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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## U.S. and Ukraine sign agreement on market access, a step toward WTO



Yaro Bihun

**U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman (seated, left) and Ukrainian Minister of Economy Arsenii Yatseniuk sign the bilateral market access agreement. Standing next to them are their lead negotiators, Assistant USTR Dorothy Dwoskin and Vice Minister of the Economy Valerii Piatnytskyi.**

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — Ukraine crossed two major hurdles in its quest to become an equal player in the global economy last week as it signed a bilateral World Trade Organization accession agreement with the United States and the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that would “graduate” Ukraine from the economic constraints of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment enacted during the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

The bilateral WTO agreement was signed here on March 6 by Ukrainian Minister of the Economy Arsenii Yatseniuk and U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Rob Portman at a special ceremony in the USTR building near the White House.

The House legislation, introduced by Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), was passed two days later, on March 8. (See accompanying story.)

“It’s a good, solid agreement that will create closer trade ties between our two countries,” Ambassador Portman said before signing the WTO agreement. “Many benefits will flow from more open trade between our two countries.”

The agreement was the result of “a tough, complicated commercial negotiation,” hard work and the ability to compromise, he said, underscoring intellectual property protection as one of the more difficult areas in the talks.

“Ukraine has made some very significant changes, and we know that Ukraine is determined to continue the process by strict enforcement of intellectual property rights protections,” he said, noting that “this commitment helped us get over the finish line on this accession.”

The agreement also covers regulations and market access for goods and services,

industrial tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

Minister Yatseniuk said the agreement served the mutual interests of both countries. While opening the Ukrainian market to U.S. imports, he said, adding with a smile: “We strongly believe that we’ll sometime export something to the United

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## House overwhelmingly OKs bill to graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives on March 8 passed landmark legislation to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. HR 1053, sponsored by Rep. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), grants Ukraine permanent normal trade relations status with the United States.

The final vote on the bill was 417 votes in favor, two against and three abstaining. Voting no were: Virgil H. Goode (R-Va.) and Gene Taylor (D-Miss.); answering present, but not voting were: Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio).

The Senate, which passed a similar bill back in November 2005, is expected to quickly act on this latest legislation. The bill will then go to President George W. Bush for his signature in order for it to become law.

Passage of legislation to graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik recognizes the progress that Ukraine has made in building a democracy and a market economy. It complements the U.S. move on February 17 to grant Ukraine market economy status, and the WTO bilateral protocol signed on March 6 by the United States and Ukraine.

Rep. Gerlach stated on the floor of the House before the vote on HR 1053 that his bill “is another important step for

Ukraine as it becomes a partner in the global economy.”

“The message we are sending by making this relationship permanent is priceless to the people of Ukraine. It strongly reaffirms our long-term partnership and support as Ukraine continues down the path of reform and democracy,” he added.

“President [Viktor] Yushchenko has continuously called for this action that we take today and certainly the timing is appropriate because in several weeks Ukraine will elect a new [Verkhovna] Rada. This sends a signal that Ukraine now has the full and equal respect of the government and of the people of the United States,” Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) noted.

The Ukrainian National Information Service reported that among those speaking in support of the HR 1053 were: William Thomas (R-Calif.), Phil English (R-Pa.), Candice Miller (R-Mich.), Lincoln Diaz Balart (R-Fla.), Clay Shaw (R-Fla.) and Sander Levin (D-Mich.).

According to UNIS, Rep. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) stated that “Congress should demonstrate support for Ukraine and permanent normal trade relations (PNTR)” with that country.

Rep. Tom Lantos (R-Calif.) raised the

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## Orange Revolution begets commercial film industry

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Orange Revolution has launched Ukraine’s commercial film industry.

On March 1, the film company Cinema premiered the first Ukrainian-financed, -written, -produced and -directed film targeted for national commercial release, “Pomarancheve Nebo” (Orange Sky).

“From the very start, we had a fighting task — to make a truly Ukrainian film, said Yurii Butusov, who wrote the film with Svitlana Rudzynska. “This project is for the development of Ukrainian film and it won’t be our last.”

On its national release day, March 2, “Pomarancheve Nebo” debuted in every oblast capital in Ukraine with the exception of Kirovohrad, Mr. Butusov said.

It was the first Ukrainian-made film distributed nationally at commercial movie theaters, whose typical fare is U.S. and Russian movies.

Though some Ukrainian film critics have dismissed “Pomarancheve Nebo” as pop culture fodder, they acknowledge the significance that theaters nationwide were willing to invest in a Ukrainian-made product.

“Typically, theaters refuse to show anything domestic,” said Dmytro Desiateryk, the culture critic for the daily national newspaper Den. “They figure they could at least break even on a typical Hollywood film. But they were willing to take a risk.”

Cinema produced 33 copies for distribution in theaters — an unprecedented number for a Ukrainian-made film, said Oleksander Kyriyenko, who made his directorial debut with the film.

“Pomarancheve Nebo” is a love story that unfolds during the tumultuous Orange Revolution.

“The events one year ago represented a most vivid and extraordinary period,” Mr. Butusov said, describing the film’s setting. “It was a time when people, regardless of their political beliefs, did extraordinary and interesting things. It was a time of change and hope in society and a time of the intense emotions.”

Russian actor Alexander Lymariyev, who starred in the popular Russian series “Soldaty,” plays the leading male role of Mark Zadukha, the wealthy son of the Kyiv Oblast chairman.

He is torn between two women “his foxy playmate Asya (played by Russian actress Ksenia Bielaya) and Orange

Revolutionary Ivanna, played by Vinnytsia native Lidia Obolenska.

As Mark and Ivanna spend more time together and begin to fall in love, he is faced with a decision of whether he should please his parents and join

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Poster announces the March 2 release in movie theaters of “Orange Sky.”



## ANALYSIS

## Is Ukraine's richest man also its future prime minister?

by Roman Kupchinsky

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

In mid-February, 40-year-old Rynat Akhmetov – one of Ukraine's richest men by virtue of his 90-percent stake in the Donetsk-based System Capital Management Corporation (SCM) – was interviewed on his nationwide television station, TRK Ukrayina.

The interview was conducted by Raisa Bohatyrova, a leading member of the Party of the Regions led by Viktor Yanukovich, President Viktor Yushchenko's main rival in the 2004 presidential election. Ms. Bohatyrova was elected to Parliament in 2002 after Mr. Akhmetov, who had been considered a likely candidate, stepped aside, saying he did not wish to run for public office.

Things appear to have changed.

The TRK interview was, for many Ukrainians, the first opportunity to hear the usually reclusive billionaire describe his stance on a variety of subjects. The interview was widely watched throughout Ukraine, and established Mr. Akhmetov as a man with his own vision regarding the country's future.

Mr. Akhmetov's name is seventh on the Party of the Regions electoral list for the March 26 vote. But the fact that his interview was televised nationally, rather than just in Mr. Akhmetov's native Donbas region, led some viewers to conclude that Mr. Akhmetov sounded more like a candidate for prime minister than a

man merely seeking a parliamentary seat.

Mr. Akhmetov denies he is seeking the prime ministership. But some of his comments during the interview could indicate otherwise.

"We need to form a government that cares about economic growth," Mr. Akhmetov told Ms. Bohatyrova. "What does that mean? It means a government of professionals, a government which will take not only power, but responsibility, into its hands."

Mr. Akhmetov went on to define a strong Ukraine as one where the country is dependent upon neither Russia, the United States nor the European Union. He was going into politics, he added, "in order to see Ukraine enrich itself, in order that there be no poor people in Ukraine. I want Ukraine to hold in its hands the trophy for being the best country in Europe."

Mr. Akhmetov, an ethnic Tatar and practicing Muslim, was born in Donetsk in 1966. His father was a coal miner and the family often lived in poverty. Mr. Akhmetov graduated from Donetsk State University with a degree in economics.

In 1996, Mr. Akhmetov took over the presidency of the Shakhtar football club in Donetsk after the murder of its owner, criminal boss Oleksander Brahın. Around that time, he founded Donetsk City Bank (DonGorBank) and remains its majority shareholder.

In 2000 Mr. Akhmetov founded SCM, which rapidly became a very aggressive player in acquiring companies in the Donetsk region. Over the next few years, it took control of over 90 companies concen-

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## U.S. government delegation offers anti-corruption support

Embassy of the United States

KYIV – A United States government delegation from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the State Department spent three days in Kyiv from February 27 to March 1, meeting with Ukrainian government officials, as well as with representatives of Ukrainian NGOs, the mass media and the private sector.

The purpose of the visit was to help draw up a plan for a special development program focused on fighting corruption. Ukraine became eligible for such a program after the MCC named it a Millennium Account Threshold country in November 2005.

The Threshold Program is directed toward a limited number of countries that have not yet qualified for full Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) assistance but have demonstrated a significant commitment to meeting eligibility criteria. Currently 17 countries have qualified in addition to Ukraine, including Jordan, Moldova and Indonesia. The Threshold Program is designed as an added incentive to countries committed to reform and will be used to assist such countries in moving towards future MCA eligibility.

"The Threshold Program provides Ukraine a unique chance to deal head on with corruption, one of the most challenging issues that still confronts it," explained G. Kevin Saba, managing director MCC Threshold Program.

An application for Threshold Program assistance is a two-step process. Countries that have been invited to sub-

mit proposals and are interested in participating in the Threshold Program must first submit a concept paper to the MCC, which Ukraine did in mid-February.

The MCC team then arrived to hold discussions that support the development of the implementation plan, which is the second phase of the process. The members of the MCC team include Mr. Saba, Jaroslav Dutkewych, MCC country relations director; Bradley Parks, MCC development officer; and Liane Dorsey, U.S. State Department country assistance officer.

The MCA is based on several key principles – including a focus on poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth, political commitment, inclusiveness, accountability and emphasis on results – that will be reflected throughout the development and implementation of MCA programs. The MCA builds on development research that emphasizes the central role a country's own policies and institutions play in its economic development and the need for strong country "ownership" of development objectives, policies and actions.

The primary means to improve country performance on the policy indicators that are central to the MCA eligibility criteria is to carry out policy reforms and institutional changes in those areas in which the country failed to meet the criteria. Assistance funded under the Threshold Program is intended to help countries make these changes. Participation in the Threshold Program does not guarantee that a country will become eligible for MCA assistance in the future.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Kyiv on Lukashenka's allegations

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry is "surprised by both the form and the content" of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's allegations last week that Ukraine is involved in channeling funds to the Belarusian opposition in order to topple him, Interfax-Ukraine reported on March 7, quoting Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk. "Hundreds of millions are coming via Ukraine, the Baltic countries and Poland. We know what embassies receive cash and bring it here, and later distribute the money," Mr. Lukashenka said at the All-Belarusian People's Assembly in Miensk on March 2. Mr. Filipchuk noted that President Lukashenka's charges are untrue and at variance with Ukraine's position oriented toward developing good-neighborly relations with Belarus. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### U.S. helps borderguard service

KYIV – The United States has conveyed \$1.89 million worth of equipment to the Ukrainian Borderguard Service within the framework of the two parties' cooperation in implementing the threat reduction program. The equipment includes night vision devices, radios, satellite communication system devices, minivans, ATVs, motorcycles, and cars. As Ukrinform reported on earlier occasions, on October 20, 2005, the United States conveyed \$135,000 worth of vehicles and computers to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to assist the latter in combating human trafficking. (Ukrinform)

### A new book about Tymoshenko

KYIV – A book about Yulia Tymoshenko written by German journalist Dimity Popov and Russian journalist Ilya Milstein will be presented at a book fair in Leipzig on March 18. The authors of the book claim that it is aimed primarily at Western readers. The authors say the book is objective and even critical, therefore, they believe that neither Ms. Tymoshenko's fans nor her opponents will like it. Germany's Bild newspaper, which

has a circulation of 4.5 million, will start publishing excerpts from the book. Austrian and Swiss political weeklies, as well as publications in other European countries, are expected to publish excerpts from the book. (Ukrinform)

### Green Party launches protest action

KYIV – According to Green Party leader Vitalii Kononov, the party has launched an all-Ukrainian campaign, "Green Band," to protest against plans to construct facilities in Ukraine to bury nuclear wastes. Speaking at a press conference in Kharkiv on March 5, Mr. Kononov, whose party has the support of about 0.9 percent of the electorate, said that a 10-kilometer-long green cloth was unfolded to collect signatures as part of the protest. The cloth has visited seven regions, including the Kharkiv region. A bigger, 25-kilometer cloth will be added to this. Both rolls with signatures are supposed to be unfolded in front of the Verkhovna Rada building after the March 26 elections. The subject of nuclear wastes was raised by President Viktor Yushchenko during his trip to the Chernobyl zone in December 2005. The president noted that Ukraine as a country with nuclear power plants must solve the problem of fissile wastes. Ukraine operates four nuclear power plants with 15 reactors. Ukraine sends its fissile fuel wastes to Russia for reprocessing. In 2012 reprocessed wastes will start coming to Ukraine for storage on Ukraine's soil. (Ukrinform)

### U.S. condemns asylum seekers' return

WASHINGTON – The United States has condemned the February 14 forcible return of 10 Uzbek asylum seekers to Uzbekistan by Ukrainian authorities. Nine of the Uzbeks had registered as asylum seekers with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which issued a statement on February 16 deploring the forced return of the entire group. According to the UNHCR, the Uzbek extradition request alleged that the men were involved in the

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### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Prochorenko Ph.D., director of publications (973) 292-9800, ext. 3034  
e-mail: [prochorenko@unamember.com](mailto:prochorenko@unamember.com)  
Walter Honcharyk, administrator (973) 292-9800, ext. 3041  
Maria Osciawski, advertising manager (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040  
e-mail: [adsukrpubl@att.net](mailto:adsukrpubl@att.net)  
Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions (973) 292-9800, ext. 3042  
e-mail: [ukrsubscr@att.net](mailto:ukrsubscr@att.net)



## OSCE's election watchdog body concerned about election-related events in Belarus

WARSAW – The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is concerned about recent election-related events in Belarus, where a presidential candidate, his supporters and four civic activists have been detained, reported a March 2 news released.

