haute Couture Week. The wife of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko made it a point to view Mr. Gaultier's creations because of the Eastern European-inspired collection that would be modeled at the show.

Mrs. Yushchenko and Mr. Gaultier met in Kyiv at the Eurovision contest, and it was there that he revealed to the first lady that he planned to design a collection about Ukraine.

From their hair to their toes, every aspect of the models, among them Lily Cole, Erin O'Connor and Jade Parfitt, incorporated Ukrainian culture. Their 5-foot hair extensions and braids twisted into head-dresses transformed the models into Ukrainian maidens, reported the United Kingdom's Telegraph.

Some looked like Hutsuls from the Carpathians in their velvet jackets embroidered in gold with fox and mink collars and gauntlet cuffs, while others resembled Cossacks, dressed in ensembles that included big-sleeved peasant smocks worn over full trousers tucked into boots, the newspaper reported. Trypilian art also was reflected through the paisley-esque patterns on military-style redingotes in bright orange, pewter, onyx and chocolate cashmere with astrakhan wide collars and triple cuffs.

According to [wwd.com](http://www.wwd.com) (Women's Wear Daily), Mrs. Yushchenko hopes to bring a group of Ukrainian designers to the Paris haute couture stage as early as October.

At Paris' Haute Couture Week Mrs. Yushchenko told Hilary Alexander of the Telegraph: "We want to bring to Europe what is best from Ukraine and to take back the best of Europe."

A guide...

(Continued from page 6)

As Ukraine was a submerged republic of the Soviet Union, there was relatively little interest in political developments in Ukraine, which in large part involved pressing the Soviets to cease their repression of human rights. The media showed little interest, and it was a big deal when major newspaper articles appeared on developments in Ukraine. And Ukraine was largely terra incognita to think-tanks and non-governmental organizations, other than, of course, Ukrainian American community organizations, including the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) and the

U.S. government relates to Ukrainian American organizations, a subject that is beyond the scope of this article but nevertheless is worthy of further discussion.

The Action Ukraine Coalition, consisting of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC), the Ukrainian Federation of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, has put on a few policy forums over the last few years with both U.S. and Ukrainian officials. The UACC was instrumental in supporting former Helsinki Commission Chairman Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell's resolution on the genocidal Famine in Ukraine, which garnered an impressive one-third of the Senate – both Democrats and Republicans – as co-

relatively little in the way of input into U.S. policy formulation regarding Ukraine. And, much of the legislation devoted to Ukraine that has been passed by Congress in the last few years was approved without much input or active support from Ukrainian American community organizations. Maybe Ukrainian American organizations need to learn from the activities undertaken by Armenian and Jewish lobbyists in Washington.

A final comment should be made about an important aspect of how the U.S. government and policy-makers perceive Ukrainian Americans. During the Kuchma era an important group of influential Ukrainian Americans from a wide range of émigré political orientations were "derzhavnyky" (statists, literally meaning supporters of Ukrainian statehood regardless of its domestic politics), which led them to defend some of the dubious policies and practices of the Kuchma regime. Not surprisingly, these apologists turned the U.S. government and policy-makers away from dealing with some Ukrainian American organizations.

The most visible example was the president of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), who was regularly an apologist for the Kuchma regime and a staunch critic of American policies and legislative initiatives. These included congressional resolutions in 2002 and 2004 that called for free and fair elections in Ukraine, which were overwhelmingly passed by both the House and the Senate.

This is a good example of one wing of the organized Ukrainian community undermining the other. The UCCA's work with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and organization of election observers in Ukraine was undermined by the UWC president's hostility to congressional election resolutions and U.S. policy to Ukraine.

But, there were other derzhavnyky from the academic, judicial and military fields. Some, inspired by Ukrainian officials, launched spurious attacks on individuals in Washington and elsewhere who were critical of the corrupt and undemocratic practices of the Kuchma regime. An academic institution refused to host panels on Kuchmagate and the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze. Ukrainian sociologists from the Academy of Sciences were castigated by Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian professors at an annual Ukrainian American academic conference in the U.S. for being too critical of domestic developments inside Ukraine (the episode was recounted in the April 2004 issue of Suchasnist magazine). These derzhavnyky were so cross-party that among them was an ex-Canadian-Ukrainian Trotskyist working in Ukraine since the early 1990s.

Today, of course, they have – not surprisingly – all re-painted themselves Orange.

Ukraine's diplomats

Although some Ukrainian Embassy officials did attend events on Ukraine at think-tanks and were brave in lobbying Ukrainian diplomats to support free and fair elections after the second round of the presidential election and during the Orange Revolution, other Embassy actions were disappointing. The Embassy's reputation was harmed during the 2004 election when it officially complained to George Washington University about visiting Prof. Kuzio's writings in *The Ukrainian Weekly* on the 2004 election. The university replied that the Embassy should write to *The Ukrainian Weekly* to voice its opposing opinions.

With the anticipated posting of the new ambassador, the Embassy of Ukraine could improve its performance in this field. Embassies of countries that are now members of NATO and the

European Union played an active role in lobbying for their countries' Euro-Atlantic integration in Washington. The Ukrainian Embassy should follow suit.

Disinterested academia

The decline in the influence of Ukrainian American organizations in Washington is compounded by an academic world that has not adjusted to the emergence of independent Ukraine. "Ukrainian studies" continues to be understood as, primarily, culture, history and diaspora studies – not political science and the study of contemporary Ukraine. Annual prizes given by the American Association for Ukrainian Studies never go to political science books or articles.

Disillusionment with the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), in part, has led to some Ukrainian Americans shifting their hopes to Columbia University. During and after Ukraine's 2004 election, Columbia hosted panels dealing with this historic event. Columbia hosts the annual convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, which holds the largest number of panels on contemporary Ukraine of any North American conference.

It is still too early to say if Columbia's Ukrainian studies – unlike HURI's – will include contemporary Ukraine as an important and equal area of research and teaching. We can only hope Columbia does not follow HURI in not giving sufficient attention to contemporary Ukraine.

Active individuals

Research, publication and teaching on contemporary Ukraine is being undertaken primarily by individuals outside of HURI or Columbia, the two locations where Ukrainian Americans have invested resources. Leading academics working on contemporary Ukraine include Lucan Way (Temple University), Alexander Motyl (Rutgers), Paul D'Anieri and Erik Herron (Kansas), Stephen Shulman (South Illinois), Robert Krawchuk and Charles Wise (Indiana) and Taras Kuzio (George Washington).

The centrality of the U.S. to contemporary Ukrainian studies can also be seen in two other ways. First, in the large number of books published by U.S.-based academics since 1992. Second, in the number of special issues of U.S.-published journals that have devoted special issues to contemporary Ukraine. In 2005 alone, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Problems of Post-Communism* and *Demokratizatsiya* will publish special issues.

Dr. Kuzio's courses on contemporary Ukraine attract large numbers of students, most of whom are not of Ukrainian American background. During the fall 2005 semester these will include 30 undergraduates signed up for "Transition and Democratization in Ukraine" and 18 graduate students signed up for "NATO, EU Enlargement: Ukraine, Russia." These class sizes show the missed opportunities that established structures, such as HURI, have lost out on by not including courses on contemporary Ukraine.

The growing importance and influence of individuals can be seen in many other areas in Washington. Some of the people in Washington working on a daily basis on contemporary Ukraine in, or with, U.S. government institutions and affiliated structures include: Gene Fishel, David Kramer, Karen Stewart, Marcus Micelli, Dan Rosenblum, George Frowick, Paul Carter (State Department); Damon Wilson (National Security Council); Jessica Kehl; Gen. (ret.) Nicholas Krawciw (Department of Defense); Christine Lucyk, Andrew Bihun

(Continued on page 10)

The Ukrainian American community has never completely understood nor devoted the necessary resources for a significant, professional presence in Washington.

Washington Office of the Ukrainian National Association, as well as Smoloskyp, Prolog, Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) and the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, among others.

The renewal of an independent Ukrainian state set up a different dynamic with respect to all this, with not only the U.S. government setting up or expanding institutions to deal with this new entity, but also foreign relations-oriented NGOs and think-tanks taking a newfound interest. This was largely unnoticed by many Ukrainian Americans. Indeed, the election of President Yushchenko suggests that this is an opportune time to re-assess why the situation has dramatically changed since the 1980s and early 1990s.

The influence of Ukrainian American organizations in Washington has been on the decline for a number of years; but, the actual start of this decline is difficult to pinpoint. The Ukrainian National Association (UNA) closed its Washington Office in 1995, a move that significantly weakened the ability of Ukrainian Americans to get their message across to policy-makers. Indeed, the Ukrainian American community has never completely understood nor devoted the necessary resources for a significant, professional presence in Washington, and many efforts pertaining to Ukraine, even before independence, were done on an ad-hoc, volunteer basis by devoted and committed individuals.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee America (UCCA) still has an office in Washington – UNIS. Since 2000, UCCA has held annual conferences – together with other Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian U.S. NGOs – on Ukraine which have brought leading Ukrainian officials to Washington. UCCA has recently initiated the U.S.-Ukrainian Security Dialogue as a joint project with the American Foreign Policy Council and the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. The UCCA has also initiated several congressional resolutions, notably one calling for the building of a Famine monument in Washington, and interacts with some members of Congress, particularly members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Surprisingly though, UCCA personnel and those of other Ukrainian American community organizations are infrequently invited to internal U.S. government events that deal with Ukraine. UCCA personnel also do not usually attend think-tank events on Ukraine, which are also typically by invitation only. Why this is the case has to do with how the

sponsors. This action, which took place in 2003, was reminiscent of the frequent grass-roots efforts by the Ukrainian community in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s, when organizations and individuals would bombard their representatives and senators with letters or phone calls on issues of concern.

The Washington Group, from its establishment in 1984 until just a few years ago, provided numerous venues for the discussion of Ukrainian political developments. However, in the last three to four years it has focused on cultural and social events.

Other once-active Ukrainian American organizations have simply become inactive or have ceased to exist.

An exception to the general decline is the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (USUF), which – while not strictly a community membership-based organization – has its roots in and receives support from the Ukrainian American community, as well as far more significant support from the U.S. government for its various programs in Ukraine. The USUF continues to be highly active and visible in Washington. Its personnel are regularly seen at think-tank and some closed U.S. government events, and have meaningful contacts with both the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation this year launched a highly successful policy dialogue with Ukrainian and Western experts in four fields: politics/governance, economics, media and foreign policy. Recently, report language was added to both the House and Senate appropriations legislation which cover assistance to Ukraine that indicates strong support for the USUF, with the Senate stating its expectation that U.S. funding toward various USUF projects will exceed that of previous years. The Senate also urges the State Department to consider a proposal from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Throughout much of the 1990s and less frequently since, the State Department and National Security Council would periodically meet with invited representatives of Ukrainian American organizations as well as individuals from the Ukrainian American community who also worked professionally on issues related to Ukraine. Such venues provided for an informal exchange of ideas and an opportunity for Ukrainian Americans to weigh in on policy toward Ukraine.

Nevertheless, Ukrainian American community organizations have provided

A guide...

(Continued from page 9)

(Commerce Department); Orest Deychakiwsky, Ron McNamara (Helsinki Commission); Nadia Diuk, John Squier (National Endowment for Democracy); and Bill Gleason (Foreign Service Institute).

There are many individuals in the U.S. government, including a number of Ukrainian Americans, who work on Ukraine at the State, Defense, Commerce, Energy, Treasury and Justice departments and other agencies, such as the Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), as well as entities that deal with trade and economic relations with Ukraine.

Former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, particularly Steven Pifer and William Green Miller, have also maintained an active interest and involvement in Ukraine. Both are members of the USUF policy dialogue group.