Several people witnessed the arrest of presidential candidate Alexander Kazulin on the morning of March 2. According to reports, excessive force was used against him at the Railway Workers Palace, where registration for the government-organized All-Belarusian People's Assembly was taking place.

ODIHR observers witnessed some of his supporters being detained by police when they gathered in front of the district police station where he was being held. They also witnessed force being used against these supporters, who were transferred to another police station. ODIHR observers were not permitted entry to either police station, and were denied information about the incidents and the condition of the detainees.

"Any arrest of a candidate during an election campaign raises concerns and needs immediate clarification by the authorities," said Ambassador Christian Strohal, director of the ODIHR.

The ODIHR noted that it is concerned

that this marks a serious deterioration in the campaign atmosphere. The Office is currently observing the run-up to the March 19 presidential election.

The arrest of Mr. Kazulin and his supporters follows the arrest on February 21 of four civic activists, including those involved in domestic election observation. According to a statement by the state security apparatus, the KGB, they are charged with "unlawful management of an unregistered organization" under the new criminal code provisions.

On March 1 the KGB issued a statement to the media accusing the political opposition of planning a violent takeover of power, to be coordinated by the domestic observer group to which the four detained activists belong, based on falsified exit poll results and with the support of foreign "revolutionaries."

A spokesperson said the ODIHR would continue to follow up on these events.

The ODIHR election observation mission is deployed in the Republic of Belarus at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It currently has 46 experts and long-term observers deployed in Miensk and around the country. The mission plans to deploy around 400 observers to cover election day.

### IN THE PRESS

## The Washington Post on election in Belarus

"A Dictator's Elections," editorial on the presidential election in Belarus, *The Washington Post*, March 6:

"... Western governments have been trying to show support for the opposition: Last Monday President [George W.] Bush met with the widows of two Belarusian leaders who were abducted and murdered by Mr. [Alyaksandr] Lukashenko's [Lukashenka's] government. The West should now prepare to take action in the event that international monitors report electoral fraud or the regime again resorts to violence. At a minimum the Belarusian president and his

family and all senior members of his government should be targeted by financial sanctions aimed at their Western bank accounts and other assets. And Mr. Bush should ask for accountability from Mr. Lukashenko's chief economic and political sponsor. That would be Russian President Vladimir Putin, the only leader besides Mr. Lukashenko himself who still supports dictatorship in Europe."

(Editor's note: The Weekly readers the last name of the Belarus' president as Lukashenka. Also, according to our Belarusian sources, the correct adjectival form of the country's name is Belarusian.)

## Election Notebook

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

• KYIV – Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich accused the Yushchenko government on March 4 of organizing mass voting fraud in preparation for the March 26 parliamentary elections, Interfax-Ukraine reported.

In southeastern Ukraine, authorities have organized fake parties, whose members have joined district election commissions, the former prime minister said. Government officials have instructed these agents to get sick or make other excuses for not serving on the commissions on election day, he said.

"Along with election commission members, stamps will be disappearing and other tricks will be employed so as to make these commissions illegitimate," Mr. Yanukovich said. "Consequently, the voting in those districts will be ruled invalid, too."

Lists of voters have also been translated into Ukrainian with deliberate mistakes so as to prevent voters from being able to vote, he said.

• KYIV – The Central Election Commission (CEC) on March 7 banned the Crimean Verkhovna Rada's proposal to hold a referendum granting the Russian language official status in their autonomous republic.

Members of local election commissions are not allowed to work simultaneously on referendum commissions during the March 26 vote, said Yaroslav Davydovych, the CEC chair. Neither can referendum commissions operate in the same locations as parliamentary and local election commissions, he said.

On February 22, the Crimean Verkhovna Rada voted to hold a referendum on the Russian language on March 26, recommending that local election commissions simultaneously serve as referendum commissions.

• KYIV – Ukraine's 24-hour television news network Channel 5 reported on March 7 that Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich and Our Ukraine Bloc leader Yuriy Yekhanurov have agreed to debate each other on that network Sunday, March 19.

Party of the Regions Press Secretary Hanna Stetsiv-Herman confirmed that Mr. Yanukovich will engage Mr. Yekhanurov

in a debate, but a date hasn't been set yet.

The Our Ukraine campaign leadership is considering March 14, 20 and 24 as possible dates for the debate, said Tetiana Mokridi, the Our Ukraine Bloc's information department director.

• KYIV – At a March 8 rally attended by 5,000 supporters, Yalta Mayor Serhii Braiko called upon city residents to vote for Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc in the March 26 parliamentary elections.

Ms. Vitrenko is the one candidate who truly defends the interests of Crimeans by proposing economic union with Russia and Belarus, granting the Russian language official status and supporting a separate Crimean Constitution that will grant substantial rights, he said.

"As a result of the political acts in Kyiv, Yalta lost 20 percent of its tourists in the prior vacation season," Mr. Braiko said, referring to lost tourism business from Russians.

"Natalia Vitrenko can rely on the full support of Great Yalta's residents," he said.

• KYIV – The Kharkiv City Council voted overwhelmingly on March 6 to give the Russian language official regional status, thereby introducing it in all of the city's documentation and government-related activities.

The vote was 53-3 out of 75 city deputies, who defended their decision by citing the 2000 census statistics in which 63 percent of Kharkiv city residents said Russian is their native language.

They also cited the European Charter, which allows for a national group in a compact population to grant a language official status.

Incidentally, the politician who raised the proposal for vote, Kharkiv Mayor Volodymyr Shumlikin, belongs to the Our Ukraine People's Union.

It's possible that he used the Russian language issue to raise his popularity and thereby take votes away from pro-Russian parties, reported BBC Ukraine reporter Mykola Piddubnyi.

However, Mr. Shumlikin said giving the Russian language official status is the one way to prevent politicians from exploiting the issue for their gain.

## POLITICAL BLOC PROFILE: Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

During the 2006 parliamentary election campaign, *The Ukrainian Weekly* will profile the leading political blocs. This week's installment features Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc.

KYIV – It's hard to pinpoint what exactly Verkhovna Rada Speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn stands for.

And when he does take a position on a political conflict, it's well after the dust has settled and declaring an opinion is safe.

It wasn't until well after November 22 in 2004, that Mr. Lytvyn revealed tacit support for the Orange Revolution by allowing the Verkhovna Rada to reject the second-round vote and then declare no confidence in the Kuchma government.

During the New Year's natural gas crisis, Mr. Lytvyn had no opinion on what Ukraine should do. Weeks after an agreement was inked, he denounced it as "either stupidity or treachery."

The man who has mastered the middle ground in Ukrainian politics, going with whichever tide happened to be rising at a particular moment, has managed to build an entire political bloc based on that very premise.

Lytvyn's People's Bloc is projected to qualify for the

Verkhovna Rada, largely based on Mr. Lytvyn's image as a mediator between Ukraine's pro-Western and pro-Russian forces.

Mr. Lytvyn has demonstrated that taking no position on issues, or remaining in the shadows until a conflict has played itself out, can turn out to be a very effective political maneuver.

### Party leaders

Lytvyn's People's Bloc is among the political blocs and parties that are constructed upon a single personality.

Appearing second on the bloc's voting list is Sofia Rotaru, Ukraine's pop music icon who was most popular during the 1970s. Mr. Lytvyn's campaign carefully selected Ms. Rotaru because she fits in very well with the bloc's massive, nationwide "My" advertising campaign.

"My" appeals to older Ukrainians' nostalgia for the good ol' days, without emphasizing the Soviet or Communist aspects.

The remaining three politicians on the "My" ballot are meant to make the bloc look respectable to voters, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

It's the top five names on a bloc's electoral list that



The logo of Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc.

Ukrainians will see in their voting booths.

Cosmonaut Leonid Kadenyuk, who flew on a U.S. space shuttle mission, is third on the Lytvyn's People's Bloc list. The Ukrayinska Pravda website identified him also as a "former advisor to Leonid Kuchma."

National Academy of Sciences History Institute Director Valerii Smolii is fourth, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Vasyl Maliarenko is fifth. Mr. Maliarenko's selection is controversial because it's ille-

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## OBITUARY

# Genevieve Zerebniak, 89, former UNA vice-presidentess

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Genevieve Zerebniak, former supreme vice-presidentess of the Ukrainian National Association and former honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, died on February 11. She was 89.

Mrs. Zerebniak, née Zepko, was born on October 3, 1916. At the UNA Convention in 1941, at the age of 24, she was elected a supreme advisor. She was re-elected in 1946 (the convention was delayed by a year due to World War II).

At the next two UNA conventions (1950 and 1954), she was elected supreme vice-presidentess, becoming the first American-born UNA'er to be elected to the Supreme Executive Committee.

Due to family obligations, she declined to run for office at the 1958 Convention, but stated that she would continue to work for the good of the Ukrainian National Association.

Mrs. Zerebniak was active also in local UNA activities in Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio. Most notably, she served as secretary of UNA Branch 180 in Akron from 1935 to 1997.

She also served on numerous national UNA committees, including the Cultural Committee, and was active in promoting the UNA's book publications to various youth groups.

As a UNA advisor and later as an execu-

tive officer, Mrs. Zerebniak focused much attention on the youth of the Ukrainian American community. In 1956, for example, she was very involved with the UNA Youth Rally held in Akron that attracted many American-born Ukrainians.

She was a strong proponent of the UNA's "investment in the development of future leaders," as she put it, through the Soyuzivka estate and the very successful Ukrainian Cultural Courses held there, as well as The Ukrainian Weekly, which was seen as a vehicle to reach younger generations and maintain their involvement in Ukrainian community life.

The UNA Convention in 1978 voted Mrs. Zerebniak an honorary member of the Supreme Assembly in recognition of her many years of service to the UNA.

In her hometown of Akron, Mrs. Zerebniak took advantage of opportunities to represent the UNA at state meetings of Greek, Swiss and Slovak fraternal organizations.

She was an activist also of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America, as well as the Ukrainian Junior League and Holy Ghost Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Mrs. Zerebniak was predeceased by her husband, Harry. Surviving are her sons, Harry and John, with their spouses, Linda and Gretna; daughter, Ann; and grandchildren, Michael, Kimberly and Matthew.

## Ukrainian Art and Literary Club in New York slates closing events

by Anya Farion and Slava Gerulak

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club, Inc., which is located at 136 Second Ave. in New York City, will be closing its doors on April 7. It is marking this occasion with two events. One is an exhibition of works from the Ukrainian Artists Association collection, which will open on Sunday, March 19, at 1 p.m., and the second is an educational exhibit and lecture about the Shukhevych family, which will take place on Friday, March 31, at 7 p.m.

The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club was established in November 1949 in New York City by Ukrainian artists, writers and musicians who had emigrated to the United States after the end of World War II. Serhiy Lytvynenko, a sculptor, served as its first president.

The organization was located at 149 Second Ave. in the East Village section of New York City, where it organized exhibitions, lectures and a music school.

In the mid-1970s, with the purchase of the building at 136 Second Ave. by the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club was invited to move across the street to join other organizations in this new Ukrainian center in the East Village.

The UALC moved into the new building, and divided into two separate cultural entities: the Ukrainian Music Institute of

America and the Ukrainian Artists Association in the U.S.A. which occupy the fourth floor of 136 Second Ave. to this day.

Mykhailo Cheresniowsky, the noted Ukrainian sculptor, was president of the Ukrainian Artists Association during this time and spearheaded an active exhibition schedule of Ukrainian émigré artists from all over the United States, Canada, South America and Europe.

During the late 1980s, Anya Farion, a sculptor, became the director of the association's gallery and introduced younger artists to the organization. Many artists of Ukrainian American descent had their exhibitions in this space after graduating from art schools. After the Soviet Union fell, artists from Ukraine began arriving in New York, where oftentimes their first exhibitions in the United States were held at the OMYA gallery.

In 1993 Slava Gerulak, an artist, joined Ms. Farion at the Ukrainian Artists Association Gallery as director of the Ukrainian Art and Literary Club, the umbrella organization for the Ukrainian Artists Association, and revived the earlier tradition of holding programs in the gallery on Friday evenings.

These programs complemented and enriched the exhibitions, which were in the gallery. Literary and musical evenings, lectures concerning Ukrainian art and culture, reenactments of rituals, political and historical commemorations and other cultural events were held. It was at this time that the gallery was renamed Mayana Gallery.

The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and the Ukrainian Artists Association have been vital cultural organizations for the Ukrainian diaspora, having hosted hundreds of exhibitions, lectures and other events. They invite the public to join them as they conclude their activities at their current location.