Key individuals working on Ukraine in the policy-making domain in Washington include: Stephen Larrabee, Jennifer Moroney, Keith Crane, Olga Oliker (Rand Corporation); Anders Aslund (Carnegie Endowment); Blair Ruble (Kennan Institute); Michael McFaul (Stanford University – Washington); Zbigniew Brzezinski, Celleste Wallander, Richard Murphy, Ambassador Keith Smith and Janusz Bugajski (Center for Strategic and International Studies); Bruce Jackson (Project on Democracy); Radek Sikorski (American Enterprise Institute); Ariel Cohen (Heritage Foundation); Jaroslaw Martyniuk (Intermedia); and Morgan Williams (Ukraine-United States Business Council and Sigma Bleyzer). [Mr. Williams also publishes the daily Action Ukraine Report distributed via e-mail.]

U.S. institutions

No other Western country approaches the level of U.S. government outreach to academic and think-tank specialists. The U.S. government and think-tanks – not Ukrainian American organizations – led the way in the last few years in organizing seminars, panels and roundtables on Ukraine. The speakers for these U.S. government and think-tank events are drawn from the academic or think-tank world. Leading the way in giving presentations from the academic community have been Profs. Motyl and D'Anieri, and visiting Prof. Kuzio.

These by-invitation-only U.S. government seminars on Ukraine's upcoming election took place in September and December 2003, March and July 2004 and June 2005. The U.S. government has also sponsored more in-depth daylong discussions on Ukraine at Booz-Allen consultants dealing with generation change in Ukraine.

The U.S. government also draws in academic and think-tank experts to assist in the formulation of strategy and forecast documents on Ukraine. These are drawn up irregularly for strategically important countries. The U.S. government has also sponsored roundtables comparing Ukraine's Orange Revolution to revolutions in Serbia and Georgia. Other briefings have investigated how Ukraine is progressing since President Yushchenko's election. Prior to President George W. Bush's visit to Europe in February, the National Intelligence Council was briefed on Ukraine by Profs. D'Anieri, Motyl and Kuzio.

Within the last few years, the U.S. Congress's Helsinki Commission has held hearings and briefings on Ukraine, sponsored panels on the 2002 and 2004 elections, sponsored congressional resolutions, and issued numerous Congressional Record statements. The House

International Relations Committee (HIRC) held a hearing on the Ukrainian elections in 2004 as well. The committee also held a hearing on Ukraine in July where Stephen Nix (International Republican Institute), Ambassador Nelson Ledsky and Visiting Prof. Kuzio testified.

As mentioned earlier, what differentiates Washington from the 1980s and 1990s is that think-tanks now take an active interest in contemporary Ukraine. The greatest number of panels have been organized by the Carnegie Endowment, reflecting a high degree of interest in Ukraine by Dr. Aslund, who heads its Russia and Eurasia Program. Dr. Aslund is also the co-author of the Blue Ribbon Commission Report on Ukraine produced in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Dr. Aslund and Prof. McFaul have edited a book on the Orange Revolution that is to be published by Carnegie at the end of 2005.

The Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS) has also been active on Ukraine. The CSIS has had long-established working groups on Ukraine, including those focusing on the 2002 and 2004 elections. In the 1990s the CSIS organized the American Ukrainian Advisory Committee that included prominent Americans and Ukrainians and held periodic meetings in Washington and Kyiv.

The United States is also the most active Western country in the field of supporting democracy in Ukraine. The National Endowment for Democracy was created in the era of Ronald Reagan, and its Eurasia department is headed by Dr. Nadia Diuk.

The International Republican Institute (IRI), whose Eurasia department is headed by Mr. Nix, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), whose Eurasia department is headed by Ambassador Ledsky, are very active in Ukraine and in Washington. In March-April, IRI hosted a talk by Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and IRI-NDI hosted a reception for President Yushchenko, both in Washington.

Freedom House, whose most prominent Ukrainian specialist is Adrian Karatnycky, has also played a vital role in supporting democracy in Ukraine since the 1990s. Since 1997 Freedom House has published the excellent annual report "Nations in Transit," which covers Ukraine and 26 other post-Communist states.

These prominent and respected NGOs interact extensively with U.S. policymakers in both the executive and legislative branches.

Numerous and various American NGOs that deal with health care, energy, agriculture, civil society, media, charitable, social and, of course, business issues also maintain contacts and interact with U.S. policymakers on Ukraine. Organizations that have USAID contracts in Ukraine have people helping to manage their programs in Washington. Also, many people such as former Peace Corps volunteers and Americans who have lived in Ukraine, including members of religious organizations, have become actors on the Ukraine Washington scene. Jewish American organizations have also taken an active interest in U.S.-Ukrainian relations.

The Ukraine-United States Business Council was first organized in 1995 when a small group of companies started meeting to form an organization. The group hired Kempton Jenkins as the executive director/CEO (his title was later changed to president).

Mr. Jenkins ran the Ukraine-United States Business Council until December 2004. The council, which at its peak had 35 members, did not have an active board of directors; there were few breakfast meetings, even fewer newsletters, and very little activity. During the Kuchma era the Ukraine-United States Business Council was tied to PR firms that had con-

tracts with the Kuchma administration.

Since President Yushchenko's election the situation has changed. In February a group of 20 key businessmen came together to revive the Ukraine-United States Business Council. The Ukraine-United States Business Council has a new president/CEO, Susanne Lotarski, a board of directors and an executive committee, which had its first meeting in July.

Media resources

The U.S. is also a leader in the provision of media resources. The U.S. government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and Voice of America (VOA) continue and have even expanded their broadcasting to Ukraine. VOA Television, which is presented by Myroslava Gongadze, Zoreslav Baydyuk, Nataliya Leonova, Andriy Hodovanec and others, has different programs that are transmitted live on Ukraine's Channel 5 and State Channel 1.

The Internet has provided organizations with the ability to produce publications dealing with Ukraine. RFE/RL publishes 16 Internet-based publications that are free of charge. Two of these cover Ukraine systematically – the daily Newsline and the weekly Belarus, Ukraine and Molodova Report, while others, such as Media Matters, (Un)Civil Societies and especially Organized Crime and Terrorism Watch (edited by Roman Kupchinsky), provide occasional analytical pieces on Ukraine. RFE/RL in Washington also periodically holds briefings on Ukrainian issues by visiting Ukrainian or U.S. specialists.

As is common in the United States, the private sector often outdoes the government. The Jamestown Foundation, which is funded by some of the numerous private foundations found in the U.S., began publication of the Eurasia Daily Monitor in 2004. During the 2004 election it had greater analytical coverage of Ukraine than did RFE/RL. Three out of the five Eurasia Daily Monitors released each week publish articles on contemporary Ukraine.

Articles on contemporary Ukraine published in RFE/RL publications or in Eurasia Daily Monitor provide a sizable proportion of the coverage on contemporary Ukraine that appears in The Ukrainian Weekly and Canadian newspapers, such as Edmonton's Ukrainian News. These articles are also widely disseminated over Internet forums hosted by Brama and InfoUkes, as well as by the Action Ukraine Report (Morgan Williams) and the Ukraine List (Dominique Arel).

The Ukrainian Weekly also has a Kyiv Press Bureau (Editor Zenon Zawada and Editorial Assistant Yana Sedova). It is noteworthy that The Weekly is sent free of charge to all members of the U.S. Congress.

Conclusion

The U.S. leads the Western world in both the degree of outreach to experts and in its high level of interest in Ukraine. Much of this activity is not publicly reported and, therefore, Ukrainian Americans, and Ukrainians, do not know of it. Indeed, even this partial guide cannot cover comprehensively the magnitude and depth of "Ucrainica" in Washington.

Washington is strategically the most important Western city for Ukraine and for its aspirations to join the WTO and NATO and, to a lesser extent, the EU. It is, therefore, imperative that Ukrainian Americans, while recognizing that many other institutions and individuals are involved with Ukraine compared with the pre-independence period, re-assess the strategic importance of providing sufficient resources and personnel to have a meaningful, sustained presence in Washington, which includes having influential and committed people on the ground.

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BOOK NOTES

'Kremlin Rising' provides account of Russia under Vladimir Putin

"Kremlin Rising: Vladimir Putin's Russia and the End of Revolution," by Peter Baker and Susan Glasser. New York: Lisa Drew/Scribner Publishers, 2005. 453 pp. \$27.50

by Ihor Lysyj

"Kremlin Rising" is a major book about the latest period in Russian history that provides an eyewitness account of the tumultuous transition from the unsavory era of Boris Yeltsin's fake capitalism to the authoritarian "managed democracy" of Vladimir Putin. The facts presented are well documented and supported by 985 references. The book portrays the dark side of Mr. Putin's Russia objectively and in-depth.

A thoughtful reader can derive insight from the information presented in this book about why events happening in Russia did not happen in Ukraine.

The authors, Peter Baker and Susan Glasser, are reporters for the Washington Post and have spent several years (2001-2004) in Moscow as bureau chiefs for the newspaper. They had unprecedented access to the highest levels of the Russian bureaucracy, political and economic insiders, as well as to the multiple layers of Russian society, from the glitzy Muscovites to the downtrodden drug addicts in Irkutsk near the Mongolian border in the vastness of Siberia.

What emerges from their account of Russia is a dysfunctional country, with the glitz and glamour of Moscow on one hand, and the unpaved muddy streets of the provinces on the other. The latter is where the majority of the Russian population lives on the edge of survival. And there is not much in between.

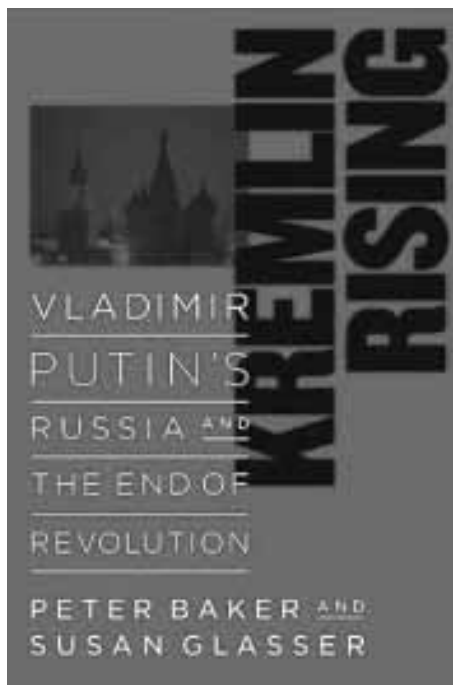
On the one hand we see the "New Russians" of Moscow who are preoccupied with vacations in London and Paris, mansions on Cyprus, yachts in Monte Carlo, and La Dolce Vita on beaches from Spain to Egypt. They debate pros and cons of boarding schools for their children in Switzerland and pay \$1,000 for a single long-stem med rose, without blinking an eye. The tsarist aristocracy never had it so good.

On the other hand, there are unpaved streets in the rest of Russia, and houses without toilets, running water or telephones, a crumbling infrastructure and no jobs. Russia is a place where academicians and physicists sell underwear (imported from Turkey, since not much of quality is produced in Russia), and where a physician supplements her income with a night job as a cleaning lady. Life expectancy is lower than in Bangladesh. And that is the life of the more fortunate.

For the less fortunate life in Russia is a simmering pot of slop on the kitchen stove being prepared to feed a pig, whose pork might provide a margin for survival in the winter. It may come as a surprise to many, but according to the authors the great number of Russians, both old and young, yearn for a return to the old days of the Soviet Union. And who can blame them? Mr. Putin's Russia is a dark and forbidding place where few would care to live.

The authors document step by step President Putin's rise to power and the

Ihor Lysyj is a freelance writer and consulting environmental engineer. In 1992 he spent some time on Sakhalin Island, working as a consultant to a U.S.-Japanese petroleum consortium. In the spring of this year he visited Vladivostok in the far eastern part of Russia.



return to authoritarian rule in the country. What emerges from this eyewitness report is the picture of a country where media freedom no longer exists, voters' rights to elect regional leaders have been eliminated, and sham opposition parties are ordained into existence on orders from the Kremlin to provide an illusion of democracy. Russia is a country where rule of law exists only at the whim of the Kremlin "siloviki" and where fear permeates all levels of society, from the mighty oligarchs to lowly cleaning ladies.