## FOR THE RECORD: ODVU letter to Congress on Jackson-Vanik Amendment and Ukraine

*Below is the text of a letter sent on February 24 to all members of the House of Representatives the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine (ODVU).*

As members of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, we, the officers and members of the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine respectfully request that you become a co-sponsor of H.R. 1053 as introduced by Rep. Jim Gerlach of Pennsylvania. H.R. 1053 urges the permanent removal of Ukraine from the trade restrictions of the outdated 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The U.S. administration has found Ukraine in full compliance with the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and, for years now, has been lifting the restrictions on a temporary basis. On November 18, 2005, the United States Senate passed by unanimous consent legislation to remove Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik restrictions on a permanent basis.

H.R. 1053 proposes to do the same. By removing Ukraine permanently from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment threat, the democratic forces in Ukraine will be

strengthened, thus producing strategic political and economic benefits for both the U.S.A. and Ukraine. Denying Ukraine such a permanent status will provide the well-organized anti-democratic forces with an anti-U.S.A. issue in the upcoming March 26 Ukrainian Parliamentary election.

The Ukrainian people and their recently elected reform government are struggling to rid themselves of corruption and the enemies within. Permanently graduating the Jackson-Vanik Amendment will provide powerful support for the Ukrainian government's efforts to stabilize and expand the economy, promote trade and foreign investments, as well as participate in the international marketplace.

Ukraine needs our support now; they need more carrots than sticks.

As Americans of Ukrainian heritage, we respectfully ask your support of the Ukrainian people and their long-awaited democratic form of government. We urge you to join the colleagues in the Congress of the United States of America in co-sponsoring H.R. 1053.

**Alexander Prociuk**, president

## House overwhelmingly...

(Continued from page 1)

issue of the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (known by its Ukrainian acronym as MAUP), which he said is "the principal source" of "anti-Semitic agitation" and a "disgrace to the civilized world."

However, he also pointed to Ukraine's commitment to defending the rights of all national minorities in Ukraine and noted that "a number of positive steps have been taken," pointing out that President Yushchenko had "condemned all manifestations of anti-Semitism and xenophobia" and Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk had "strongly condemned MAUP."

"The Ukrainian officials are acting in good faith ... and that is why I am supporting the lifting of the Jackson-Vanik amendment for Ukraine," Rep. Lantos said. At the same time, however, he called on the government of Ukraine to revoke MAUP's license.

### Coalition's reaction

Prior to the vote, the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition – which represents more than 250 businesses and Ukrainian American, Jewish American and other non-governmental organizations – held a press conference on Capitol Hill. Speakers included Reps. Gerlach, Weldon and Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), as well as coalition co-chairmen Ambassador Steven Pifer and Ambassador William Green Miller, and NCSJ Chairman Dr. Robert Meth.

Among other things, the speakers noted that the impending passage of HR 1053 – which had 61 co-sponsors – would recognize the progress that Ukraine has made along its path toward reform.

Later, the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition expressed its great appreciation to the House of Representatives for its passage of the bill. The coalition in particular noted the bipartisan leadership of Reps. Gerlach, Weldon and Levin. The coalition also cited the strong support of the House leadership and the White House in achieving passage of HR 1053.

In addition, the coalition expressed its appreciation for the leadership in the Senate of Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) in graduating

Ukraine from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The Jackson-Vanik Amendment was enacted in 1974 in reaction to the severe restrictions the Soviet Union had placed on emigration of its citizens, most notably those of Jewish descent. Since regaining its independence in 1991, Ukraine has built a strong record of open emigration and has fully met Jackson-Vanik's freedom of emigration requirements, a fact recognized by both Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. For more than a decade, Ukraine has been granted annual waivers of Jackson-Vanik trade restrictions.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation initiated the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition as a result of the U.S.-Ukraine Policy Dialogue. Several task forces within dialogue had identified the graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment as one of the priorities for strengthening U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Acting separately, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and its Washington bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service, also advocated the repeal of this measure for several years.

UNIS pointed out that "special mention must be made of Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-chairs Reps. Levin and Weldon." As noted by Rep. Levin. "We [the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and the Ukrainian community] have been working on this legislation for years ... This bill will spark further reforms in Ukraine." Rep. Weldon mentioned that the Jackson-Vanik Amendment has been "the No. 1 priority for the U.S. Congress-Ukrainian Parliament [Rada] exchange program for years."

A statement released by the American Jewish Committee also hailed the passage of HR 1053. "This landmark measure is a sound U.S. endorsement of democratic trends in Ukraine," said AJC Executive Director David A. Harris. "We look forward to President Bush signing the bill, for which he already has indicated his support."

The AJC, a leading advocate for strengthening democracy in the former Communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, in August 2005 sent a letter to all members of Congress urging the "graduation" of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

## Addendum

The story on the installation of the new Stamford eparch (February 26) did not mention the presence of the Ukrainian American Youth Association's president, Bohdan Harhay, and first vice-president, Genia Blaha.





# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## CONVENTION PRIMER: Districts, regional bodies of local branches

As the Ukrainian National Association, its officers and members prepare for the organization's 36th Regular Convention, which will convene on Friday, May 26, at the Soyuzivka estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y., *The Ukrainian Weekly* will publish a new series titled "Convention Primer" that will explain the UNA's goals, structure and operations.

The previous installment of "Convention Primer" dealt with UNA branches, which are the basic building blocks of the Ukrainian National Association. This week, we focus on district committees.

As noted in the UNA By-laws, "Branches may form regional bodies called district committees for the purpose of coordinating fraternal, cultural and organizational activities in a given geographical area, as provided in the Manual for District Committees."

That is the only reference to district committees in the by-laws. However, the Ukrainian National Association Manuals, a companion to the UNA By-Laws, further delineates the purposes of district committees.

These purposes include: to coordinate work and to intensify and extend the activities of the UNA within the district; to represent the UNA in the district's area among local citizens; to assist UNA branches in carrying out their functions; to jointly plan and conduct activities of an organizational, educational, cultural and recreational nature; and to conduct membership campaigns.

Furthermore, districts also have as their goal "to strengthen activities of the local Ukrainian community in every way possible, by organized participation of UNA Branches in its various activities and programs." Thus, UNA district committees are seen as integral parts of the broader Ukrainian community.

UNA district committees hold an annual assembly at which their executive boards and auditing committees are elected. These annual meetings are generally held in January or February. Each branch that is a member of a given district committee has two delegates to the annual assembly who have a right to vote; however, the meetings

(Continued on page 10)

## Longtime secretary of Branch 13, Paul Shewchuk, retires from office



WATERVLIET, N.Y. – Ukrainian National Association Branch 13, also known as St. Nicholas Brotherhood, is one of the oldest UNA branches in the United States. At the branch's annual elections meeting on February 19 at the Ukrainian Club in Watervliet, N.Y., longtime branch Secretary Paul Shewchuk (center) transferred the branch seal, the emblem of his office, to his successor Nicholas Fil (left). Looking on is Slavko Tysiak, the branch's new president. During the 40 years he served as branch secretary, Mr. Shewchuk enrolled over 300 members into the UNA.

### The annual meeting of UNA Branch 76

will be held on  
Thursday, March 16, 2006  
at 7:30 p.m. at the UNA Home Office,  
2200 Rt. 10, Parsippany, NJ.  
On the agenda: election of the dele-  
gates to the 36th UNA Convention.

Wasył Ciurpita, Branch President  
Michael Koziupa, Secretary

### The annual meeting of UNA Branch 358

will be held on  
Saturday, March 25, 2006  
at 2:00 p.m.  
at 5566 Pearl Rd., Parma, OH.  
On the agenda: election of the dele-  
gates to the 36th UNA Convention.

Dr. Zenon Holubec, Secretary

### UNA Branch 27 Meeting "Orlyk Society"

UNA Branch 27 will hold its annual  
meeting on Sunday, March 19, 2006,  
in the downstairs hall of  
St. John the Baptist Church  
719 Sanford Ave., Newark, NJ,  
at 11:00 a.m.

On the agenda: election of officers and  
a delegate to the 36th Regular  
Convention of the UNA

All members of Branch 27  
are welcome.

Christine Brodyn  
Branch Secretary

### Please be informed that the Annual Meeting of the Ukrainian National Association's Branch 345

will be held on Sunday, March 12, at 12:30  
p.m. in the auditorium of  
Sts. Michael's & George Ukrainian  
Orthodox Church  
505 4th St. N.E., Minneapolis, MN

Agenda includes: election of new officers  
and election of a delegate to the 36th  
Regular Convention of the UNA

In case the number of attending members  
will not make up the necessary quorum,  
the meeting will be held 1/2 hour later,  
regardless of the number of attendees.

For UNA Branch 345  
Michael Karkoc, Secretary

### TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 13

As of March 1, 2006, the secretary's duties of Branch 13 were assumed by Mr. Nicholas Fil. We ask all members of this Branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Nicholas Fil  
105 Latham Ridge Rd.  
Latham, NY 12110-3024  
(518) 785-7596

### IN MEMORIAM

### Genevieve Zerebniak

October 3, 1916 – February 11, 2006



The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to members of the General Assembly, members of Branch 180 and to the UNA membership at large that Genevieve Zerebniak died on February 11, 2006.

Genevieve Zerebniak held the position of branch secretary from 1935 to 1997, was supreme advisor in 1941-1950 and supreme vice-presidentess of the UNA in 1950-1958.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their deepest sympathy to her children, Harry, John and Ann, and the entire Zerebniak family. Mrs. Genevieve Zerebniak will be remembered as one of the major forces of UNA for her loyalty, dedication and many, many years of service.

Vichna Yiyi Pamiat!

### To the UNA membership:

\* In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, Article # 17, all Branches, District Committees and individual members are invited to submit their proposals for the good and welfare of the association to the UNA Executive Committee. These proposals will be reviewed and approved or revised, by the Executive Committee, which will then recommend them to the UNA Convention's Committee on Revisions of By-Laws for its consideration. That committee will then recommend to the convention what action should be taken. Please address such proposals to the Ukrainian National Association, Attn: Executive Committee, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054

\* Any proposals for amendments to the UNA By-Laws are to be submitted to the Committee on Revisions of By-Laws, which will consider the advisability of the change or revision suggested and will then present its recommendation for consideration by the Convention. Such proposals are to be submitted to the chairperson of the Pre-convention By-Laws Committee. Please forward proposals regarding By-Laws changes to the Ukrainian National Association, Attn: Taras Szmagala Jr., 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054

UNA Executive Committee



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Ukraine graduates

Speaking of establishing “a new era in Ukraine-U.S. relations,” newly inaugurated President Viktor Yushchenko said in his address to a joint meeting of Congress on April 6, 2005: “The time has come to make real steps towards each other.” Step 1, he said, was “to bury Cold War relics ... I am calling upon you to waive the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Please make this step towards Ukraine. Please tear down this wall.”

When Mr. Yushchenko assumed office in January of 2005, after the historic and unprecedented events of the Orange Revolution, most observers thought it was a sure thing that the U.S. would lift Jackson-Vanik’s trade restrictions. Well, it took more than a year, but it is about to happen. On March 8 the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved HR 1053, a bill to graduate Ukraine from the amendment’s provisions and grant it permanent normal trade relations (PNTR).

The Senate had approved a similar bill back in November 2005, and the Bush administration has spoken on more than one occasion of its support for the move. Thus, by the time this issue reaches our readers, the bill may have become law. (Observers were predicting speedy Senate action to approve the House measure and President’s George W. Bush’s signing of the bill into law as early as this Friday, March 10, while Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk is in Washington.)

HR 1053’s principal sponsor, Rep. Jim Gerlach, Republican of Pennsylvania, spoke on the House floor before the vote: “During the Orange Revolution of 2004, the whole world watched as the people of Ukraine protested allegations of massive corruption, voter intimidation and direct electoral fraud. And they sent a clear message that, regardless of these obstacles, they wanted and supported with their votes a pro-democracy, pro-reform candidate for president, Viktor Yushchenko. This election highlighted the commitment of the Ukrainian people to a free and prosperous democracy and the country, overnight, became a role model for an entire region. Since the election, the government has remained committed to broad-based reform and economic liberalization.”

Passage of his bill, Rep. Gerlach continued, “strongly reaffirms our long-term partnership and support as Ukraine continues down the path of reform and democracy.”

Indeed, passage of HR 1053 by the House comes at a crucial time for Ukraine as the country’s parliamentary elections are, as of the date of this issue, only two weeks away. Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), a staunch supporter of Ukraine who co-chairs the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, underscored: “This sends a signal that Ukraine now has the full and equal respect of the government and of the people of the United States.”

Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.), one of the 61-co-sponsors of the bill, commented: “I never forgot the sensible appeal that President Yushchenko made last year during his speech before a joint session of Congress to open our trade market to Ukraine. Passage of this legislation represents a rapidly developing relationship between the United States and Ukraine.”

Clearly, credit for Ukraine’s graduation goes to the administration of President Yushchenko. But, major credit must also go to the lobbying efforts of Ukrainian Americans and their allies – most notably the 250-member Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition chaired by two former ambassadors to Ukraine, Steven Pifer and William Green Miller, that brought together a diverse group of businesses, Ukrainian American and Jewish American groups, as well as NGOs. And, we must not forget the very valuable work of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus on this issue.

With its granting of market-economy status to Ukraine, the signing of a bilateral agreement on market access (a major step toward Ukraine’s accession to the World Trade Organization) and the imminent establishment of permanent normal trade relations with Ukraine, the United States has made clear and unambiguous its support for Ukraine as it continues its development as a democratic state.