For Ukrainian readers it is interesting to note that the principal strategists and architects of Mr. Putin's rise to power were and remain Marat Gelman, a self-proclaimed "spin-doctor," and Gleb Pavlovsky, a top Kremlin "consultant." This duo of "political technologists" is well-known to the readers of The Ukrainian Weekly - they figured prominently in Ukraine during the last presidential election as shadowy figures in the Yanukovich camp.

Write the authors of "Kremlin Rising:"

"Gleb Pavlovsky and his fellow consultant Marat Gelman and Sergei Markov signed on with Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich's campaign, urging the same recipe of heavy promotion on state-controlled television and use of administrative resources by the local authorities that worked so well for Project Putin.

"But Ukrainian democracy turned to be unmanageable. The street protests become a street revolution as swelling crowds wearing Yushchenko's trademark color of orange refused to accept the flawed results. By December, Yushchenko was president. Back in the Kremlin, Putin was reduced to denouncing the West for trying to create a 'system of permanent revolutions' on the Russian frontier."

Here again the book demonstrates that Ukraine is not Russia. While many Russians are ready to march into the past, Ukrainians are not. Quite to the contrary, they stood for weeks and months, day and night in the snow and sleet, ready to die, to make sure that a return to the Soviet Union would never happen. And, in spite of Mr. Putin's imperial dreams, the Ukrainian people will never accept his kind of governance. The chasm between the two cultures, Ukrainian and Russian, is simply too great to be bridged.

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at Soyuzivka

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Swim meet

Saturday, September 3, 2005, 10:00 a.m.

for individual championships of USCAK

and Ukrainian National Association Trophies and Ribbons

Warm-up at 9:00 a.m.

TABLE of EVENTS

Boys/Men	INDIVIDUAL	Girls/Women
1 13/14	100m im	13/14 2
3 15 & over	100m im	15 & over 4
5 .. 10 & under	25m free	10 & under .. 6
7 11/12	25m free	11/12 8
9 13/14	50m free	13/14 10
11 15 & over	50m free	15 & over 12
13 .. 10 & under	50m free	10 & under .. 14
15 11/12	50m free	11/12 16
17 13/14	50m back	13/14 18
19 15 & over	50m back	15 & over 20
21 .. 10 & under	25m back	10 & under .. 22
23 11/12	25m back	11/12 24
25 13/14	50m breast	13/14 26
27 15 & over	50m breast	15 & over 28
29 .. 10 & under	25m breast	10 & under .. 30
31 11/12	25m breast	11/12 32
33 13/14	100m free	13/14 34
35 15 & over	100m free	15 & over 36
37 .. 10 & under	25m fly	10 & under .. 38
39 11/12	25m fly	11/12 40
41 13/14	50m fly	13/14 42
43 15 & over	50m fly	15 & over 44
RELAYS		
45 .. 10 & under	4 x 25m free	10 & under .. 46
47 11/12	4 x 25m free	11/12 48
49 13/14	4 x 50m free	13/14 50
51 15 & over	4 x 50m medley	15 & over 52

Swimmers can compete in three (3) individual and one (1) relay events. Relay teams will be established by team coaches or representatives.

Entry deadline: Entry forms, provided below, must be submitted by **August 21, 2005**, to Marika Bokalo, Swim Meet Director. There will be no registration at poolside. Registration fee is \$5.00 per swimmer.

Name: (English) _____

(Ukrainian) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Age _____

Male _____ Female _____

Club/Youth Association _____

Event _____ Entry time _____

Event _____ Entry time _____

Event _____ Entry time _____

Please send this entry form with \$5 entry fee by August 20, 2005.

(checks made out to "Ukrainian Sports Federation") to:

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(908) 851-0617



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych, Peter Cybaniak and Roman Dubyniak

1908 jubilee of Emperor Franz Josef and Ukrainian connections

The year 1908 was filled with events and festivities marking Emperor Franz Josef's 60th year on the throne of his multi-ethnic empire. Austria-Hungary at the time was the second-largest European state (by area) after the Russian Empire, but was composed of almost a dozen major nationalities. In addition to the dominant German-speaking and Hungarian groups, the empire included a complex conglomeration of Czechs and Slovaks, Poles, Romanians, Italians, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs and Ruthenians – the Austrian designation for Ukrainians.¹

By the time of this diamond jubilee, the emperor was 78 years old, having assumed the throne in the turbulent year of 1848 when he was only 18. He retained his firm grip as head of state through many years of early marital happiness and subsequent unhappiness, deaths in the family and even assassination attempts in 1853 and 1882.

Early jubilee events

The first commemorative event occurred on May 7, when Kaiser William II of Germany, leading an assembly of rulers from German states, rendered his personal regard and congratulations at Schönbrunn Palace (Figure 1). Although the date was almost eight months ahead of the actual date of the emperor's jubilee on the

throne (the accession occurred December 2, 1848), the aged leader was much gratified by the thoughtfulness shown by the Kaiser and the other German leaders.

Other special events soon followed. On May 21, 1908, a massive gathering of 82,000 Austrian schoolchildren assembled on the lawns of Schönbrunn Palace to acclaim Franz Josef. Much touched, the old emperor acknowledged the loud salute of the youngsters by replying, "The older I get, the more I love children."

Three weeks later a historical jubilee pageant was held on Vienna's famed Ringstrasse. Here, however, the event did not succeed so smoothly. The plan was that the project would be financed by the sale of seats in the grandstands. The reality was ethnic animosities, bureaucratic bungling, a deficit of a million kronen, and a trial for corruption.

The event illustrated the centrifugal forces that continued to pull the empire apart and presaged the complete collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire a decade later – at the conclusion of World War I. The Hungarians simply declined to participate in the pageant. To them, Franz Josef had been crowned king of Hungary in 1867, so a 41st anniversary was not seen as a special occasion worth celebrating. The Czechs fell out with Vienna

Mayor Karl Lüger and went home; the Italians became offended with the depiction of Field Marshal Radetzky (who had defeated them in 1848); and the Croats complained that the printed program slandered them.

To make matters worse, a few days before the event a rumor started that disaffected workers would overturn the stands. Although false, the damage was done and ticket sales dried up. Eventually, well-dressed people were pressganged into free seats to make the audience look larger.

Who eventually showed up to take part in the jubilee pageant? One of the largest contingents – some 2,000 – came from the ethnically Ukrainian areas of Galicia (Halychyna) and Bukovyna. They really had no political axes to grind and they took advantage of the opportunity to visit the faraway, grand capital of Vienna. Normally, these folks could not have afforded such an

1 The Ruthenians-Ukrainians made up the fifth-largest ethnic component of the Austro-Hungarian Empire with about 8 percent of the overall population. The Germans and Hungarians dominated with 24 and 20 percent, respectively; next came the Czechs (13 percent) and the Poles (10 percent). The Romanians constituted 6 percent of the populace, while all other ethnic groups were 5 percent or less.



Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 5

excursion, but they took advantage of the perks offered to parade participants: 3 kronen payment, plus free travel, board and lodging.

An image of the Ukrainian contingent sauntering down the Ringstrasse survives (Figure 2) on a postcard. Other postcards from this time period show native dress from Bukovyna (Figures 3 to 5) and Galicia (Figures 6 to 8).

The exotic dress and appearance of the Ruthenian parade members amazed and shocked the Viennese



Figure 6

onlookers. The realization that over 60 percent of the Ruthenians were illiterate (compared with only about 3 percent for the Germans), produced no calls for remedial action. Instead, a condescending attitude and a rash of defamatory cartoons appeared in the Vienna newspapers. Although an appearance of harmony among the nationalities was maintained during the pageant, the reality of German superiority remained.

Later jubilee events

On December 1, 1908, the younger members of the ruling Habsburg dynasty met with the emperor in the private theater at Schönbrunn Palace where they proffered flowers and sang for the emperor. On the following day, Wednesday, December 2, 1908, the heir to the imperial throne, Franz Ferdinand, led a gathering of Austrian archdukes and their families in assembling at



Figure 7

the Hofburg Palace in Vienna and offering their felicitations on the 60th year of Franz Josef's accession to the throne. Several hours later, a festive musical gala was held at the Vienna opera house, where the emperor was enthusiastically applauded by the audience. After 60 years, the old gentleman had become a father figure to his people. Indeed, most citizens of the empire had never known any other leader.

Philatelic commemorations

The Austrian Postal Service could not let such a unique occasion pass without some special commemoration.

(Continued on page 25)



Figure 8



Figure 9

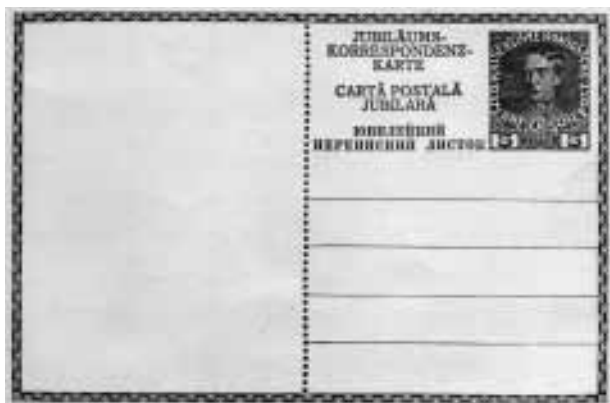


Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12

Preschoolers take over Soyuzivka resort ...



“Ptashata” parade at Soyuzivka.



Little chefs make mini-pizzas.



It’s sing-along time.



Campers wear their distinctive bird headgear.



A camper works on a colorful creation.



Girls participate in a group activity.



A camper holds aloft a “Tak” (Yes) flag reminiscent of Ukraine’s Orange Revolution.



Camper and counselors during the first week of the 2005 “Tabir Ptashat.”

... as 2005 “Tabir Ptashat” day camp is held

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Pershi Stezhi sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization has organized preschoolers’ day camps at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association’s upstate New York resort, since 1989. Geared to Ukrainian-speaking children age 4-6, two of these one-week camps are typically held each year, with each camp being run by a different camp director and staff.

Notably, this year’s camps both tried to incorporate the theme of Ukraine’s Orange Revolution in a manner appropriate for preschoolers.

This year, the first week’s “Tabir Ptashat,” as the camps are known, was directed by Yaropolk Kulchyckyj, with the assistance of 20 counselors and Administrator Neonila Sochan. Fifty-six children participated in activities during the week of June 26 to July 5.

All campers during the first tour received orange neckerchiefs from Ukraine’s “maidan,” or Independence Square, the focal point of the Orange Revolution.

A highlight of the week was a bonfire with a special guest appearance by Soyuzivka’s chef, Andrij Sonevtsky, who demonstrated his musical talents while employing several different instruments. Also that week, a talent night was held during the resort’s traditional Odesa Night, during which the little campers performed dances.

At the conclusion of camp, all the children received goody bags filled with Orange Revolution memorabilia and gifts from the Ukrainian National Association, as well as camp certificates.

A record number of campers – 78 – attended the second week of Tabir Ptashat, held July 3-10 under the leadership of veteran director Zirka Kolomayets. She was assisted by 27 counselors and Administrator Oresta Fedyniak. Maya B. Babiak, M.D., and George Kuritzza, M.D., volunteered as camp physicians.

Setting the stage for the second tour was a tale told by counselor Andrew Kolomayets about a father who wanted his children to grow up in a country where they could freely speak and learn the Ukrainian language. He was joined on the maidan in Kyiv by multitudes of people and this grew into the Orange Revolution. The children celebrated this happening by creating their own maidan at Soyuzivka.

The second week of camp came to a close with a bonfire highlighted by songs and skits performed by the “ptashata” (as Plast’s preschool campers are known). In a special presentation, Ms. Kolomayets was given a fond farewell in recognition of her seven years at Tabir Ptashat – four of them as camp director. She was serenaded with “kolomyiky” and presented a memento bearing all the camp participants’ signatures.

Ms. Kolomayets may have been leaving Tabir Ptashat, but she was headed for the Novyi Sokil Plast Camp in North Collins, N.Y., where as the mother of a camper and a Plast member she would be volunteering as a kitchen worker.

The concluding bonfire was attended by Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj, whose remarks encouraged the Tabir Ptashat organizers to continue their work.

Mmes. Sochan and Fedyniak then took the opportunity to present the UNA president a donation from the camp for the purchase of two more bricks in support of Soyuzivka’s renaissance.

After the presentation of camp certificates and gifts from the UNA to the little campers, the week was concluded with the singing of the traditional Plast song “Nich Vzhe Ide.”



A game of tug of war at Soyuzivka.



Campers try their hand at arts and crafts.



Flag-bearers during the morning assembly.



Campers, dressed in their official T-shirts, enjoy an activity.



Campers and counselors gathered for the official group photo of the second week of “Tabir Ptashat.”

Photos from Tabir Ptashat
by Lesia Naumenko,
George Kuritzza and Damian Handzy.

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Ukraine's new leaders...

(Continued from page 2)

more?" The Yanukovich camp believes that these funds came from abroad.

Yanukovich voters take a similar view: 43 percent of them believe that "outside forces" organized the Orange Revolution. Only 14 percent of Yushchenko voters agree (Public Opinion in Ukraine After the Orange Revolution, International Foundation Electoral Systems, April 2005).

As a result of these conspiracy theories, neither Russia nor Mr. Yanukovich accept Mr. Yushchenko as the legitimately elected president of Ukraine. Mr. Yanukovich refuses to acknowledge the massive evidence of election fraud on his behalf. Instead, Mr. Yanukovich claims, "We prepared for elections - they [prepared] to grab power" (Tovarysh, March 11-14). Mr. Yanukovich believes Mr. Yushchenko staged a coup d'état with U.S. help. "This is not a revolution," he claims, "but political technology with the involvement of special services" (Associated Press, December 6, 2004).

The Yanukovich conspiracy theory goes further still, claiming that Mr. Kuchma, former presidential administration head Viktor Medvedchuk, and Mr. Yanukovich's own campaign chief, Serhii Tyhypko, conspired against Mr. Yanukovich. Political analyst Volodymyr Kornilov claimed, "From the very beginning [Yanukovich] was not supposed to win" (glavred.info, April 5).

Mr. Yanukovich's election press secretary, Anna Herman, blamed Mr. Tyhypko for "executing somebody's will" (forua.com, February 19). Mr. Yanukovich's main problem, she claimed, was not Mr. Yushchenko, but a "third person who did not abandon hopes of being the rescuer of the nation." Presumably she meant Mr. Kuchma, as the Constitutional Court had ruled that Mr. Kuchma could stand in the 2004 election, as he had only served one full term since the 1996 Constitution came into effect.

These views feed into the broader, Soviet-style revival of Western-backed conspiracies that is becoming popular in Russia. Western NGOs are accused of subverting Moscow, and the FSB is reviving KGB-style tactics and rhetoric to defeat this "conspiracy" (Christian Science Monitor, June 1).

FSB head Nikolai Patrushev, for example, linked U.S.-backed conspiracies to the democratic revolutions in the Commonwealth of Independent States. He warned the State Duma, "Our opponents are steadily and persistently trying to weaken Russian influence in the CIS and the international arena as a whole. The latest events in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan unambiguously confirm this" (Financial Times, May 31).

The majority of the Russian public and political elite is convinced that Washington put Mr. Yushchenko into power and that he is a U.S. lackey. His American-born wife, Kataryna, and her past employment in the U.S. government, are touted as "proof" that she works for the CIA.

The Yushchenko administration unquestionably supports reform and Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration. Therefore, it is strange that they, like their opponents, draw on neo-Soviet political culture by frequently using conspiracy theories to explain their difficulties.

Correction

In the article "Cinema in Ukraine: some facts and figures on its status," by Ilyya Matthew Labunka (July 17), the date of the Den (Day) article cited in the lead sentence omitted the year of its publication. The article was published on April 3, 2004.



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Ukraine's Cabinet...

(Continued from page 1)

the price on the domestic market. Therefore, Gazprom has no profitability domestically and survives only off its gas exports, Mr. Saprykin said.

Moreover, now that the relations between the two governments have dampened following the Orange Revolution, Russia no longer wants to play the role of a nice neighbor to Ukraine, he said.

"When there is a monopoly holder, he will always try to raise the price," Mr. Saprykin said.

Russia's discounted price takes into account that it must transport natural gas to European countries through Ukrainian pipelines, energy experts said.

Therefore, whether Ukraine increases its transit fee in response to Gazprom's statement is still an open question, they said.

"Blackmail is a dead-end track," said Serhii Sapelin, the director of Psykheya Scientific Technical Center in Kyiv.

Ukraine has an agreement with Gazprom to barter its transit systems in exchange for Russian natural gas through 2013. "So we estimate the prices will remain stable," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

The Ukrainian prime minister said she is sure that for the near future Russia will

keep the same transit systems, considering there are no others with as high a capacity.

Some Ukrainian government officials do not support replacing barter with financial payments as that would be much more preferable to Russia.

"I strongly object to a single-step change of current gas settlements into financial payments," said Anatolii Kinakh, the first vice prime minister of Ukraine. "We must implement this plan step-by-step in order not to harm the competitive ability of Ukrainian economy."

In contrast, Ukrainian energy experts believe financial payments might actually help the Ukrainian gas market develop.

"A competitive gas market can provide energy security for Ukraine," said Ivan Poltavets, an energy expert with the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting in Kyiv. "Ukrainian natural gas production can supply the demand of domestic consumers."

At present, Ukrainian producers must sell their natural gas to the state-owned company, Naftohaz, which fixes the price.

"If the producers were allowed to export natural gas, it would help the market develop," Mr. Poltavets said.

The Ukrainian government has been subsidizing natural gas prices for home and industrial consumers for years. However, that does not cover expenses of

gas exploration, Mr. Saprykin said, and the only way to make the Ukrainian gas industry profitable at present is to increase the price for domestic consumers.

On the assumption of the gas market's liberalization, any enterprise could choose a gas provider, Mr. Saprykin said. The market would become competitive and consumers would have the possibility to evaluate prices and services.

"The government has to fight for competitiveness and against monopolies, not for low prices," Mr. Poltavets said.

Despite the fact that many Ukrainians run into a municipal service debt because they cannot afford even the lowest natural gas prices, experts believe that creat-

ing economic growth and subsequent increases in personal income would make prices affordable.

"This is like a visit to a dentist. It hurts at first, but the final result will be positive," Mr. Poltavets said.

So far, the statistics are tilting in Ukraine's favor. The Ministry of Fuel and Energy reported that Russian gas transit through Ukraine declined from 70.1 billion cubic meters to 69.2 during the first six months of this year as compared to the same period in 2004.

At the same time, Ukrainian gas production increased to 9.5 billion cubic meters, 0.7 percent more than during the same period last year.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

A committee in defense of Dr. Strokata was organized in the Soviet Union by rights activists in Moscow, Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa, including Vyacheslav Chornovil, Vasyl Stus and Mykola Plakhotniuk. Soon thereafter members of that committee were themselves arrested.

In 1974 the First International Congress of the International Association of Microbiological Sciences held in Tokyo circulated a petition in Dr. Strokata's defense that was signed by 500 microbiologists from 30 countries. That petition was forwarded to Leonid Brezhnev, then first secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Strokata was released from labor camp in December 1975, but was forbidden to return to Ukraine. She settled in the town of Tarussa, Russia.

On November 9, 1976, she became a founding member of the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote Implementation of the Helsinki Accords, formed in Kyiv in 1976 after the 1975 signing of the Helsinki pact,

which incorporated the so-called "Third Basket" of agreements on human rights.

On February 6, 1977, Dr. Strokata's apartment was searched in connection with the arrests of members of the Ukrainian and Moscow Helsinki monitoring groups.

Dr. Strokata and Mr. Karavansky were forced to emigrate on November 30, 1979. Once in the United States both continued their human rights activism by joining the External Representation of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

Dr. Strokata was particularly active, writing numerous articles about Ukrainian and other rights activists to various publications – among them The Ukrainian Weekly. She collaborated with The Weekly on special issues dedicated to the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

Dr. Strokata also lectured widely about the Ukrainian human rights movement. One of her last public appearances was in December 1996 at the New York commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group's founding.

Source: "Nina Strokata, noted defender of human rights, dead at 72," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 9, 1998, Vol. LXV, No. 32.

Yushchenko and Orange...

(Continued from page 2)

um-sized businesses, as many of those owners backed the Orange Revolution.

Critics of the Yushchenko government often make assumptions that are not relevant for Ukraine.

First, the average Ukrainian citizen does not take notice of reductions in GDP and vote accordingly. If this were the case, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich would have won a landslide in the 2004 presidential election when Ukraine's economy was growing at record levels. But Ukrainian voters did not see high economic growth creating a higher standard of living. They instead feared unemployment (73 percent), rising prices (71 percent), unpaid wages (65 percent), and even famine (51 percent) (Suchasnist, April 2004).

Second, the average Ukrainian citizen does not understand or take an interest in many issues that are strategically important for the country, such as WTO membership. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn complained that few national deputies fully understand the ramifications of the legislation required for WTO membership.

Instead, the real threat to the Orange Revolution rests in an area ignored in Western commentaries. The Orange Revolution and Mr. Yushchenko's election took place when a sizeable proportion of Ukrainian voters began to believe that Mr. Yushchenko was different from other politicians. As in many post-communist states, after a decade of "transition" Ukrainian voters believed that all politicians were corrupt and only wanted public office for personal gain.

The fate of the Orange Revolution and President Yushchenko himself hinges upon whether or not Ukrainians continue to believe the new president is different, rather than lumping him with former presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma. So far, despite a number of crucial mistakes made by the Yushchenko administration, ratings for Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko remain high.

The only exception is among eastern Ukrainians, who primarily voted for Mr. Yanukovich in 2004. The commonly heard view among them is: "At best ... the Orange Revolution replaced one criminal clan, Mr. Yanukovich's, with a

new one – Mr. Yushchenko's" (Wall Street Journal, July 15).

Eastern Ukrainians, particularly in Mr. Yanukovich's home base of Donetsk, continue to remain cynical toward all politicians. Following this logic, it is better to elect "our own boys" into power rather than western Ukrainians.

A more complicated factor to deal with fairly is the question of double standards within the government. As the Wall Street Journal (July 15) wrote, "Worst is the presence in the new government of Ms. Tymoshenko – a former head of United Energy Systems of Ukraine who was prosecuted by the Kuchma government ..." This is seen in eastern Ukraine as "evidence of a double standard in fighting corruption."

The questions of whether to review corrupt privatizations dominated much of the government's time and Prime Minister Tymoshenko's rhetoric during the first 100 days of the new government. Reviewing all privatizations would be impossible and undesirable. After all, the Yushchenko team includes many businessmen. Ukraine scholar Anders Aslund described the Orange Revolution as a "revolt by millionaires against billionaires."

Populist anti-oligarch feeling remains high, helping to change Ms. Tymoshenko's ratings from -50 percent under Mr. Kuchma to +50 percent under Mr. Yushchenko. Most Ukrainian citizens see privatization conducted in the 1990s in negative terms. Some 67 percent of Ukrainians believe that privatization was undertaken in an unjust manner, with only 9 percent believing the opposite (Ukrayinska Pravda, July 5). Consequently, some 71.3 percent of Ukrainians would support the re-privatization of large enterprises (Ukrayinska pravda, May 14).