March  
13  
2005

## Turning the pages back...

One year ago, our Washington correspondent, Yaro Bihun, reported on a briefing by Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on developments in Ukraine. At the briefing, Sen. Lugar discussed his long

involvement in Ukrainian affairs, but focused primarily on the recent presidential election process, during which he was President George W. Bush’s special representative to Ukraine.

Sen. Lugar arrived in Kyiv a few days before the second round with what he described as a “tactful but rather stern” letter to President Leonid Kuchma from President Bush about U.S. concerns over the gross violations evident in the first round. Noting that Washington was expecting that this would not be repeated in the second round, the letter indicated that, otherwise, there would be “substantial consequences” for the bilateral relationship.

He said that, as the polls closed, it was obvious that in their determination to guarantee a victory by Viktor Yanukovich in the second round, his supporters outdid themselves in the use of multiple voting. Sen. Lugar indicated that these results “could not have occurred without overt complicity of the government in the result.”

Fortunately, he said, within a week the Verkhovna Rada and the Supreme Court of Ukraine weighed in and set the stage for the deciding third round.

Now that a new, democratically elected Yushchenko government is in power in Ukraine, he said, Congress and the administration are discussing “what do we do as a country.”

It is important, he said, for the U.S. to pay attention to developments in Ukraine, which “offers an extraordinary opportunity in terms of the strength of the people, well-educated, lots of talent, badly in need of capital, very much in need of political support on all fronts.”

“I am certain that we will give it,” he underscored.

Source: “Sen. Lugar underscores that Ukraine deserves U.S. support,” by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 13, 2005, Vol. LXXIII, No. 11.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

# Medical association membership continues to grow, nearing 500

by George Hrycelak

CHICAGO – The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) is experiencing continued growth in participants, reaching another milestone with 481 active members in 2005. This is the fourth consecutive year of rising membership, with excellent prospects for continuing expansion.

A broad range of new members is seeking representation by UMANA, the largest professional organization in the Ukrainian diaspora. Applicants in 2005 included five medical residents, two students, five members of affiliated health professions, and four associate physicians recently arrived from Ukraine. In addition to the influx of applicants, UMANA has witnessed a reactivation of many dormant members, many of whom have been inactive for years and in some cases, decades.

Increased visibility of UMANA activity in the U.S. and Canadian press, as well as a greater presence on the Internet, underscored the importance of publicity and networking in recruiting new members. To ease information exchange, UMANA’s website, [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org), will include, in the next few months, a simultaneously translated version in the Ukrainian language. One goal of the site will be to serve as a central repository of UMANA’s publications, member directory and news sources, all available in real time.

The recent successful scientific convention in Edmonton has energized Canadian colleagues, with a resurgence of activity in the Toronto and Edmonton branches of UMANA. The Canadian component reinforces the concept envi-

sioned by UMANA’s early founders of encompassing health care practitioners of Ukrainian descent in the entirety of North America.

First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko’s visit to Chicago in October of 2005 brought into focus the various possibilities inherent in a large, cohesive organization working with its counterparts in Ukraine to elevate and refine the level of health care on a global scale. Contacts of this type may give UMANA branches and members opportunities to cooperate on projects of medical scientific exchange with health care counterparts in Ukraine.

Administratively, UMANA continues to realize its goal of transparency and publicity in all organizational transactions. Regular board meetings continue to include branch presidents and representatives of all standing committees. Yearly budgets are painstakingly reviewed, approved and generally adhered to. The central office remains the main clearinghouse and database for inquiries from members and the public. A dedicated on-site executive director remains key to coordinating the innumerable daily telephone calls, faxes, e-mails and walk-in visitors arriving at the Chicago office.

UMANA President Andrew Iwach, M.D., said “We are definitely moving in the right direction. I am confident that there are many more health care professionals out there who would feel at home in the new UMANA.”

For further information about UMANA, see [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org) or call (773) 278-6262.

# The importance of graduating Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik

by Michael Bleyzer

As a former direct beneficiary of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, I strongly believe that the time has long come to graduate Ukraine from its provisions. At the time of its original passage in 1974, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment was directed against the Soviet Union, a country that no longer exists. Ukraine has been an independent nation since 1991 and it is an entirely different country today than the Soviet Union was in 1974.

I emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1978 and came to the United States of America later that year as a political refugee. I became a United States citizen in 1983 and had never thought that I would be able to go back to the country where I was born, much less do business there. I also thought that I would never be able to forgive that country for all the harassment and intimidation it had inflicted upon me as a Soviet Jew.

However, the world has changed a lot since that time. After a 15-year career at Exxon and Ernst & Young, I founded SigmaBleyzer in 1994. We have been successfully working in Ukraine for 12 years now and have become the largest private equity investor in the country. Over the last 10 years, SigmaBleyzer has invested over \$150 million in the

Michael Bleyzer is president and CEO of SigmaBleyzer, based in Houston.

Ukrainian economy. Our new \$250 million private equity fund is now operational in Ukraine.

While Ukraine is facing many challenges in sustaining its fast-paced economic growth and stabilizing its political environment post-Orange Revolution, human rights is clearly not one of those challenges. Since independence, Ukraine has dramatically improved its human rights record and while the country still has various fringe elements that advocate ethnic tension and anti-Semitism, there is also an incredible revival of Jewish life in Ukraine, which I have personally witnessed.

Having worked actively in Ukraine for 12 years, I do not find its human rights and emigration record to be different from most democratic countries, including the United States of America.

I also find it personally offensive when provisions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which was so crucial in enabling Jewish emigration from the USSR (including my own), are being used to exert pressure on Ukraine in other areas completely unrelated to the original intent of Jackson-Vanik. I, therefore, believe that Ukrainian graduation from Jackson-Vanik is long overdue.

The new democratic post-Orange Revolution Ukraine needs the support of the United States. Removing Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik provisions is a critical priority now.



## COMMENTARY

# An admonition and overview about investment in Ukraine

by Richard A. Shepard

In Ukraine the period since December 2004 has generated emotions ranging from elation following the successful Orange Revolution, to frustration and huge disappointment among those who felt that the events at the end of 2004 signalled a complete break with the past.

Neither of these two conclusions, among many others, was or is reality-based.

The economic, social, legal and political structures, although shaken and modified, remain challenges to be addressed and are not susceptible to euphoric sloganeering, patriotic songs or fictional certitudes. Those who think that enacting new laws and regulations is enough to overturn attitudinal beliefs are simply not being practical.

Since independence Ukraine has put into place a vast number of new laws that should promote economic development and investment. The laws include a new Civil Code, Commercial Code, Economic Code, Land Code, Law on Financial Leasing and Law on Bankruptcy, to name but a few.

However, issues remain – not the least of which are the contradictory provisions among these laws and their implementing regulations. Hanging over the moves to implement a market economy through enactment of laws is the restraining influence of a culture of corruption that arose prior to independence and continues in various forms today – although far less than some believe or would like to believe. Further hindering faster investment, both local and foreign, is the regulatory bureaucracy that fosters rent seeking (the process by which an individual or firm seeks to profit by manipulation of

*Richard A. Shepard is a director of Vesselka LLC, a Delaware limited liability company with an office in New Jersey and presence in Kyiv with over 30 years' senior management experience in multi-national companies and private consulting.*

*He has lived in Ukraine since 2001 and was regional director of the Eurasia Foundation through 2003. In that capacity he was responsible for managing a \$4 million annual budget and providing funds to support non-governmental organizations in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova for business development, civil society and regulatory reform.*

*From 1994 to 1997 he was senior legal advisor and then project director in the Russian Federation implementing the development of a real estate information system in six cities. Between 1998 and 2001 he also was project director for a real estate market reform and title registration project in Armenia. Armenia remains the only country in the CIS with a nationwide, electronic title registration and mapping system guaranteed by the government.*

*Mr. Shepard has also provided consulting services to the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development in Macedonia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Russia and Ghana. Vesselka LLC concentrates its activities on identifying, managing and consulting on a variety of investment opportunities in Ukraine with an emphasis on small and medium enterprises engaged in high-medium tech industries and the service sector.*

*He may be contacted at [rshepard@justice.com](mailto:rshepard@justice.com).*

the economic environment) and, above all, reflects a generational need for control.

The bad news, to be blunt, is that a generation that lived, learned and came into controlling positions at all levels of central and local government during the 1980s must fade away or, in some cases, be pushed out, before rapid change can take place. The good news is that the process is under way and with experienced assistance, investors can and do create successful businesses in Ukraine.

In the first six months of 2005, investment houses, law firms and businesses all witnessed a significant increase in investor interest in Ukraine relative to that which existed between 2001 and 2004. Nevertheless, many potential investors visiting during the past year were still extremely hesitant to commit funds, and planes that are filled flying to Prague, Budapest and Warsaw arrive half empty to Kyiv. The reasons are varied and include a perceived instability in the government and, incorrectly, an equally unstable business environment.

The perception was reinforced by the frequent prevarication by the competent but apparently leadership-challenged President Viktor Yushchenko and the sacking of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and the Cabinet. These same investors continued to point out that they would need to wait until the next election in March to see what government emerged.

It will make little difference. Power struggles in the government are not new and will continue – particularly if Our Ukraine does not win a majority and must form a minority government.

But, investors should be reminded that the strongest growth of the Ukrainian economy took place under the less than democratic rule of President Leonid Kuchma, a regime that was riddled with extreme corruption although seemingly stable. Furthermore, many successful investments – one need only look at Eric's Family of restaurants and clubs, Nestle, Coca-Cola and others – were started during far less appetizing times.

Real estate investments, executed properly, have been remarkably successful in the past two years, notwithstanding the recent scandal resulting in the loss of up to \$100 million in a pyramid scheme involving apartment construction. In the case of the latter, investors must remember that the elaborate secondary and tertiary financing of these apartments combined with the probable lack of any serious due diligence, constituted an exceedingly perilous investment. It is not the norm, though the ripple effect will damage the industry.

However, waiting until "Ukraine is ready," as I have heard on numerous occasions lately, is to advocate a waiting game where the investor, not businesses looking for investment, is perpetually moving the goal posts. Ukraine is not for the risk-averse. But, risks can be managed, pitfalls avoided and investments made profitable with hard work, a realistic understanding that money must be spent for lawyers and advisors, and not a little bit of patience. For those looking for high returns with no risk – well, such a world does not exist. Invest in U.S. government bonds or put your money in a CD.

For those willing to take a deep breath

(Continued on page 14)

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



## Esteeming Eugene Iwanciw

The thing about Eugene Iwanciw was that he cared for others. Too much, some might say.

Gene cared about his family, of course, and his work. But most of all he cared about the Ukrainian people.

Gene Iwanciw, who passed away unexpectedly and tragically on February 25 at age 53, was a rare individual, one of the few outstanding Ukrainian American activists of his generation.

Joining SUSTA (Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations) during his college years at Georgetown University, Gene was eventually elected national president. Energetic and determined, he worked assiduously to promote the organization on various college campuses. Under Gene's leadership, SUSTA, in cooperation with TUSM (Ukrainian Mykola Mikhnovsky Student Society), then headed by Askold Lozynskyj, issued a national proclamation calling on all Ukrainian businesses to close down on January 22, 1974, in observance of Ukraine's then nascent human rights crusade.

Remaining in Washington for most of his professional life, Gene was one of the first Ukrainians to work in the U.S. Senate. He initially served on the staff of Conservative Party Sen. James Buckley of New York. Later, he worked for Republican Sen. Harrison Schmitt of New Mexico. It was during his time with Sen. Schmitt that Gene took to wearing cowboy boots.

The son of Michael Iwanciw, a longtime UNA activist, Eugene became active in the UNA and was elected to the UNA Supreme Assembly in 1974 at age 22, the youngest person ever to ascend to that once-coveted position. After serving as an advisor for 20 years, he was elected UNA second vice-president at the 2002 UNA Convention in Chicago.

In 1977, at a time when there was a growing Ukrainian presence in both the U.S. Senate and the White House, Eugene, Taras Szmagala Sr., then a legislative aide to Sen. Bob Taft (R-Ohio), and I, then a special assistant to President Gerald R. Ford, planned what would have been another first for Ukrainians in America. Soon after the release of Ukrainian dissident Leonid Plyushch by the Soviets, the three of us planned to have Sens. Buckley and Taft present Mr. Plyushch to President Ford in the Oval Office. It was to be a great photo opportunity on behalf of Ukrainian dissidents speaking out against Soviet repression.

Confident that all was in order, we eagerly looked forward to the event. As I came out of the Ukrainian church on the Sunday before the introduction was scheduled, a parishioner ran up to me excitedly and asked, "Did you hear what Plyushch said last night?"

"No," I replied.

"He made a public appeal on behalf of the children of convicted Soviet spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg," I was informed. Shocked, I rushed to my office to verify the information and learned, to my dismay, that Mr. Plyushch had indeed parroted the Soviet line regarding the traitorous Rosenbergs. Fearing that he might mention the Rosenbergs to President Ford as well, I called Gene and Taras, and we reluctantly agreed to scuttle our carefully planned event.