The highest support for re-privatization of large enterprises exists in western and central Ukraine (79.5 and 81.2 percent respectively), two regions where Yushchenko obtained his greatest support in the 2004 election (Ukrayinska Pravda, May 14). This high level could be explained by anti-oligarch sentiment and by the fact that most large enterprises are based in eastern Ukraine. In eastern Ukraine support for re-privatization is lower, 53 percent.

The glow of the Orange Revolution is unlikely to fade before the 2006 parliamentary election. More radical policies this autumn will, if anything, increase its brightness.



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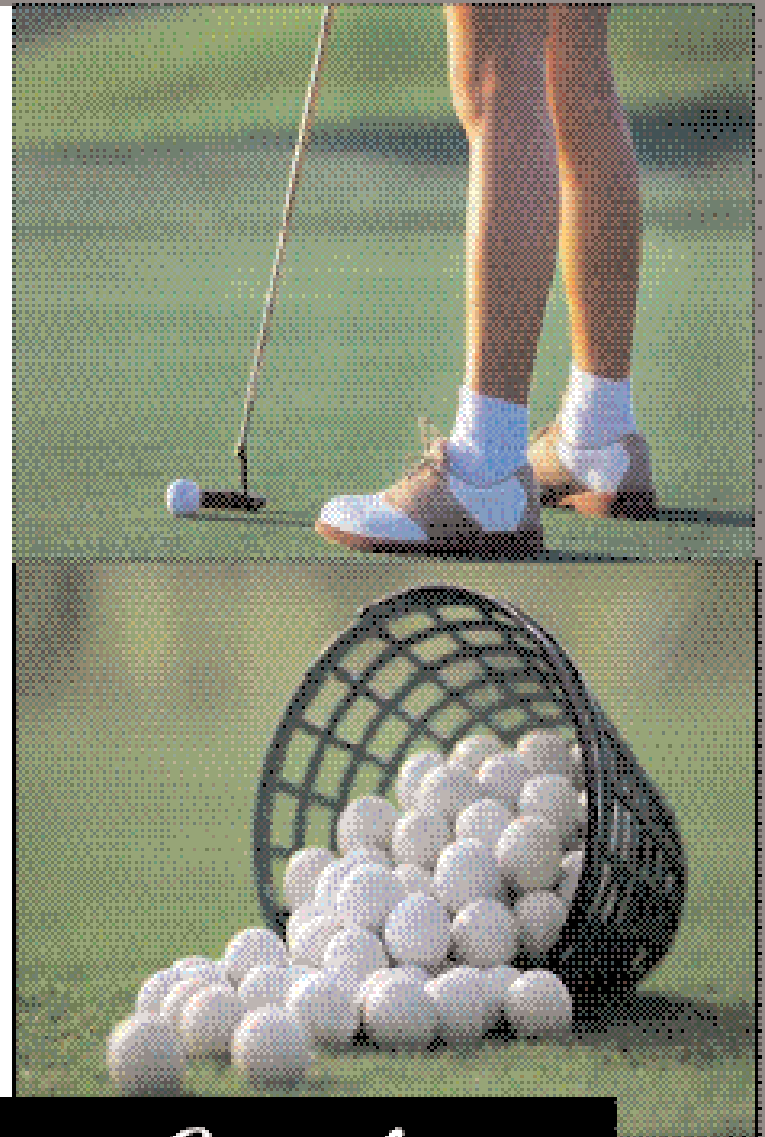
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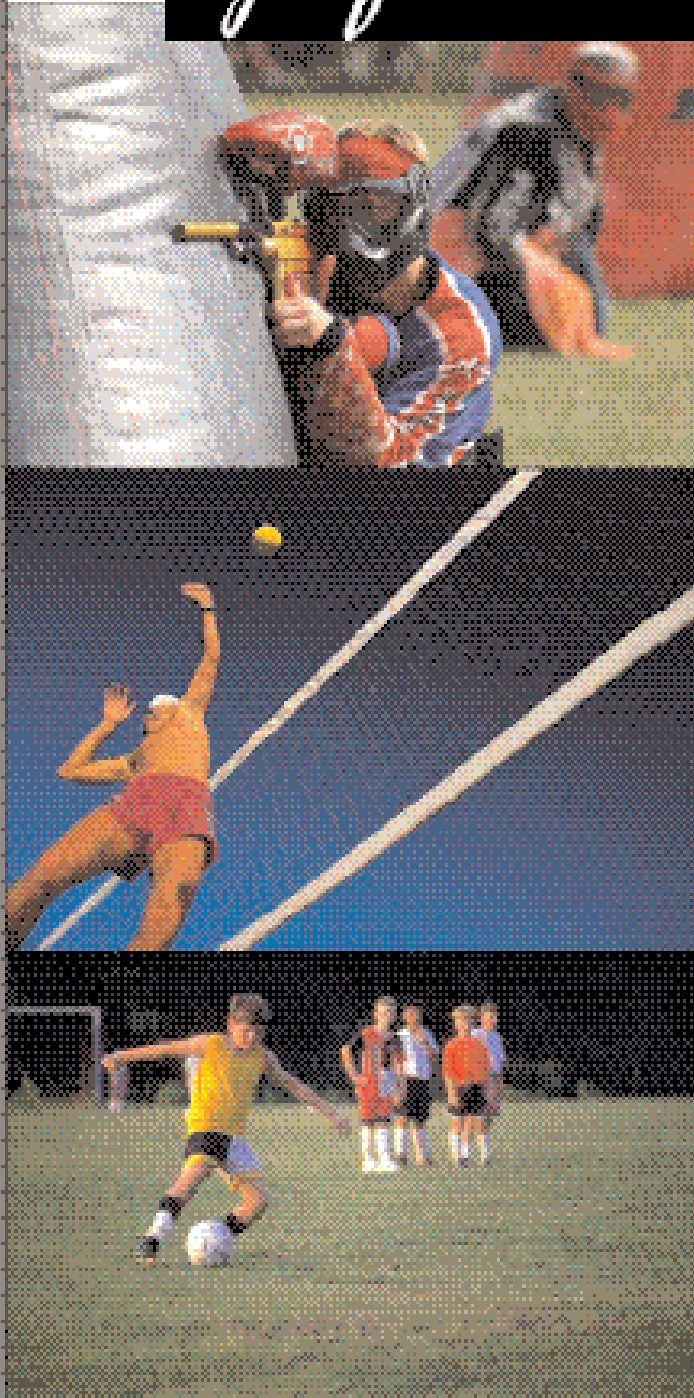
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Palos Park parish hosts Telnyuk Sisters at Ukrainian Pride Day

PALOS PARK, Ill. – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church recently had the honor and privilege of hosting a group of singers from Kyiv. The artists had one performance on the North Side of Chicago but organizers wanted to do one more concert in the suburbs. Since the Palos Park church has a wonderful facility, it was designated to host the second concert on Sunday, May 22.

There were plenty of people involved in the preparations, but in the beginning a small committee was formed by Irene Gajecky, Lydia Macevich, Luba Novak, Louis and Marilyn Meneses, and the pastor. After some brainstorming, a name was given to the event: "Ukrainian Pride Day."

When it was time for the concert, the

pastor welcomed the dignitaries and guests of honor, and he introduced the artists from Kyiv simply as "The Telnyuk Sisters." Two young ladies Lesya and Halyna, a guitar player, a base player, a sound engineer and a videographer formed the whole band.

Along with the group, the modern artist Ihor Polishchuk displayed a collection of unique art, which along with the background video made up a visual display of rare music with the synthesis of high poetry in a dramatic performance.

The Telnyuk Sisters use rich Ukrainian poetry as a solid base from which they draw energy and inspiration to reach out to their audience. Most of the words were Halyna's compositions, but they also used other sources, such as Taras Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka, Pavlo

Tychyna and their own father, Stanislav Telnyuk. The concert, which lasted just over an hour, was titled "Heaven Above."

To make sure everyone understood the program and everything that was happening, simultaneous translation was provided by Ivanka Gajecky for the comments and songs introduced by the artists.

The concert was concluded with a thunderous and lengthy applause. The Telnyuk Sisters truly enjoyed the friendly audience and atmosphere they encountered at the parish.

Just before the last song, Halyna Telnyuk spoke on behalf of the group and thanked all. At that point, the artists were given bouquets of flowers. The Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, one of the main sponsors of the program, made a donation of \$500 to the church. Stephanie Moroz, treasurer of Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 36, presented the artists with a check, and Father Basil Salkovski, pastor, thanked everyone for their support and attendance.

After the concert, dedicated women of the parish served delicious pastries, coffee and plenty of goodies for everyone to enjoy. People had a chance to meet with the artists, while they talked and savored the food in the midst of cordial and friendly hospitality.

Plenty of factors contributed to Ukrainian Pride Day's success at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. The community of Palos Park does not get much exposure; only rarely does it get an opportunity to host a bigger Ukrainian event, since most are planned and held on the North Side of Chicago due to its concentrated Ukrainian population.

Nativity parish has a relatively new pastor who took over the parish this past February, and Ukrainian Pride Day was an opportunity to introduce him to the larger Ukrainian community of Chicago.

But the most significant factor in the decision to hold Ukrainian Pride Day at the Nativity church was the newly installed stained-glass windows.

The regular Sunday services were held as always, though a different atmosphere prevailed that day. The Ukrainian Pride Day committee took care of details to ensure a welcoming environment to all. People were greeted at the door of the church and were given a brochure (graciously printed by Semkiw and Semkiw) explaining each and every scene of the 14 stained-glass windows in the church. After the services, people had an opportunity to observe the church and the beautiful windows.

A capacity crowd of approximately 250 people packed the church hall for the concert. Members of Ukrainian organizations – in particular Pavlo Oleksiuk from the Selfreliance credit union and Dr. George Hrycelak, representing the Ukrainian National Museum – were also present. Some clergy from neighboring parishes were in attendance as well; Fathers Mykhailo Kuzma, Ted Wroblicky, John Lucas and Oleh Kryvokulsky, along with their spouses and parishioners attended Ukrainian Pride Day.

Special thanks were given to Mariyka and Mykhailo Klymchak for radio announcements and help provided before and during the concert. The organizers of the whole event were commended for all the planning and effort in making Ukrainian Pride Day a huge success.



Father Basil Salkovski welcomes the Telnyuk sisters to Palos Park, Ill.



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House subcommittee...

(Continued from page 3)

As for Ukraine's WTO accession, the U.S. strongly supports Ukraine's bid and is pleased to see the passage of some of the necessary legislation, particularly the Optical Disc law. According to Mr. Fried, "the administration expects to see quick and effective implementation of these laws and strengthening their enforcement. Now that President Yushchenko has signed the intellectual property legislation, without amendments, into law, the [U.S.] administration is examining whether to terminate \$75 million worth of trade sanctions currently imposed on Ukraine. This decision would be made

within the next few weeks. In addition, the administration will conduct a 'Special 301' out-of-cycle review of Ukraine."

Mr. Fried stated that "Ukraine has complied with the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Trade Act of 1974 for over a decade. This administration strongly supports Ukraine's immediate graduation from Jackson-Vanik and the extension of Permanent Normal Trade Relations to Ukraine."

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Fried explained that he is confident that "President Yushchenko and his team have the vision and commitment necessary to do what needs to be done, and to lead Ukraine into the new century. The

U.S. will pitch in to help."

Following his testimony, Mr. Fried was asked various questions by Rep. Wexler that pertained to the Jackson-Vanik provisions and the WTO.

Rep. Berkley's question focused on the progress of the restitution of property in Ukraine, which was taken during the Holocaust, back to the Jewish community. In response, Mr. Fried stated that some property has been returned, but more needs to be done.