The three of us, all UNA advisors at the

time, joined forces again in May of 1977 to coordinate the so-called "UNA Day on the Hill" during which some 150 UNA members, from New York to Arizona, traveled to Washington to meet with their representatives and senators and to attend a congressional reception sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole and the UNA. The goal was to inform Congress of the plight of Ukrainian human rights activists. We organized another successful UNA human rights rally on Capitol Hill on October 5, 1978. Some 50 U.S. lawmakers attended that affair.

A persistent advocate of Ukrainian visibility in our nation's capital, Eugene wrote columns for The Ukrainian Weekly under the heading "Influence in Washington." His dream of a permanent Ukrainian presence in Washington became a reality in 1988 when the UNA Executive Committee appointed him director of the newly established UNA Office in the nation's capital. He remained director until 1995 when the office was closed due to lack of funds. It was an immense loss for the community.

Eugene Iwanciw headed the UNA Washington Office at a crucial time in Ukraine's history. Following Ukraine's 1991 declaration of independence, he met with and worked with representatives of the new Ukrainian government, informing them of the way our government works. Unfortunately, many of Ukraine's early officials were mediocre at best, avaricious at worse. Arriving in the United States for the first time, some seemed to be more interested in "shopping" than in promoting Ukraine's interests. Ignorant of American ways and dismissive of our Ukrainian American community, these so-called representatives did little to advance the Ukrainian cause. Biting his tongue, Gene worked with them as best he could.

The young Mr. Iwanciw's lobbying efforts on behalf of Ukraine continued long after the UNA office was closed. He was the permanent UNA representative on the Washington-based Central and East European Coalition, for example. All of his later work, most of which remains unheralded, was pro-bono. Did Ukraine ever reward him? No. His greatest disappointment occurred after the election of President Viktor Yushchenko when the new government by-passed him to hire an American lobbying firm to present the Ukrainian case.

Another thing about Gene is that while he cared about Ukraine, he neglected to take care of himself. Friends warned him of the consequences but Gene was Gene.

To honor his memory, the UNA has established the Eugene Iwanciw Heritage Scholarship Fund. The fund will be used to reward graduating high school seniors who show promise as future community leaders. We can best esteem Gene by sending a donation today to the Ukrainian National Foundation – Eugene Iwanciw Scholarship Fund at the UNA, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

A final thing about Eugene Iwanciw is that we have no one who can take his place. Like Jim Mace who also died too young, Eugene was a community treasure. He was informed, creative and indefatigable. No one represented his generation more admirably. Vichna Yomu Pamiat!

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is: [kuropas@comcast.net](mailto:kuropas@comcast.net).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘Wormwood Forest’ and nuclear energy

Dear Editor:

Nuclear energy, its proponents like to tell us, is “clean” energy. In the case of Ukraine, proponents also push the idea that building more atomic energy stations will “save” Ukraine from being dependent on Russian oil. They don’t like to talk about Three-Mile Island or Chornobyl. They don’t like to talk about the fact that it is impossible to expect someone never to make a mistake at work (e.g., nuclear power plant operators). They don’t like to talk about seismic activity under power plants (e.g., California). And they really don’t like to talk about the problem of disposing of nuclear waste.

Nuclear power barons in the U.S., including members of Congress, want very much to build more nuclear power stations both in the U.S. and in Ukraine. The upcoming 20th anniversary of the world’s worst nuclear disaster on April 26, therefore, is a public relations problem for these magnates, and they must want very much to suppress these unhappy memories to help smooth the way for doing business in both countries.

Coincidentally, Mary Mycio’s “Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chornobyl” has come along and seems to put a best foot forward for nuclear energy. The animals in the zone are fine, and it

seems that Chornobyl today even has three bars in the area! There are professional-looking tables showing the health effects on the liquidators. There is no mention, however, that the original liquidators of Chornobyl were not all volunteers. There is no mention of the macabre, Soviet-era nickname “chemists,” given to those unfortunate religious and human rights dissidents who were forced to help clean up Chornobyl as punishment. But there is an assurance that the health effects of the liquidators are being carefully monitored. How the current administration is doing this is not explained.

Some other things not found in this allegedly authoritative work are footnotes. When queried on this point at her recent appearance in Washington, the author noted that the book’s publisher, Joseph Henry Press, deleted Ms. Mycio’s citations in her original manuscript because “the public doesn’t like footnotes.” Apparently neither the Joseph Henry Press nor the author has heard about such editorial amenities as endnotes.

No mention is made at all of the International Atomic Energy Agency and its infamous study that attempted to gloss over Chornobyl’s aftereffects on human health and to popularize the idea that they were merely the population’s radiophobia.

It’s a sad thing if Ms. Mycio has allowed herself to become the handmaiden of the nuclear power industry, but it seems to be a definite agenda here. Joseph Henry Press is

an imprint of the National Academies Press, the publishing arm of the National Academy of Sciences, which operates under a charter from the U.S. Congress.

Natalka Gawdiak  
Columbia, Md.

Thanks for article on Tbilisi school

Dear Editor:

Please accept my thanks for publishing the article “A look at the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Ukrainian School in Tbilisi” by Yuriy Diakunchak in your January 22 edition.

Arising from the article, we have received a generous check from Mr. and Mrs. A. Traska of Keedysville, Md. As I am leaving for Tbilisi, Georgia, on February 13, I will hand-deliver the check to the school administrator, Anna Matvieva. The funds will help to keep the students warm and the needy fed.

I call upon the generosity of the Ukrainian Americans to join the Traskas to ensure that the Ukrainian diaspora, in general, and the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Ukrainian School, in particular, remain a permanent future of Georgian society.

Walter M. Kudryk  
Toronto

The letter-writer is Georgia’s honorary consul in Canada.

More on the term “nationalism”

Dear Editor:

Regarding the terms “nationalism” and “nationalists,” as brought out in the article by your correspondent, Zenon Zawada, “Yevhen Stakhiv returns ...” (July 10, 2005) and in R.B. Worobec’s “Pejorative meaning of nationalists” (December 11, 2005), permit me to offer some comments.

Messrs. Zawada, Stakhiv and Worobec are entitled to their views, as are all of us. However, when serious allegations of wrongdoing, and statements trivializing concepts, ideas and even ideals – long respected not only by fair-minded and patriotic Ukrainians, but by civilized people of the world – then that constitutes another issue.

It becomes particularly hurtful when scurrilous or denigrating remarks, in form of sweeping, generalizing statements, in the guise of some kind of assessment, without the presentation of valid specifics, are voiced by Ukrainians who have a role within the Ukrainian community. It seems that Mr. Worobec is greatly concerned with the “pejorative connotation” of anything nationalistic; also, that the freedom fighters during World War II (who, as is well-known, were sustained by the very idea of nationalism and the ideology emanating from it) cannot be so designated (i.e., nationalists), for the reason that it would be “too simplistic.” Undoubtedly, a novel way of thinking.

What may be in vogue in the present-day press, which largely lowered its values and standards (look no further than The New York Times), brings no credit to this otherwise respected field and profession. How easy it is now to ignore historical facts, or to speak about them out of ignorance. Reliable source materials are accessible. A starting point may be a good, English-language dictionary, where one finds a comprehensive definition of nationalism.

Orest Subtelny, in his work “Ukraine, a History,” devoted a substantial number

of pages to nationalism as an ideology, which propelled the resistance forces of the various Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) formations.

Mr. Zawada would have significantly enhanced his article had he elaborated upon some pronouncements by Mr. Stakhiv, about whom he wrote. In particular, the latter’s equating nationalism with totalitarianism must be noted.

Perhaps some facts of common knowledge merit mentioning here, to aid in clarifying this issue. As Ukraine, in the exceedingly difficult circumstances, was searching for ways to defend itself from Stalin’s regime and then from Hitler’s, as well as other neighboring enemies, nationalism was clearly a building force of resistance, obviously not one of siding or emulating any totalitarian entity. Should specific references to abuses in organizational control be cited (and they were not, in the mentioned articles), these did not and could not have diminished the value of nationalism as a concept and as an ideological movement, carried on so valiantly and for so long. Otherwise, the readers of Mr. Zawada’s article understood that there is only one meaning and/or interpretation of the term, as formulated by Mr. Stakhiv.

It is regrettable that Ukrainian scholars, perhaps missing the above-mentioned articles, have kept silent. Their input as to the historical accuracy and objectivity in them would have been appreciated. Yet, memoirs and researched documentation exist and are available. In such situations, when terms are bandied about loosely, truth becomes the primary victim, and it ought to be illuminated with all the relevant evidence. An excellent example of this is the achievements of Dr. Taras Hunczak, as reflected in his many works, and recently in his article “Metropolitan Sheptytsky ...” (January 29).

I believe that the numbers of Ukrainian nationalists (in the true sense of the word, and those that were subsequently in the organized movement) who were annihilated by all the enemies of Ukraine, following the destruction of the Ukrainian National Republic and up to the fall of the Soviet Union, can be only estimated.

Yet if the “doubters” and the “deniers” of nationalism would ponder and visualize only one event out of that horrific period, this could possibly lead them to a “spiritual renewal.” I have in mind a vision of a solitary man, the distinguished poet, scholar and nationalist leader Oleh Olzhych, chained to a cement floor, dying in a pool of blood after tortures in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in 1944. He did not betray either his country or his Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, or his comrades-in-arms. Some of us respect such figures of our time, and the ideology for which they stood, to the end.

On a personal note: as a 5-year-old youngster I was keenly aware of events around me; during the war we grew up too fast. Tossed among my memories are images of soldiers of both occupiers, the Bolsheviks and the Germans, the young faces of the Ukrainian resistance organization in Volyn, and one funeral. It was a close person, my young and handsome uncle-to-be. With a number of comrades he fell in battle, defending a village from vicious and persistent attacks by an enemy underground force. No one told those thousands of young men and women – the “tsvit Ukrainy” of that time – that nationalism was somehow “bad.”

Lest the ultimate sacrifice of many of them will have been in vain, may we remember them with reverence and respect, and leave the rewriting of history to the totalitarian minds.

Oksana Bakum  
Highland, N.Y.

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Завваги.....

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.....

Підпис батька або матері



# Ukrainian educators visit U.S. to study American testing system

by Natalia and Ihor Lysyj

AUSTIN, Texas – A group of Ukrainian educators visited the United States in January to study the American system of educational testing, both in secondary schools and at the university level. The goal is to establish a common testing program for Ukraine in order to create a meritorious system based on talent and academic preparation rather than on personal connections and the ability to pay bribes for access to education.

This group of visitors was invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The program began in Washington, with an introduction to the U.S. federal system of government. In addition, the Washington program provided the participants with an opportunity to visit educational testing centers, university boards, high schools and companies that offer preparatory courses for tests.

The program also addressed the role of professional associations to support education, the role of educational testing in fair and open admissions policies, financing of higher education and admissions processing, and administration and management of institutions of higher education.

Of special interest to the visitors was the role of and the differentiation between the functions of the government, non-government organizations (NGOs) and local communities in secondary and higher education, and the methodologies used to improve standards in educational testing.

Understanding the intricacies of American educational testing was very important to the visitors as Ukraine's current system of access to education left over from Soviet times is still run from the top down by a massive and graft-ridden bureaucracy.

The visiting educators were chosen to represent the territory of Ukraine, from Lutsk in the west to Kharkiv in the east. The group, ranging in age between 36 and 45, included Dr. Ihor Kotsan, rector of Volyn National University in Lutsk; Vadim Lunachek, rector of Kharkiv Regional Scientific and Methodological Institute for Continuous Education, who is also deputy head of the Educational Department, Kharkiv Municipal Council; Dr. Liudmyla Parashchenko, director of the Lyceum of Finance in Kyiv, who is also president of the School Directors Association; and Dr. Liliya Hranevych, director of Lviv Secondary School No. 28, who is also director of the Testing Technologies Center. Also with the group was the ever-present Tetiana Galkovska, a journalist for the newspaper Dzerkalo Tyzhnia published in Kyiv, who was covering the trip for the press.

After leaving Washington, the group headed to Jacksonville, Fla., where the educators visited local high schools to study the testing systems on the secondary school level, and enjoyed answering questions from students about Ukraine. The group was duly impressed by the beautiful design of bridges that span the rivers and waterways of the Jacksonville area. (Some of these were designed by Ukrainian American Wolodymyr Sharko.)

From Jacksonville the group traveled on January 20 to Austin, Texas, for a visit at the University of Texas, one of the largest campuses in the United States in terms of enrollment. Here the group had discussions with the faculty and admissions administrators about the intricacies of university admission in the United States.

Thanks to the International Hospitality Council of Austin, visitors met with a small group of Ukrainian Americans at the home of Ihor and Natalia Lysyj in Austin. Without the need of State Department translators, who were given a night off, lively discussion in Ukrainian took place touching on educational testing as well as current issues and problems of academic life in Ukraine. Ms. Lysyj shared with the group her personal work experience at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J., and subsequent testing experiences at the California State University system.

Chrystia Wynnyk Wilson related her experiences with SATs and other testing programs while she was a student in the New York University system, and also about her sons' testing programs in Austin secondary schools. Andrew Zwarun, professor of agriculture at Southwest Texas State University, related his personal experience with tests and learning, having gone through the American educational system.

Mr. Lysyj then turned the discussion to the status of the Ukrainian language in secondary schools and institutions of higher education. According to the visitors, progress is being made in implementing the use of the Ukrainian language in the educational system of the country.