The entire text of Mr. Fried's testimony may be read at http://www.house.gov/international_relations/109/fri072705.pdf.

Supporting change in Ukraine

During the second panel, Ambassador Ledsky of the NDI underscored that the National Democratic Institute has conducted programs aimed at strengthening democratic political parties, parliamentary groups and civic organizations in Ukraine since 1992.

In particular, he pointed out that Congress has it in its power to assist by focusing on professional exchanges, supporting the international community working in Ukraine, partnering with Ukraine on anti-corruption measures, and assisting the government with restructuring and improving the rule of law. In addition, congressional support for assistance to the Parliament of Ukraine in 2006 under the Democracy Assistance Commission would be useful.

The entire text of Ambassador Ledsky's testimony may be read at: http://www.house.gov/international_relations/109/led072705.pdf. The IRI's Mr. Nix highlighted the progress Ukraine has made in strengthening democracy. As for constitutional reform that will limit the Ukrainian president's power starting in September, Mr. Nix pointed out that President Yushchenko must either challenge the constitutional amendments in court, or must be willing to surrender certain powers to the parliament and the prime minister. In any case, this separation of powers issue must ultimately be

clarified.

There is also a need to reform the judicial system of Ukraine, particularly the courts of general jurisdiction. The United States should aid Ukraine's judicial reform by providing expert assistance and consultation on these necessary structural and procedural changes, which in turn will foster a positive and transparent climate to attract foreign direct investment in Ukraine, Mr. Nix noted.

As for Jackson-Vanik, considering Ukraine's cooperation on the adoption of laws protecting intellectual property rights, Mr. Nix said it is crucial that the U.S. remove outdated trade barriers with Ukraine. The U.S. should further assist Ukraine's development by including Ukraine as an eligible country to compete for the Millennium Challenge Account assistance.

For more on Mr. Nix's testimony, readers may log on to http://www.house.gov/international_relations/109/nix072705.pdf.

Outlook for the future

Dr. Kuzio stated that "Ukraine's progress toward reform under Mr. Yushchenko will progressively move forward and become faster after the 2006 parliamentary election. Mr. Yushchenko's election coalition will win a parliamentary majority, giving it control over the government."

He added that "The speed of reforms will be at a medium pace, compared to their rapid progress in central Europe and the Baltic states. The reasons for this are inherited legacies from Soviet rule and mismanagement and corruption since 1992. A faster reform pace is also constrained by two other factors. First, regional divisions, with support for reform lower in eastern Ukraine. Second, the need to build up administrative capacity to permit Yushchenko's policies to be implemented at the local level."

Dr. Kuzio's entire testimony may be read at http://www.house.gov/international_relations/109/kuz072705.pdf.

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OSCE chairman...

(Continued from page 4)

progress and reforms.

"Consider the presidential election in Kyrgyzstan, which by OSCE standards was for the most part free and fair. Kyrgyzstan is in a process of democratic consolidation. The OSCE should stand ready to be a partner in this process, and must be able to help the new government establish democratic principles and reach economic prosperity," he continued.

What happens in Kyrgyzstan is important for transition and change in the whole

of Central Asia, the chairman-in-office said. The OSCE should help Central Asia deal with issues of governing capacity, corruption and pockets of lawlessness.

"We cannot afford to tolerate lawless regions within our community. In the age of international terrorism, states have an additional responsibility to exercise sovereignty responsibly. Pockets of lawlessness are gathering zones for terrorists – although extremists also live right among us as citizens," Mr. Rupel stated.

He added, "What happened in New York on September 11 and then again in Madrid, and now in London is also an attack on the very values that the OSCE holds dear. It is a struggle of ideologies. Our societies and communities will continue being targets ... what we can do, however, is minimize the impact in terms of raw damage resulting from terrorism; marginalize the terrorist's appeal; and keep the worst of weapons out of the hands of the terrorists."

The chairman-in-office also alluded to the ongoing reform process within the OSCE. It is time, he said, for the OSCE to become a fully-fledged international organization with member-states rather than participating states, and with a legal personality – "maybe in the future we could consider a statute or charter."

The organization also needs to better inform the public about what it did: "The OSCE does great work, but it is an unsung hero. We should sharpen and raise the OSCE's profile. We need to better inform the public about what we do, and this could perhaps be achieved by identifying and concentrating on a few key areas and strategies," the chairman said.

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Ukrainian American Veterans' national executive board meets

by Walter Bodnar

BATH, N.Y. – Meetings of the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) national executive board, UAV National Ladies Auxiliary and UAV Convention Committee took place over the July 8-10 weekend on a 100-acre farm in the upstate New York town of Bath. Veterans present were from the states of New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, including commanders from Posts 24, 30 and 101.

After the sessions all of the participants were treated to a pig roast, prepared by the host, Past National Commander Mathew Koziak, and Judge Advocate Michael Demchuk. The piglet was bought from a local Amish farmer-butcher.

National commander Anna Krawczuk chaired the open-air UAV meeting, which covered activity reports from national officers, plans for funding veterans scholarships and welfare programs, and consolidating details for the upcoming UAV convention at Soyuzivka over the September 29-October 2, weekend.

Cmdr. Krawczuk stressed the importance of reaching out to all areas in the U.S. to register all veterans of Ukrainian heritage who are presently serving or have served in the various branches of the U.S. armed forces. She said this would be of help not only for the ongoing UAV registration project but also for House Resolution 769, currently pending in the U.S. Congress, which calls for a federal charter to give formal recognition to the Ukrainian American Veterans Inc.

In addition, this would tie in with

Walter Bodnar is national adjutant of the Ukrainian American Veterans.



At the Ukrainian American Veterans national executive board meeting are: (first row, from left) Walter Bodnar, Mathew Koziak, Walter Michajliw, Anna Krawczuk, Michael Demchuk (kneeling), Myroslaw Pryjma, Wasyl Liscynsky, (second row) Bernard Krawczuk, Nicholas Skirka, Bohdan Samokyszyn, Oleh Cieply and Vasyl Luchkiw.

plans for the UAV National Monument on the grounds of St. Andrew's Memorial Church and Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J. Mr. Koziak and the Rev. Frank Estocin are co-chairs of the UAV National Monument Committee.

Another project requiring extensive effort is the collection of oral histories from as many veterans as possible. The UAV historian, Past National Commander Vasyl Luchkiw elaborated on the project. If successful, these recorded accounts would serve to authenticate and preserve the dedicated service of

Ukrainian Americans who have become part of American military history.

The UAV National Ladies Auxiliary's fund-raising projects benefit the UAV Welfare and Scholarship programs. Their duties include registration during the UAV conventions as well. Participants during this meeting were Vice-President Oksana Koziak, Irene Pryjma, Irene Demchuk and Romana Michajliw.

UAV Convention Committee Chairman Koziak reported that preparations for the convention were moving on schedule. Suggested convention speakers are being

reviewed, including those recently returned from active duty in Iraq. It was decided to dedicate the 58th UAV Convention Journal to the troops in the war on terrorism and to honor UAV World War II veterans during the convention in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

With a lot of thanks to their hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Koziak, the assembled veterans departed for their respective homes.

For further information readers may contact: Ukrainian American Veterans, P.O. Box 172, Holmdel, N.J. 07733-0172; website, www.uavets.org.

Senate passes...

(Continued from page 4)

anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance in Cordoba, Spain, in June 2005;

Whereas the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Charter for European Security and the November 19, 1999, Istanbul Summit Declaration note the particular challenges of ending violence against women and children, as well as sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking in human beings, and commit the participating states to strengthen efforts to combat corruption, eradicate torture and end discrimination against Roma;

Whereas the main challenge facing the participating states remains the implementation of the principles and commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents adopted on the basis of consensus;

Whereas the participating states have recognized that economic liberty, social justice and environmental responsibility are indispensable to prosperity;

Whereas the participating states have committed themselves to promoting economic reforms through enhanced transparency for economic activity, with the aim of advancing the principles of market economies;

Whereas the participating States have stressed the importance of respect for the rule of law and vigorous efforts to fight organized crime and corruption, which constitute a great threat to economic reform and prosperity;

Whereas OSCE has expanded the scope and substance of its efforts, undertaking a variety of preventive diplomacy initiatives designed to prevent, manage and resolve conflict within and among the participating states;

Whereas the politico-military aspects

of security remain vital to the interests of the participating states and constitute a core element of OSCE's concept of comprehensive security;

Whereas the OSCE has played an increasingly active role in civilian police-related activities, including training, as an integral part of OSCE's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation; and

Whereas the participating states bear primary responsibility for raising awareness of violations of commitments contained in the Helsinki Final Act and other OSCE documents:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that Congress calls upon the president –

(1) to issue a proclamation –

(A) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;

(B) reasserting the commitment of the United States to full implementation of the Helsinki Final Act;

(C) urging all participating states to abide by their obligations under the Helsinki Final Act; and

(D) encouraging the people of the United States to join the president and Congress in observance of this anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities; and

(2) to convey to all signatories of the Helsinki Final Act that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, economic liberty, and the implementation of related commitments continue to be vital elements in promoting a new era of democracy, peace and unity in the region covered by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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Procurator general...

(Continued from page 1)

committee established that Mr. Kuchma organized the kidnapping of Gongadze, which led to a serious result – his murder," Mr. Omelchenko stated.

Among those suspected to have organized the murder was former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Kravchenko, who committed suicide the morning of March 4, the same day he was supposed to appear for questioning in the Gongadze case.

Whether or not Mr. Kravchenko truly killed himself will remain a subject of eternal debate because he died of two suspicious gunshot wounds to the head.

The first bullet entered his chin and exited his mouth, and the lethal bullet entered the right side of his temple.

Mr. Kravchenko and former President Kuchma are suspected of playing a role in the Gongadze murder partly because of secret recordings made by Mr.

Kuchma's former security officer, Mykola Melnychenko. They are widely believed to be the voices behind the now famous dialogue in which the voice believed to be Mr. Kuchma's indirectly orders the killing.

"We working on him," said the voice similar to Mr. Kravchenko's.

"I am telling you, haul him out, throw him out," said the voice similar to Mr. Kuchma's. "Give him to the Chechens, (inaudible), and then ransom."

The voice similar to Mr. Kravchenko's several seconds later stated, "I have this fighting team right now, these Orly, who will take care of everything you want."

All four of the suspects in Mr. Gongadze's murder worked in the Internal Affairs Ministry, which was led by Mr. Kravchenko at the time.

No one at the Procurator General's Press office answered phones on August 4 to respond to The Weekly's questions about the next steps in the Gongadze investigation.

Kobzar Society...

(Continued from page 5)

To date the Kobzar Society, which launched its Computers for Ukraine program in 2000, has shipped over 500 computers to schools, libraries, community computer centers, orphanages, hospitals, and churches throughout Ukraine.

The Pittsburgh chapter is directed by Karl J. Skutski, founder of Skutski & Oltmanns, a Pittsburgh-based public relations agency. The chapter collects and refurbishes used computers from businesses, hospitals and universities in the area. The Brother's Brother Foundation, one of the nation's largest humanitarian relief organizations, serves as the chapter's base of operation and technical center, and also provides warehousing space.

According to the sisters, many more computers are needed to support the min-

istry of the order. "Computers are essential to our educational, social and religious activities," explained Sister Ann. "They are tools that can help us accelerate our work, and reach out to people in need across the country."

Anyone wishing to donate to the Basilian Sisters' computer initiative can do so by sending a check to the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Kobzar Society, c/o Skutski & Oltmanns, Suite 700, 100 First Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

As a result of a special two-for-one matching grant program, made possible by a generous grant from the Maria Hulai Foundation, the society is able to refurbish and ship two complete computer systems for a single donation of \$240.

Additional information on the work of the Kobzar Society is available on the organization's website, www.kobzarsociety.org.

Ukrainian trade union...

(Continued from page 3)

"I thought we should block the entrance to the presidential administration building and the Cabinet of Ministers to give the people the feeling that we were getting stronger," Mr. Volynets said. They took over the government-controlled trade unions building on the city square and made it the control center for the protesters. "When people came from the provinces with food, clothing and blankets, we were able to tell them where the protesters from their town were located on the city square," he said.

Mr. Volynets confirmed that President Kuchma and his police officials debated using deadly force against the protesters, particularly on November 24, 2004. Mr. Volynets credited Lech Walesa, the former Polish president who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his leadership of Poland's Solidarity movement, for helping to convince Mr. Kuchma not to use

weapons against the protesters.

Polish free trade unions delivered food to the protesters camped on Kyiv's main city square, Mr. Volynets noted, but most of the protesters were fed daily by donations of local stores, restaurants and factories. "The whole population of the capital city supported us," Mr. Volynets said, "I've never felt such a feeling of unity and brotherhood."

Mr. Volynets, a member of Ukraine's Parliament, said he believes that at least 57 percent of Ukraine's economy is still "a shadow economy," and that the old government's representatives and the Communist Party continue to undermine the Verkhovna Rada's efforts to reform the country. "We suppose the Communists got their money from Russia," he said, "We don't know any other way to describe their aggressive position."

Finally, Mr. Volynets said he is very concerned about the democratic opposition winning the next parliamentary elections scheduled for spring 2006 in "a free and fair way."



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Let ALL roads take you to Soyuzivka this summer

JULY

- 7/13 Hutsul Night-with special performance by Ivan Popovich with Vidlunnia and Olga Barabash-Turagineva
7/15 Tiki Bar Entertainment featuring Sonia Tratch
7/10-16 Discovery Camp, Session #1
7/20 Hutzul Night featuring Olya Fryz & Vidlunnia w/Olga Barabash
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 featuring Olya Fryz & Vidlunnia w/Olga Barabash & Chemney Camp Performance
7/23 Zabava with Oberehy
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 featuring Olya Fryz & Vidlunnia w/Olga Barabash & Chemney Camp Performance
7/29,30,31 UPA Exhibit in the Library
7/30 Zabava- Na Zdorovya AND Teen Dance Night-HRIM & DJ
7/31-8/5 Scuba Diving Course

Summer Evening Dining and Performances

MONDAYS - Steak Night featuring Vidlunnia w/Olga Barabash-Turagineva

WEDNESDAYS - Hutsul Night featuring Vidlunnia w/Olga Barabash-Turagineva

FRIDAYS - Odessa Seafood Night featuring Vidlunnia w/Olga Barabash-Turagineva

AUGUST

- 8/1-5 Golf Week
8/5-7 Sports Jamboree
8/5 Caberet show with Ron Cahute & Company
8/5-7 Art Exhibit: Daria "Ducia" Hanushevsky ceramics exhibit in the Library
8/6 Afternoon performances- "Barabolya" with Ron Cahute & Company followed by HRIM Zabava with Burya on Veselka Patio DJ in Veselka Hall
8/7-20 Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp
8/12 Lviviany perform at Tiki Bar
8/13 Miss Soyuzivka Weekend & Zabava with Tempo
8/18-21 Kozak Family paintings exhibit in the Library
8/19 Tiki Bar Entertainment with Zuki & Friends
8/20 Dance Camp Recital Performance and Zabava with Fata Morgana
8/27 Zabava with Halychany

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Weekend Festivities

- 9/2 Tiki Bar Evening Entertainment with LUNA
9/3 2pm Hrim Band
8pm Concert featuring Kashtan Dancers in Veselka Hall
Zabava with Luna & Fata Morgana
9/4 2 pm Tiki Bar featuring Stefan Stawnychy
1 pm Concert featuring Kashtan Dancers
Zabava with Fata Morgana



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1908 jubilee...

(Continued from page 13)

ration. It commissioned its best artist, designer and engraver, Koloman Moser, to prepare an 18-stamp set of commemorative postage stamps,² as well as a number of pictorial postal cards, in honor of the aged Franz Josef. All of these postal materials were created in the lovely Jugendstil fashion (literally "youth style," also known as Art Nouveau), popular at that time. The stamps – Austria's first ever set of commemoratives – depicted not only the emperor (as a young man, in middle age and in advanced years), but also some of his illustrious Habsburg predecessors (Figure 9). However, it is not the stamps upon which we will focus, but instead upon two of the postal cards, which have a distinct Ukrainian connection.

The front (obverse) of all of the postal cards carries a green imprinted 5-heller stamp depicting the 18-year-old Franz Josef at the time he ascended the throne in 1848 (Figure 10). The reverse shows a black and sepia-colored drawing of the 78-year-old monarch in 1908, along with views of Schönbrunn Palace on the outskirts of Vienna (left) and the Vienna Hofburg Palace (right)³; see Figure 11. The abbreviated Latin text at the bottom of the card may be translated as: Franz Josef I, by the Grace of God Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, Galicia, Illyria, etc. and Apostolic King of Hungary. Although the postal cards had a face value of 5 heller, they sold for 15 heller at the post office counter. Considering that the price of a local Vienna newspaper at the time was 10 heller, the postal cards were rather expensive.

Eight different obverse inscriptions make up the postal card set (but the reverse pictorial side remained the same). While every card carried the German notation of "Jubiläums-Korrespondenz Karte" (Jubilee Postal Card), seven of them additionally displayed inscriptions in other languages and two of these were in Ukrainian. Figures 10 and 12 show these two types: the first has a German-Romanian-Ruthenian inscription, while the other is German-Polish-Ruthenian.


The card in Figure 12 was sent from Lemberg (today's Lviv) to Buchach; it is canceled with a special red anniversary marking dated December 2, 1908. These red cancellations were available only at the main post offices in the 14 province capitals of the empire and are much sought after by collectors. (Lemberg/Lviv was the province capital of Galicia.)

Franz Josef's jubilee postal cards were valid postally for a full 10 years, until 1918. However, the aged emperor passed away two years earlier, in 1916, at the age of 86.

2 Commemorative stamps (also called commemoratives) are issued to honor an individual, a historic event, a special anniversary or a national landmark. They are released in limited quantities and are available for a certain period of time. These stamps are in contrast to definitive stamps (definitives), which are "regular" stamps issued in large indefinite quantities over a prolonged period of time, usually several years or more.

3 Both sights are a "must see" for any visitor who can spend at least a couple of days in Austria's charming capital.

Inger Kuzych may be contacted at P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150 or at his e-mail address: ingert@starpower.net.



KYIV MOHYLA FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

We are pleased to announce that the Kyiv Mohyla Academy broke ground for the building of a new Kyiv Mohyla Library. The Library is being built on the site of a historic XIX century building which served as a hospital until a few decades ago. The interior of the building is being totally rebuilt and equipped with contemporary communication and energy systems. The project was able to break ground through the most generous gift of US\$1 Million of the Omelan and Tetiana Antonovych Foundation. Approximately another US\$1 Million are needed to complete the building and to equip the Library with the necessary technology to link the library with global information networks. The Library has already organized a consortium of Ukrainian university libraries, with 28 libraries currently participating. The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America and the University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy wish to recognize and thank the individuals who donated to the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation for the *Library Project* through July 20, 2005. All your generous donations are greatly appreciated and valued.

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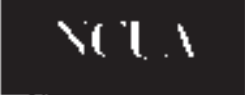
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ABD Capital donates life-saving equipment to Children of Chernobyl partner hospital



KYIV – The firm of ABD Capital-Ukraine and its Swiss parent company ABD Capital SA held a press conference in Kyiv on May 31 to present to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and its partner hospital, the Amosov Cardiac Surgery Institute, an advanced cardiac ultrasound system and anesthesia station to help provide life-saving operations for young children with congenital heart defects. The gift was made possible thanks to the efforts of Hans Jorg Rudolph of Barclays Capital, the Novartis Pharmaceutical Corp. and Natalia Zahorodnova of ABD-Ukraine following a gala fund-raiser in London featuring members of the Kyiv Ballet (Suziria Aniko) and the designer house of Anna Rossa. Of the \$200,000 raised, half was designated for the Beslan Children's Relief Fund, and the other half for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund. Above, Dr. Ihor Lazoryzhynets, a cardiac surgeon at the Amosov Institute, holds a certificate from ABD Capital and from the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund marking the donation of the new technology for his cardiac surgery wing. On the left are Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky of the relief fund and Halyna Mokryk, who helped to facilitate the donation.



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Ukraine eases...

(Continued from page 1)

the exact number issued is not known.

Mr. Yushchenko's press office said the decision on easing visa requirements was aimed at "the development and practical realization of the principal of strategic partnership between Ukraine and the U.S."

The presidential decree also noted that the Cabinet of Ministers was instructed to ensure that the state budget would be compensated for the money lost as a result of the easements made to Ukraine's visa regime.

The decree noted that "the Cabinet of Ministers should set the compensation mechanism for the state budget of Ukraine and introduce other measures deriving from this decree."

In turn, the United States announced on July 8 that all non-immigrant visa issuance fees for Ukrainian citizens had been eliminated. However, Ukrainian applicants for non-immigrant visas will still be charged the Congressionally mandated \$100 visa application fee, a statement posted on the website of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said.

Ukrainian Deputy State Secretary Markian Lubkivskiy told a news conference in Kyiv on July 1 that the United States currently issues visas for five years, though he speculated that in the near future the U.S. could begin issuing visas for 10 years, the Ukrainian press service Ukrinform reported.

In 2003 the United States issued 21,932 non-immigrant visas to Ukrainians, according to the U.S. State Department.

Jewish-Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 4)

the Society for Jewish-Ukrainian Relations in 1979 in Israel, and has headed it since then. The society's objectives are to promote normalization and improvement in relations between the Jewish and the Ukrainian peoples, to shed light on the truth, fight stereotypes and promote Jewish-Ukrainian understanding, and to develop friendship between the two nations.

The title "Righteous of the World" was posthumously awarded in 1996 to Archimandrite Klymentii Sheptytsky, Metropolitan Andrey's Sheptytsky's

brother, who hid Jews in Studite monasteries during World War II.

Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn of France commented that recognizing Metropolitan Sheptytsky for his role in saving Jews during the Holocaust might help further the cause of the metropolitan's beatification.

Bishop Hrynchyshyn has been working on the cause of the metropolitan's beatification since 1958.