Mr. Lunyachek, deputy head of the Educational Department of the Kharkiv Municipal Council, indicated that in the early 1990s there were only two secondary schools in Kharkiv where the language of instruction was Ukrainian. Today approximately 60 percent of the secondary schools in Kharkiv use the Ukrainian language, about 20 percent are bilingual (Ukrainian and Russian), and about 20 percent are taught in Russian. In western Ukraine almost all schools are taught in Ukrainian, according to Mr. Kotsan.

There are problems with the Ukrainization of the education system in Ukraine. While students are taught in Ukrainian in school many students speak Russian, the language of their parents, at home. There is also the matter of the proposed introduction of the Russian language as the second state language. This idea is being actively pursued by the pro-Russian political bloc in the Ukrainian Parliament.

The discussion also touched on the history of Ukrainian immigration and the preservation of language and culture in the diaspora. The guests were very much interested in the topic and genuinely surprised at the extent of the contributions that the diaspora has made toward the preservation and advancement of Ukrainian culture and language – essential elements of nationhood.

After exposure to some Texas cultural and scenic attractions, the group traveled to Princeton, N.J., for a visit at the Educational Testing Service, where the group was looking for assistance in establishing procedures



Educators from Ukraine during a meeting with Ukrainian American community members in Austin, Texas.

for the writing, administering and scoring of testing programs for Ukraine.

The Testing Technologies Center (TTC) in Ukraine has been supported as an NGO by the Soros Foundation. However, funds from these sources are expiring, and TTC

is seeking support and guidance from American and international communities. Such assistance is needed for efforts to pioneer an independent and unbiased system of testing and school admissions based on merit and talent.

## Car Raffle and Cabaret Night

The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey is conducting its first annual car raffle. This is your chance to win a 2006 Lexus ES-330. Proceeds will benefit the construction of the cultural center in Whippany, New Jersey which is slated for completion this year. The car will be awarded on April 1st during our Cabaret Night fund-raising event.

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# Orange Revolution...

(Continued from page 1)

Asya in London, or remain in Kyiv with Ivanna and join the Orange Revolution.

As he's pursuing Ivanna, Mark witnesses and begins to appreciate the sacrifices common Ukrainians are making on behalf of the Orange Revolution, thus becoming conscious of a Ukrainian spirit that he never knew before.

"(The revolution) was a time when relations developed quickly and people thought quickly given that society was in an extreme situation of heightened stress," Mr. Butusov said. "It was what brought Ukraine fame and, at the same time, enriched the spirit in each of us."

Though the film is primarily a love story, it is also highly political, casting the Orange Revolution in a favorable light and the Kuchma government as oppressive.

Those anxious to relive the historic events are treated to scenes from the revo-

lution, both recorded and re-enacted.

Scenes occur at the Khreschatyk's tent city, the Central Election Commission, the Presidential Administration building (now known as the Secretariat) and the Cabinet of Ministers building.

Ivanna gives Viktor Yushchenko a bouquet of flowers in one scene that was actually filmed on Freedom Day, the revolution's first anniversary celebrated on the "maidan," Kyiv's Independence Square.

But most events are fictitious since "from the very start, we never said this was a film about the Orange Revolution," Mr. Butusov said. "It's better to do a documentary about the revolution," he said. "We did not make a film based on real-life events."

Okean Elzy fans will gain exceptional enjoyment from the film, which includes several of the group's songs in its soundtrack.

"Pomarancheve Nebo" was produced

on a \$500,000 budget, said producer Yaroslav Mendus, a long-time ally of Oleksander Moroz and loyal member of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, which contributed a large portion of the film's financing.

As a result, the Socialist Party included a 30-second political advertisement in which Mr. Moroz visits the tent city and memorializes the slain journalist, Heorhii Gongadze.

Mr. Mendus declined to comment on which businessmen within the party provided the financing.

Minister of Internal Affairs and Socialist Party member Yurii Lutsenko denied the film was released as a political ad during the election campaign. March 1 happened to be Mr. Moroz's birthday. "It's a small, simple gift," Mr. Lutsenko said.

Many didn't believe such a young team of film-makers could make a quality movie in such a short period of time — half a year, Mr. Mendus said.

The film's creators could have taken a simpler approach and invited a Russian crew, Mr. Butusov said. "Their film

industry is well-established, their production methods are developed, the production company Mosfilm is not any worse than Hollywood studios," he said.

"As much as our task was to create a pure Ukrainian project, since we believed that it was entirely possible, we went down a more nerve-wracking, demanding path," he said.

Cinema is in discussions to distribute the film in theaters and on video in Poland, Finland and even the Russian Federation, Mr. Mendus said.

As to why many of the leading roles were given to Russians and even a Finn, Mr. Butusov said, given that a Ukrainian film industry doesn't exist, actors and actresses were either inadequate or unavailable for many of the roles.

When asked at a February 28 press conference what he thought of the Orange Revolution, Mr. Lymariiev said the Ukrainian people "found the strength to stand up and that demands great respect."

"I am a pacifist and I am against revolutions and revolts, but sometimes it's necessary," he added.

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## Volodymyr Lytvyn's...

(Continued from page 3)

gal for judges to engage in politics, Mr. Lozowy said.

### Political strategy

The electoral list for Lytvyn's People's Bloc is a collection of wealthy businessmen, many of whom had ties to former President Leonid Kuchma or supported him outright. Mr. Lytvyn himself was Mr. Kuchma's right-hand man for six years, first as Presidential Administration chair and then as Verkhovna Rada chairman.

Few, if any, political positions are identifiable with the Lytvyn's People's Bloc.

Similarly to Mr. Kuchma, Mr. Lytvyn maintains close relations with the Russian Federation and supports pro-Russian policies, while simultaneously advocating Ukraine's accession to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In the Verkhovna Rada last year, Lytvyn's People's Bloc voted against measures that would enable Ukraine's membership into the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Lytvyn hasn't expressed support for granting the Russian language government status.

When asked by a Russian reporter whether he considered himself in the opposition to the Yekhanurov government, Mr. Lytvyn replied, "No. I'm working."

### Campaign strategy

Mr. Lytvyn's campaign strategy is entirely built upon his carefully tailored image as the moderate, neutralizing factor in Ukrainian politics. One popular television ad shows a calm, resolute Mr. Lytvyn amidst a blurred image of national deputies battling each other.

Even the immense "My" campaign has no political message. The "My" billboards and magazine advertisements are simply photographs that show Ukrainians at their best, whether celebrating Christmas with their families, studying in a lecture hall or working in a textile factory.

Such images are intended to appeal to Ukrainians sense of nostalgia for their younger days when life was stable and simpler, said Ihor Balynskyi, editor-in-chief of the Zakhidna Informatsiyna Corp., an informational-analytical news agency based in Lviv.

"Lytvyn has declared himself the third force, trying to attract people who are nostalgic for Soviet stability who are disappointed with the new government," Mr. Balynskyi said. "He is showing that he wants to develop Ukraine without any radical changes."

Mr. Lytvyn's bloc has poured \$4.6 million into the "My" advertising campaign between November 26, 2005, and February 17, according to Freedom of Choice, a coalition of Ukrainian civic groups.

The investment appears to have paid off.

Polls demonstrate Lytvyn's People's Bloc will qualify for the Verkhovna Rada with between 4 and 6 percent of the vote.

According to the National Institute for Strategic Research, a government agency that performs work for the President and his Secretariat, the Lytvyn's People's Bloc has 5 percent support among the electorate.

The Western-financed Democratic Initiatives Foundation estimated support for the Lytvyn's People's Bloc at 4 percent.

"Lytvyn's ads are exceptionally expertly done," Mr. Balynskyi said. "He has surprisingly climbed the election field."

## Convention primer...

(Continued from page 5)

are open to all UNA members.

The district executive board is composed of a chairperson, two vice-chairpersons, English- and Ukrainian-language secretaries, a treasurer and chairs of committees that deal with organizational and cultural-educational affairs, as well as the press. Districts may appoint chairs of other committees as deemed necessary, and they may reduce the number of officers on the board if they so choose.

As well, there is a district auditing committee that comprises a chair, two

members and two alternates who audit the district's bookkeeping and report their findings to the annual assembly.

The district executive board is required to report to the UNA Executive Committee directly after its annual assembly, providing information on its newly elected officers and bodies, as well as a copy of the minutes of the annual meeting.

In addition to the annual assembly, it has become traditional for district committees to hold organizing meetings once a year in order to focus on the enrollment of members into the UNA.

—Roma Hadzewycz



# Ternopil and Iowa universities continue academic cooperation

by Barbara McBrean

AMES, Iowa – Roman Hevko, dean of agricultural economics and management at Ternopil State University of Economics, visited Ames, Iowa, in early February to share ideas and learn more about the academic structure of Iowa State University.

"It's of great interest to me to understand how Iowa State University functions, how students choose courses, how many classes they take and other realities of academic life," Mr. Hevko said.

David Acker, associate dean of academic and global programs at Iowa State University, said he visited Ukraine in

2004 and invited Mr. Hevko and Mariya Shymchyshyn, associate professor in the department of foreign languages, to visit.

"We also plan to send one or two professors to Ternopil this summer, which will be the first step in establishing a student exchange program," Mr. Acker said.

Mr. Hevko said Ternopil State University of Economics has 32,000 students and is similar to Iowa State University, which makes for good collaboration.

Mr. Hevko said he is proud of the graduates from his department, including Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko.

The Ternopil dean's visit to Iowa is a

sign of continued cooperation between the two universities. "What we are trying to do is establish cooperation between the two universities, such as student and faculty exchanges, and we are trying to develop new programs at Ternopil in fields we don't have at this time," said Ms. Shymchyshyn.

Ms. Shymchyshyn taught Ukrainian language and culture classes at Iowa State two years ago. That program was sponsored in part by the Ukraine-Iowa State University Student Exchange fund, which was initiated by Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak. The Dwojaks initiated the fund with a donation of \$350,000 in November 2003.

Ms. Shymchyshyn said exchange programs help students from both countries prepare for the global economy.

"I really appreciate the work led by the Dwojaks and the support of the American Ukrainian community. Such activities really broaden the educational borders in both countries. I believe, with the strong support of the American Ukrainian community, the exchange program will reach its goal of raising \$1 million," Ms. Shymchyshyn said.

For information about the Ukraine-Iowa State University Student Exchange Fund readers may contact Mr. Acker at (515) 294-6614.

## U.S. and Ukraine...

(Continued from page 1)

States, too."

Both sides admitted that there was still a lot left to be done to bring all this about.

The next step in the bilateral process is to have Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada and the U.S. Congress pass implementing legislation and regulations, which, on the U.S. side, includes getting Ukraine from under the Jackson-Vanik constraints.

The Senate passed a resolution to that effect last November, but it differs, albeit slightly, from the new House version. Observers close to the process suggest that the Senate may well quickly pass the newer House version, which would then be signed by the president.

Before Ukraine can become a member of the WTO, however, it must also conclude similar trade agreements with other interested WTO member-governments. In all, 149 countries are members of the WTO. Ukraine is among the 32 countries classified as "observers," as are Russia and five other

former Soviet states: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

As Minister Yatseniuk noted in response to a question, Ukraine has "a few" bilaterals left. Some of them are already finalized, he said, but for various reasons are as yet unsigned. Four of these – with Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Panama and the Kyrgyz Republic – should be concluded "in the nearest future," he added.

As for negotiations with Australia, which recent press reports indicated had run into problems over sugar exports, Mr. Yatseniuk said that, according to his latest information from the talks, both sides are "very flexible right now" and an agreement can be expected "in the nearest future."

Press reports from Ukraine indicated that President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov and Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk expect Ukraine to become a member of the WTO before the end of this year. If so, this may well gain Ukraine entry before Russia, which is still in the bilateral negotiating process with Washington.

Indeed, on the day following the U.S.-Ukraine signing ceremony, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed that issue, among others, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Afterwards, he told reporters that he expressed Russia's "certain concerns" about the slowness of the process, "since the United States is the only country of today which has not yet signed the protocol on Russia's WTO accession."

He also raised concerns about the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, "which is still on the agenda, despite the fact that everyone knows this as a notorious issue," he said.

Secretary Rice explained that the U.S.-Russian WTO accession agreement has to pass the scrutiny not just of the administration, but also of the Congress. "And so we want to be sure that it is an agreement that can meet that test," she said, noting that there are some outstanding issues in areas of agriculture and services.

Ambassador Portman underscored the same points a day earlier at the signing of the Ukrainian document.

"So we are working very hard to complete our bilateral agreement with Russia, and we're also working hard, frankly, with the U.S. Congress on both the Ukraine agreement and the Russia agreement to be sure we can take them both through the process, the political process, here," he said.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yekhanurov caused somewhat of a stir in Moscow during his visit in Washington last November when he suggested that Ukraine had to join WTO before Russia; otherwise, he said, "it would make our entry into the WTO practically impossible."

Minister Yatseniuk did not mention the issue of who should be first. He said Ukraine "strongly supports" Russia's

membership in the WTO "because we have to act and to exist in similar legal environment" of WTO regulations.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns also spoke at the signing ceremony, offering his assurances that "on the agricultural side of things we'll do everything we can to be a partner with you."

Among those attending the ceremony were the lead negotiators of both sides, Vice Minister of the Economy Valerii Piatnytskyi and Assistant USTR for WTO Multilateral Affairs Dorothy Dwoskin, as well as Deputy Secretary of Commerce David Sampson, Undersecretary of State Josette Shiner, Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller. Also present was Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The bilateral WTO agreement signing and the House Jackson-Vanik vote were not the only highlights in U.S.-Ukrainian relations last week. As this issue of The Ukrainian Weekly was going to press, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk was beginning his two-day visit to Washington and New York.

His one-day Washington stay on March 9 included meetings with Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Rice and other administration officials, members of Congress and the business community, as well as a wreath-laying ceremony at the Taras Shevchenko monument and a foreign policy speech at the Brookings Institution.

His schedule on March 10 in New York was to include meetings with the Secretary-General Kofi Annan and other United Nations officials, and with leaders of the Ukrainian and Jewish communities.



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## COMMUNITY PROFILE: *The Ukrainian Americans of Apopka, Fla.*

by Irene Zabytko

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

APOPKA, Fla. – Despite a few hurricanes, dramatic electrical storms, stymied traffic jams cluttered with tourists en route to theme parks and stray alligators stalking golf courses, the Ukrainian community in Apopka, Fla. considers itself blessed.

“We have beautiful and calm weather most of the time, hospitable people, an area that is growing with a lot of job opportunities, and we’re very near the beaches and attractions like Disney,” said Father Ivan Kubishyn, pastor of St. Mary

foliage capital of the world.”

Within a few years, after a substantial number of Ukrainian retirees built homes and planted their own orange trees on their properties, the area was nicknamed “the Ukrainian Village” by the residents. Soon afterwards Messrs. Kowalchuk and Demianchuk donated a half-acre of land for the community to build a church. The early settlers, who were mostly in their sixties, pitched in and literally constructed and decorated the building that later became St. Mary Protectress. Along with the first pastor, Father Andrey Nazarewycz, the congregation celebrated



At a gathering in December 1979 that celebrated the dedication of the Ukrainian community building (from left) are: the Rev. Andrey Nazarewycz, pastor; the late Metropolitan Myroslav Ivan Lubachivsky, an unidentified guest, Steve Kowalchuk (at microphone) and Ostap Zabytko.

Protectress Church in Apopka. “Most importantly, we have our own Ukrainian Catholic Church, the only one in Central Florida. We just need to have more people know about us when they visit or relocate to this area.”

Located approximately 15 miles north of Orlando and directly on U.S. Route 441, the Ukrainians first discovered Apopka during the 1970s when Ukrainian real estate developer Stephen Kowalchuk and his business partner Wolodymyr Demianchuk bought several acres of open orange grove land with the intention of establishing a Ukrainian retiree community.

Many senior citizens – mostly from the Northeast and Midwest – relocated to the quiet and traditional southern town better known for its numerous plant and floral nurseries that give credence to its official catch phrase as “the indoor

its first Christmas on January 7, 1979.

In those early years, the building doubled as the center for divial liturgy and as a Ukrainian community hall where concerts, festivals and communal dinners were held. Among the activities were a choir, a bandura ensemble, a children’s dance group and poetry recitations. The events were often open to the town residents and emceed by the church’s longest serving and bilingual “bratstvo” (brotherhood) president, Ostap Zabytko. The Ukrainians were also very active in the annual Apopka Christmas parades, folk fairs and other town-sponsored events.

Currently in his 54th year in office, Apopka mayor John Land recalls the early Ukrainian community, and in particular Mr. Kowalchuk. “Steve was a true American patriot. He was active in Sertoma (a business organization) and we learned a lot about Ukrainians through Steve. He used to go to our schools and talk about being in a displaced persons camp and about Ukraine under communism. I’m just sorry he died a year before Ukraine became independent.”

Before Ukraine declared independ-



The entrance to St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church (April 2004).



Local Ukrainians in the late 1970s in front of their community center.

ence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Mayor Land was instrumental in issuing a city proclamation for the January 22 Ukrainian independence commemorations, and always participated in raising the Ukrainian flag at City Hall.

In addition, the mayor, the city council and Mr. Kowalchuk helped to establish a special section in the town’s cemetery for the Ukrainians. Several of the early residents are buried there, and it’s not unusual to see Cyrillic lettering on many of the headstones.

“We want to continue having a relationship with the town because we have a history and presence here,” said Taissa Meleshko, who along with her husband, Matvey, relocated to Apopka from Rhode Island in 1982. Mrs. Meleshko is the church treasurer and “unofficial historian.” Currently, she serves as the Ukrainian Village representative for the Apopka Historical Society.

“Everyone is interested in our culture and our past, and we need to continue our legacy for future generations.” Mrs. Meleshko keeps a vast archive of photographs and related memorabilia including a photograph of a younger Cardinal Lubomyr Husar who visited Apopka in 1982. The cardinal’s title then was very reverend archimandrite, and he honored the community by concelebrating the 40th anniversary of Father Nazarewycz’s priesthood.

Over the years, the community remained in flux as younger members with children and more retirees relocated to central Florida. Most tended to live in nearby cities such as Orlando, Daytona Beach and Winter Park, and came to Apopka mainly for the liturgical services.

Many Fourth-Wave Ukrainians also have joined the community, as have sev-

eral non-Ukrainians of Haitian, Latin American and other nationalities.

Among the Fourth Wavers is St. Mary’s current pastor, Father Ivan Kubishyn. Originally from Ivano-Frankivsk, Father Kubishyn first came to Apopka in 1992 on a visit to his sister, Anna Kowal. After serving as a substitute priest, he was officially installed as pastor three years ago.

“I loved the community from the beginning,” said Father Kubishyn. “I am so grateful to the first settlers who had the vision and faith to build this church.”

Father Kubishyn oversaw major renovations, such as the repairs of the church’s gold cupola and roof that were badly damaged by the three hurricanes that passed through central Florida in 2004, upgrading the kitchen and adorning the building with more icons, including a replica of a miraculous icon from Ukraine. A memorial plaque and a children’s room for play and study are planned.

“We are a born-again church,” the pastor said. “I never know who will show up on Sundays, but people always come. Usually, they find us through the Internet and are delighted to worship and socialize with us.”

“Most of all, I want this church to be a peaceful, spiritual place for everyone,” he said. “I pray to the Blessed Mother that more people will come and find us and feel this peaceful atmosphere together as Christians and Ukrainians.”

\*\*\*

St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church is located at 245 Lake McCoy Drive in Apopka. Divine liturgy is celebrated every Sunday at 11 a.m. For more information contact the church at 407-880-6357, or the rectory at 407-880-1640.



St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church (January 2006).



# Kobzar Society aims to spread democracy through technology

by Al Zagofsky

LEHIGHTON, Pa. — “Connect the people — empower a nation” is the motto of the Kobzar Society Ltd., a non-profit organization created by a retired high-tech Leighton couple of Ukrainian heritage.

Five years ago, Orest “O.J.” Hanas and his wife, Christine, while talking about their native Ukraine’s breakaway from the Soviet empire and its beginnings on a path to democracy, wondered how they could help.

They felt that change had to begin with the children. “We know about computers,” said Mrs. Hanas. “How about doing something for the school kids over there with computers?”

“We figured a country like Ukraine that never had access to democracy could only get it through the channels of the Internet,” said Mr. Hanas. “First you have to provide them with the instruments to get to the Internet, and after they learn how to use computers, then they can be connected and find the uncensored truth.”

Mr. Hanas was retiring from a career in electronic engineering management, and his wife had trained as a chemical engineer. With a couple of friends who liked the idea of providing computers to educational institutions in Ukraine, they formed a non-profit organization, the Kobzar Society, Ltd.

The idea that emerged was to ship used computers to Ukraine, placing them in educational institutions rather than offering them to individuals. “If you send them to a school, then the teacher will teach 100 kids with one computer, or five or 10,” Mrs. Hanas said. “The benefit will be multiplied.”

“I took that idea to the Leighton Rotary Club, where I am a member,” said Mr. Hanas. “The Leighton Rotary Club embraced it right away, and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Rotary District 7410 gave us seed money to start the program.”

Kobzar collects late-model used computers, refurbishes them, converts them to European electrical power, and then ships and places them in libraries, orphanages



Orest “O.J.” Hanas and his wife, Christine.

and schools for needy children in Ukraine.

Mr. Hanas met with Rotary Club members in Ukraine to work out a system of distribution and verification of computer deliveries. They received permission to import the used computers into Ukraine without duties or taxes.

Kobzar solicits computers from universities, hospitals, law firms and private individuals. They currently accept only Pentium III models. Volunteers collect and warehouse the computers until they are ready to be refurbished to Kobzar’s requirements, which include a Windows operating system, a CD drive, a 15-inch monitor, keyboard and mouse. They work only with desktop units — fearing laptops are too easily stolen.

Refurbishment centers have been established: Microapex in Allentown, Pa., and the Brothers Brothers Foundation in Pittsburgh. Other than shipping, all the money goes into technical work. It costs between \$200 and \$240 to refurbish and ship the units.

Kobzar receives some funding from Rotary and the Maria Hulai-Lion Foundation, but looks to the Ukrainian American community for much of its support. Through advertising in the diaspora Ukrainian newspapers, they offer, for a donation, to provide a computer to an educational institution in a village of the donor’s choice — usually in a town their donor’s parents came from.

For the donation, the computer is shipped to the donor’s choice of location, a certificate of appreciation is placed on the wall where that computer is located in Ukraine, and the donor receives a letter of thanks from the school. Many donors plan to sometime visit the town to see how it is benefiting the school.

Mr. Hanas recently returned from a visit to Boryslav, a small town in western Ukraine, where he helped supervise the installation of a computer learning center at the local “Internat,” a school for children with polio or birth defects.

Several years earlier a grandmother of a crippled boy in the school had suggested that “a computer learning center could

be of great benefit to these kids.” With the help of Rotary International and individual sponsors, funding was raised for the computer learning center.

“The computer learning center is now in operation and, in fact, I spoke to that grandmother two weeks ago,” said Mr. Hanas. “She said that, thanks to the most generous benefactors from the United States of America, my grandson receives one hour of computer training per day. Each day he impatiently looks forward to next day’s lesson and is full of hope for the future.”

The Kobzar Society Ltd., a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, has shipped about 750 computers. Anyone interested in donating computer systems or sponsoring a computer donation to the Kobzar Society may visit the website kobzarsociety.org or write to: Kobzar Society Ltd., P.O. Box 37, Leighton, PA 18235.

*The article above appeared in the Times News of Leighton, Pa., on Sunday, February 4. It is reprinted here with the permission of the author, Al Zagofsky, who is a free-lance journalist.*



Kobzar Society volunteers (from left) Victor Litkewycz, Steve Reshetylo, Eugene Mychajkliw and Orest J. Hanas, load computers into a van at Microapex, one of two companies that refurbish donated computers.

## Chicago’s St. Nicholas Cathedral opens celebrations of centennial

by Maria Kulczycky

CHICAGO — On February 4, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Chicago opened its calendar of centennial events on February 4 with a day of renewal and reflection for men and women. The day anchored a weekend of spiritual activities led by Father Peter Galadza and his wife, Olenka.

On Friday, February 3 Father Galadza met with the young people of the parish, and on Sunday, February 5, he preached at each divine liturgy.

Father Galadza is Kule Family Professor of Liturgy at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies in the Faculty of Theology, St. Paul University, in Ottawa. He is also editor-in-chief of the recently published “pew book,” “The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship.”

Mrs. Galadza currently teaches history, religion and English at Immaculate High School in Ottawa and conducts catechesis in many Ukrainian Catholic parishes.

The day of recollection was funded by the Ukrainian National Association in honor of two of its branches: Branch 106, the Brotherhood of St. Nicholas, and Branch 108, the Brotherhood of St. Stephen. The parishes were established by St. Nicholas parishioners in 1906 and 1908, respectively.

At the Saturday retreat, Father Galadza spoke about the importance of parish life.

“God expects his Church not to be redundant,” Father Galadza noted. “Christ came to establish an alternative society.” The day of renewal was attended by representatives of six Chicago-area parishes, as well as parishes in Wisconsin and Indiana. Father Galadza and Mrs. Galadza shared stories of pioneers and heroes in the Ukrainian

Church who have made great sacrifices to preserve and sustain it. Mrs. Galadza movingly related the story of her grandfather, a priest who would not leave Ukraine at the end of World War II, and the story of his deportation with his family to Siberia.

Among the audience members sharing stories was Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, honorary

member of the UNA General Assembly and son of a parish pioneer, who recalled the founders of St. Nicholas Cathedral who helped launch the parish in early 1906.

Father Galadza then demonstrated, in a systematic analysis of the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, how “our liturgy enacts an alternative society.” He noted that the liturgy promotes imaging, much as athletes today imagine a goal as part of their training in achieving it. Understanding the liturgy helps develop the imaging that demonstrates our power to act.

Separate discussions by men and women concluded the session. Participants suggested several future activities that were needed in the parish, including Bible study for adults, catechism sessions for youth and adults, more programs in English, eparchy-wide committees or councils to help coordinate additional parish programs and program sharing on the Internet to help resource-starved parishes. The day ended with evening vespers.

The day of reflection was organized by the Parish Centennial Committee, which is hosting a series of events for parishioners, members of the neighboring community, graduates of the Cathedral School, and families and friends who have marked many important events at St. Nicholas Cathedral. The founding of St. Nicholas also marks the birth of the community that has grown into the flourishing Ukrainian Village in Chicago.