He noted that hundreds of pieces of evidence exist today, proving that the metropolitan saved the lives of many Jews, hiding them in monasteries during World War II. Dozens of witnesses, who have published their memoirs, are still alive.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

will deploy to Staryi Krym and Opuk training centers on the Crimea peninsula with more than 250 service members from three countries: Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan, under the NATO Partnership for Peace program. The exercise is designed to train multi-national troops in a field training exercise, promoting the Partnership for Peace program through the development of a common understanding of peace support operations. During the exercise participants will review and refine the tactics, techniques, and procedures of peacekeeping operations. Participating U.S. military units include units from Company F, Second Battalion, 23rd Marines arriving from Salt Lake City and Las Vegas. This will be the first time U.S. Marines will participate in a formal exercise in Crimea. (Embassy of the United States)

Kyiv denies talks on missiles' return

KYIV – The Ukrainian Defense Ministry on August 1 denied talking with Israel about a possible reversal of the controversial sale of cruise missiles to Iran, Ukrainian news agencies reported. According to the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, the issue was discussed during the visit of Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko to Israel on July 24-26. "All reports of alleged discussions by Anatolii Hrytsenko in Israel of the issue of returning missiles from Iran are of a provocative character and are aimed at worsening relations between Ukraine and the countries of the Middle East," the ministry said in a press release. In March, Kyiv confirmed that 12 cruise missiles known as Kh-55s were smuggled from Ukraine to Iran in 2001. The Kh-55s, with a range of 3,000 kilometers, mobility and ability to carry nuclear warheads, could constitute a potential threat to Israel. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv seeks extraditions from Russia

KYIV – The Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry is planning to hold talks with its counterpart in Russia on the extradition of former Ukrainian officials who are suspected of committing crimes in Ukraine, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on August 1, citing Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko. "There is a [Ukrainian] government-in-exile staying in Russia today," Mr. Lutsenko told journalists. "There are many former Ukrainian governors and high-ranking officials there. They are hiding from accountability." Kyiv has recently asked Moscow to help find the whereabouts of former Central Election Commission head Serhii Kivalov, former Internal Affairs Minister Mykola Bilokon, former Sumy Oblast Chairman Volodymyr Scherban, and former Odesa Mayor Ruslan Bodelan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President makes peace with journalist

KYIV – Serhii Leschenko, a journalist for Ukrayinska Pravda, wrote on July 29 that President Viktor Yushchenko telephoned him and that they had reconciled. "[Yushchenko] assured me that his answer to my question on Monday [25 July] was 'emotional' and that he has 'learned a lesson from that,'" Mr. Leschenko wrote, adding that he harbors no grievance against the president. Mr. Leschenko authored a series of articles about the allegedly lavish lifestyle of Mr. Yushchenko's son, Andrii, who reportedly drives a new BMW, uses a luxury mobile phone, employs personal bodyguards and visits expensive restaurants. Answering Mr. Leschenko's question on July 25 about sources of his son's income, President Yushchenko called on the journalist to "act like a polite journalist and not like a hit man." More than 700 Ukrainian journalists have signed an

Internet appeal demanding an apology from the president. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Race marks anniversary of war's end

KYIV – A Ukraine-Poland-Germany cycle race marking the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II was to start in Lviv on July 31 within the framework of a partnership project of the all-Ukrainian association called "German Youth in Ukraine." The association's chairman, Vladimir Leisle, announced this at a press conference on July 29. The route of the race will pass through Lviv, Rzeslav, Tarnow, Krakow, Auschwitz, Opole, Wroclaw, Legnica, Dresden, Leipzig and Berlin. The cyclists will arrive in the German capital on August 16, after covering a distance of 1,400 kilometers. They are scheduled to visit memorial sites of World War II and address press conferences, and participate in roundtable conferences on the development of youth partnerships in Ukraine, Poland and Germany. German Youth in Ukraine is partnered in the project by Kyiv's Goethe Institute, Odesa's Society and Development philanthropic fund, Crimea's Yugend German youth association, the Association of Germans of Ukraine, the Ukraine-Champion youth organization and other groups. (Ukrinform)

SBU investigates possible attack on PM

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) announced on July 28 that it received information "from a Western source" that an assassination attempt was being planned against Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and that it is investigating this report, Interfax-Ukraine reported. The same day, journalist Volodymyr Boiko claimed on NTN television that he has heard from sources close to the Swedish Embassy that the assassination attempt might be planned by an organized criminal gang in retaliation for Ms. Tymoshenko's attempt to change the ownership of the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Iran's statement on gas welcomed

KYIV – National Security and Defense Council Secretary Petro Poroshenko welcomed a statement by Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Hadi Nejad-Husseinian saying that Ukraine has agreed to transit 20 billion cubic meters of gas to Europe. "After some problems with Turkey on exports of Iranian gas to Europe, the agreement will open the doors of Europe to Iranian exports, which is very important for us," Interfax-Ukraine quoted him as saying on July 28. Ukraine has proposed two routes for a gas pipeline from Iran to Ukraine and on to Europe. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine's MiGs may be modernized

KYIV – Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko, upon returning from a July 24-26 visit to Israel, told reporters in Kyiv that he met with the management of the Israeli company Elbit and discussed a feasibility study on modernizing Ukraine's fleet of MiG-29 fighter jets, Interfax-Ukraine reported on July 27. Mr. Hrytsenko said that it will be necessary to include the Russian company that originally built the fighters in the project. According to zap16.com, Ukraine presently has 237 MiG-29s, of which 62 are operational. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lazarenko's sentencing is postponed

KYIV – The sentencing of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko in the Federal District Court in San Francisco has once again been postponed, Interfax reported on July 28. The sentencing, which was due to take place on July 27, was postponed until December 2. According to Mr. Lazarenko's attorney, he might be fined \$4.5 million-\$5 million and might not receive a prison sentence. The court rejected the defense's request for a

new trial and ordered Mr. Lazarenko to appear for sentencing on December 2. The former prime minister was found guilty on 14 charges related to money laundering and fraud, each carrying a term of imprisonment of up to 20 years. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President signs anti-piracy law

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has signed into law amendments to the Criminal Code that prohibit CD piracy, Interfax reported on July 28. The law was passed on July 6 by the Verkhovna Rada. It sets responsibility for operations involving the production, export and import of CDs and equipment for their production. According to the amendments, the import of stamper disks and specialized equipment for CD production shall be licensed as a form of economic activity. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko visit to Georgia postponed

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's spokeswoman Iryna Heraschenko told Georgia's Imedi television station on July 27 that an article published that day in the independent newspaper Rezonansi alleging that Mr. Yushchenko postponed a visit to Georgia originally scheduled for July 26 due to fears that his plane could be shot down is untrue, Caucasus Press reported. On July 26 Georgian Internal Affairs Minister Vano Merabishvili claimed that "terrorists" in South Ossetia have four Igla portable ground-to-air missiles capable of downing civilian or military aircraft. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tiraspol wants mediators to observe vote

MOSCOW – The authorities of Moldova's separatist region of Transdnier have called on mediators in the settlement of the Tiraspol-Chisinau conflict – Russia, Ukraine and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – to

send monitors to the parliamentary elections in December, ITAR-TASS reported on August 2. A plan put forward by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko in April proposed that Tiraspol hold democratic elections under international monitoring this year. However, Chisinau wants the elections to be held only after the withdrawal of Russian troops from Transdnier and under Moldova's legislation, a demand that is opposed by Tiraspol. Council of Europe Secretary-General Terry Davis said in Chisinau last month that free and democratic elections in Transdnier are unlikely to be held this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

National holiday for St. Volodymyr?

KYIV – Metropolitan Volodymyr (Sabodan), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, sent a letter to Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko in the name of UOC-MP hierarchs and clergy, asking him to grant the status of national holiday to the feast of St. Volodymyr, grand prince of Kyivan Rus'. The news was posted by orthodox.org.ua on July 23. In his appeal to Ukrainian authorities, Metropolitan Volodymyr said that Prince Volodymyr remains an unequalled symbol of Ukrainian statehood and Ukrainian Orthodoxy, as the person who baptized Kyivan Rus' in 988. The letter notes that he enlightened Ukraine not only with the light of baptism, but with the light of arts and sciences, and united its people. Metropolitan Volodymyr proposed that July 28, the feast day of St. Volodymyr, be made a national holiday. According to the metropolitan, this move would be very timely as "in times of interdenominational animosity, the historical figure of St. Prince Volodymyr will not only become a reconciliation symbol for Christians in Ukraine, but a unifying basis for us, children of Ukraine, the great and strong state." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

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| <p>August 7-20, 2005
Traditional Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp</p> <p>August 12, 2005
Tiki Bar Entertainment featuring Vidlunnia with Olga Barabash-Turgineva</p> <p>August 13, 2005
Miss Soyuzivka Weekend and Zabava with Tempo</p> <p>August 19, 2005
Tiki Bar Entertainment featuring Zuki & friend, 10 pm</p> <p>August 19-20, 2005
Exhibit - Kozak family paintings</p> <p>August 20, 2005
Dance Camp Performance and Zabava with Fata Morgana</p> <p>August 27, 2005
Wedding
Zabava with Halychany, 10 pm</p> <p>September 2-5, 2005
Labor Day Festivities
Sept. 2, Tiki Bar Entertainment featuring Luna, 10 pm
Sept. 3, Tiki Bar Entertainment with the band Hrim, 2 pm; USCAK Tennis Tournament (through Sept. 5); Concert featuring Kashtan Dance Ensemble from Cleveland, 8 pm; Zabava with Luna and Fata Morgana, 10 pm
Sept. 4, Tiki Bar Entertainment featuring Stefan Stawnychy, 2 pm; Concert featuring Kashtan Dance Ensemble from Cleveland, 1 pm; Zabava with Fata Morgana, 10 pm</p> <p>September 9-11, 2005
Saltzburg Reunion</p> <p>September 11-15, 2005
Regensburg Reunion</p> | <p>September 14-16, 2005
Landshut Reunion</p> <p>September 17, 2005
Lynee Richel Anniversary/
Wedding Reception</p> <p>September 17-19, 2005
Mittenwald Reunion</p> <p>September 21-23, 2005
Bayreuth Gymnasium Reunion</p> <p>September 22-24, 2005
UNA Assembly and District Meeting</p> <p>September 24-25, 2005
Plast Sorority Rada - Pershi Stezhi
Plast Sorority Rada - Chornomorski Khvyli</p> <p>September 29-October 3, 2005
Ukrainian American Vet Convention</p> <p>September 30, 2005
KLK Weekend - General Meeting and Banquet</p> <p>September 30-October 1, 2005
Plast Sorority Rada - Spartanky</p> <p>October 2, 2005
UNWLA Luncheon</p> <p>October 3-6, 2005
Stamford Clergy Days</p> <p>October 8, 2005
Wedding</p> <p>October 15, 2005
Wedding</p> <p>October 22, 2005
KPS Rada</p> <p>October 28-30, 2005
Halloween Weekend with children's costume parade, costume zabava and more</p> |
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday-Sunday, August 20-21

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Division, is sponsoring Ukrainian Fest 2005 in Chicago's Smith Park, 2500 W. Grand Ave. (corner of North Campbell Street) from noon to 10 p.m. both days. Festivities will include Ukrainian food, crafts, music, lotteries and much more. Pony rides and children's attractions will add to the entertainment for the whole family. Dance groups will perform on Sunday afternoon. Celebration of Ukraine's declaration of independence will begin on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. For more information contact Pavlo T. Bandriwsky, (773) 772-4500.

programming and youth soccer. Admission is \$10 per person; children 13 and under will be admitted free of charge. Readers may call Tryzub, (215) 343-5412, with any questions.

Friday, August 26

WILDWOOD CREST, N.J.: The Khmelnychenky Plast fraternity is sponsoring an all-ages dance at the Wildwood Crest Pier Recreation Center, across the street from the Pan Am Hotel. Last year over 500 beach-goers partied at the "Return of the Khmeli" zabava – the event of "Ukrainian Week" in Wildwood Crest. This year doors will open earlier, at 7 p.m. Children's activities, 7-8 p.m.; children's dance, 8-9:30 p.m.; youth "vechirka," 10 p.m.-? There will be a charity raffle at 9:30 p.m., sponsored by the Spartanky Plast fraternity. Live music will be provided by Luna from 8 p.m. to midnight; CD dance mixes welcome at midnight. Admission: free for children age 6 and under; \$3 for children age 7-12; \$5 for students age 13-22; \$10 for adults 23 and over. Proceeds go toward the Vovcha Tropa Plast camp's improvement fund. For information and/or suggestions contact either Adrian Horodecky at adrian@telligys.com or Joanne Iwaskiw at jiwaskiw@pimie.com.

Sunday, August 21

HORSHAM, Pa.: The 14th annual Ukrainian Folk Festival will begin at noon at the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub, County Line and Lower State roads. It is sponsored by Tryzub and the Ukrainian Nationals Soccer Program, both of which are non-profit charitable institutions. This year's festival is specially dedicated to the people of Ukraine who stood in the cold of winter and won freedom and democracy during the Orange Revolution. Proceeds benefit cultural

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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