Presenting a check to Father Peter Galadza to help fund the day of recollection at St. Nicholas Cathedral are (from left): Stefko Kuropas, chairman of the Ukrainian National Association’s Chicago District Committee, and Andriy Skyba and Michael Kuropas, advisors of the UNA General Assembly. Barbara Wroblicky of the Centennial Committee, Olenka Galadza and Maria Kulczycky of the Centennial Committee look on.



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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

events on May 13, 2005, in Andijan, Uzbekistan. Human rights groups are concerned that the asylum seekers face torture and abuse on their return to Uzbekistan. State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli on February 28 called on Ukrainian authorities to cooperate fully with the UNHCR and to honor their treaty commitments whenever they are confronted with claims of asylum. (U.S. Department of State)

#### Yushchenko reacts to criticism

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told a March 1 news briefing in Kyiv, that Ukraine's move to deport 10 illegal Uzbek migrants does not mean that

Ukraine has altered its democratic course. As reported by Ukrinform, the Uzbek nationals were deported from Symferopol, Crimea, as persons not covered by the 1951 Convention on Refugees. According to the Security Service of Ukraine, it possesses no information to point to the deportees' involvement in last year's violence in Andizhan. The Security Service of Ukraine denied some media reports alleging that the Uzbek nationals in Crimea were detained and deported following orders from Uzbek special services. (Ukrinform)

#### Ukraine: Uzbek citizens not refugees

KYIV – The chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities and

(Continued on page 15)

## An admonition...

(Continued from page 7)

and take on the challenge, then the possibility of 25 percent or more return on investment is certainly do-able. Private equity investment, preceded by extensive due diligence, sound business relationships and proper documentation is much more likely to succeed for all involved.

Not all investments involve steel mills, mining operations or other multi-million dollar efforts. Investment opportunities exist in small and medium enterprises occupying niche markets, such as software development, small hotels, distribution centers and financial leasing and other consumer-oriented industries, which do not require high, eight- or nine-figure, investments.

In the future, I will discuss some of the smaller opportunities and the necessary steps that must be taken to secure investments. In the meantime, those who

would like to invest amounts ranging from \$1 million to \$5 million should seriously consider investigating the market in Ukraine and not be too concerned about the spectacular horror stories of steel plant privatizations, housing construction scandals or the trials and tribulations of some smaller investors who have run afoul of the formulaic regulatory environment or less than savory partners largely due to their own unwillingness to strictly follow the rules, conduct proper due diligence or pay for either.

#### Postscript

Shortly after this article was written, the U.S. government awarded Ukraine market economy status. This designation is extremely important for Ukraine and indicates an acknowledgement of the successful legal and economic reforms that have been implemented by the government of Ukraine, as well as the moves to suppress corruption.

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Distribution agents for Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly newspapers. Agents in Washington, DC; Philadelphia, PA; Sacramento, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Detroit, MI; Sarasota/North Port, FL; St. Petersburg, FL; Cleveland, OH; Toronto and Montreal, Canada; and other cities would be desirable. Compensation to be negotiated based on activities and routes. Agents that secure revenue-producing distribution points will be compensated accordingly. Please send personal information and qualifications statement to: Director of Publications, UNA, PO Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054



NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Migration of Ukraine, Serhii Rudyk, stated that none of 9 citizens of Uzbekistan who requested refugee status in Ukraine had the right to such status. At the same, he recognized that there were violations of the procedure of deportation of the Uzbek citizens from Ukraine. "When a person appeals for refugee status and is denied, he/she under the law has the right to appeal. The state authorities should, of course, have given them an opportunity to appeal. They could have waited for seven days, though we have letters from them that they have no claims," Mr. Rudyk said. He added that the majority of these citizens left the Uzbekistan before the events in Andijan and that most of them were going to other states in search of jobs. He

also pointed out that none of the nine were members of any political organizations. (Ukrinform)

Think-tank: Russia no 'strategic partner'

WASHINGTON – A new report by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) says that the United States government should reconsider its definition of Russia as a so-called strategic partner, RFE/RL and other media reported on March 5. The study says that under President Vladimir Putin, Russia has become an increasingly authoritarian state with a foreign policy that sometimes is at odds with the interests of the United States and its allies. The report recommends that Washington carefully choose issues on which to cooperate with Moscow and on which to oppose it. The study points out that Moscow has sought to oust U.S. forces

from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, to use its energy resources to bully pro-Western governments in Ukraine and Georgia, and to increase its role in the Middle East by hosting the leaders of Hamas, which the United States and most of its European allies consider a terrorist group. In addition, the report recommends greater assistance to Russia's civil society. The CFR released the document on the eve of a visit to the United States by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, which started on March 6. In Moscow, the Foreign Ministry announced that U.S.-Russia trade rose by 30 percent in 2005 to reach \$20 billion, ITAR-TASS reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Two more foreign voting precincts

KYIV – The Central Electoral Commission has decided to create two more foreign election precincts in Moldova and Portugal. CEC Vice-Chairman Mykola Melnyk said the foreign election precinct in Moldova will be established in the city of Balti, where Ukraine opened its Consulate and where some 12,500 Ukrainian citizens reside. The second precinct will be opened in Porto, Portugal, where a Ukrainian Consulate has been opened and where more than 2,000 Ukrainian nationals reside. Thus, there are now 116 voting precincts for Ukrainian citizens residing abroad. (Ukrinform)

Is Ukraine's richest...

(Continued from page 2)

trated in the iron ore, coal, steel and energy-generation sectors. SCM also has interests in insurance and banking, food and beverage services, and hotels and hospitality.

Mr. Akhmetov's assets and personal fortune are sure to make him a major player in Ukrainian politics for years to come – regardless of whether he becomes prime minister. But his repeated assertions that a future Ukrainian government must be run by "professionals" and promote "economic growth" have only intensified speculation that the head of SCM – one of Ukraine's largest corporations – might be persuaded to head up the country's new government.

In the past year SCM has gone to extraordinary lengths to polish its image as a responsible, European-style corporation and overcome past rumors about reputed links to organized crime and unorthodox business methods.

In the summer of 2005 SCM launched a massive advertising campaign aimed at pro-

moting the stature in Europe of Ukrainian businesses. Ads were featured in publications including the Wall Street Journal Europe, The Economist and the Financial Times, and on television networks like CNN, EuroNews and BBC World.

In order for Mr. Akhmetov to succeed in extending his popularity beyond the Donetsk region, many observers believe he will ultimately need to break ties with Party of the Regions Chairman Mr. Yanukovych, his old friend and political ally.

This could be relatively simple. Mr. Yanukovych has no financial support base of his own, and relies on SCM and the Industrial Union of the Donbas for funding. Moreover, Mr. Yanukovych is seen by many Ukrainians as a former convict – as a young man he was twice convicted of assault and battery – and not fit to run for public office.

President Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc has reportedly discussed a possible coalition with the Party of the Regions, but says it will not agree to Mr. Yanukovych becoming prime minister. It has, however, avoided such a categorical refusal regarding a similar deal with Mr. Akhmetov.

Pray to God for the soul of

Dr. WASYL KOSTRUBIAK,

who passed away, in Oviedo, Spain on March 15, 2005, at the age of 80, after receiving the Holy Sacraments R.I.P.

His wife Regina, sister Sophia, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and the rest of the family in Ukraine, Spain and the United States ask for prayers for his soul.

The mass of the first anniversary for the eternal rest of his soul will be celebrated in the Church of St. John in Spain, on Thursday, March 16 at 6:00 pm.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies"*



It is with great sorrow that we inform our friends and the Ukrainian community that, on Thursday, March 2, 2006, after a painful battle with lung cancer, departed our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, and uncle.

IVAN POCHODAY

Born in the Village of Pochodayiv, Ryzhkova Volya, Yaroslavskyi Povit, former Ukraine. He was one of eight children. The Pochoday family was forcibly deported to Northeastern Poland during the Polish operation "Akcja Wisla." He lived in the village of Pozezdrze, woj. Suwalki, Poland until 1965, at which time he resettled in New York City with his wife and two daughters.

The funeral took place on Monday, March 6, 2006 at St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church, New York, N.Y. He was interned at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Hamptonburgh, N.Y.

He is survived by:

Wife AHAFIA (nee Kohut) of New York City

Daughter MARIA PASKA of New York City, with her three children: ADRIANA PASKA ANTHONY PASKA ANDRIJ PASKA

Daughter BOHDANNA POCHODAY-STELMACH with her husband, ROMAN C. STELMACH, of Morristown, N.J., with their son, ANDRIYCHYK STELMACH

Brothers PETRO POCHODAY with his family in Poland JURIY POCHODAY with his family in Poland

Sisters ANASTASIA HUBACZ with her family in Poland MARINA LECLERC with her family in France

Sister-in-law CATHERINE TERLECKY of New York, with her family

Families Pochoday (Pochodaj), Drobenko, Leclerc in America, Ukraine, Poland and France

In lieu of flowers, the family proposes donations to the "Orphans' Aid Society in Ukraine" (Douglaston, N.Y., Mary Jowyk).

May He Rest in Peace!  
Vichnaya Pamyat



Ділимося сумною вісткою що 25 січня 2006 р. відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий муж, тато, дідусь, прадідусь і брат

св. п.

Лесь Заліщук

Нар. 31 березня 1922 р. в Черняміні, Івано-Франківська обл., Україна.

Похоронні відправи відбулися в суботу, 28 січня 2006 р. в Українській католицькій церкві св. Тройці в Карнегі, Па., а відтак на парафіяльному цвинтарі.

Залишені у жлибокому смутку

- дружина - катерина з дому Нацулич  
доньки - Ганя з нужем Богданом Конецьким  
- Марійка Заліщук  
внуки - Олесь Конецький з дружиною Олею  
- Ромця Конецька  
- Орест Конецький  
- Юрій Вовчук з дружиною Шарлот  
- Борис Вовчук  
- Зеновій Вовчук  
правнуки - Лесик Конецький  
- Йосиф Вовчук  
сестра - Анна Жилик в Україні  
та ближча і дальша родина в Америці й Україні.

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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### Windsor branch of Ukrainian Canadian Committee unveils Famine-Genocide memorial

WINDSOR, Ontario – The local branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress unveiled a Holodomor monument on November 13, 2005, to commemorate over 7 million men, women and children who were starved to death in the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933.

The fourth Saturday in November has been recognized by the Parliament of Canada as a day of remembrance of this tragedy.

The monument is the only one of its kind in Ontario, and the third in Canada. It is located in the Queen Elizabeth II Gardens in Windsor, known as Jackson Park.

The dedication and blessing of the monument was attended by over 200 individuals from the Windsor Ukrainian community, and dignitaries from across Ontario.

Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis, Members of Parliament Joe Comartin and Brian Masse, and Members of Windsor City Council Carolyn



Windsor's memorial to the Famine-Genocide.

Postma and David Cassivi attended the dedication ceremony.

It was presided over by the Very Rev. Pawlo Berezniak of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and the Rt. Rev. Eugene Halitsky of Ss. Vladimir and Olga Ukrainian Catholic Church, whose choir under the direction of Father Peter Hrytsyk sang the memorial prayers.

At the end of the service, all who attended laid bouquets of wheat at the base of the monument in memory of the millions who died in Ukraine.

Carved from black granite, the monument was designed by artists Halyna Mordowanec-Regenbogen and Tom Regenbogen to reflect both the solemnity and starkness of the subject matter. The map consultant was Dr. Ihor Stebelsky, a professor at the University of Windsor.

The guest speaker at the memorial dinner was Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress. Other speakers included Dr. Ihor Lossovskyj, consul general of Ukraine in Toronto; Bohdan Fedorak, honorary Consul of Ukraine in Warren, Mich.; and Dr. Evhen Roslycky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress London Branch.

Stefania Korostil, a survivor of the Famine, gave an emotional speech at the memorial dinner about her recollections of that terrible time in Ukraine's history.

Members of the Holodomor Monument Committee are Petro Mycak (president, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Windsor Branch), Leisha Nazarewich, Irene Momotiuk, Mr. Regenbogen, Ms. Mordowanec-Regenbogen, Dr. Stebelsky, Andrew Stebelsky and Vera Tkachuk.

### Computer courses, citizenship training offered for immigrants

by Lida Melnyk

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia-based United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, in partnership with Manor College, is now offering computer training courses for new immigrants from Ukraine, which are being held at the Manor College Computer Lab in Jenkintown, Pa., just outside of Philadelphia.

The first 16-week course took place in the fall of 2005. An English competency exam was a prerequisite of the course, but the course was taught by a bilingual instructor, Danylo Nysch, to assure full understanding. The course, "Bilingual Introduction to MS Office 2003," covered Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point and Access, as well as facility in Internet access, résumé writing and résumé posting.

The UUARC had intended to offer only one 15-student course for that semester, but the overwhelming response filled two sections, and 30 students were registered. The students earned a certificate of course completion as well as 4.8 Continuing Education Units, and were all very satisfied with the experience.

The students expressed gratitude to the UUARC with comments such as, "final-

ly," "this was a very useful thing" and "they understood our needs."

The current computer course being offered through this program is "Bi-lingual MS Office 2003 – Advanced." It is geared for those students who desired to achieve a deeper knowledge of the programs. This course also is offered in cooperation with Manor College. The instructor is Borys Krotiak. Another introductory level course is planned for the fall.

The UUARC also continues to offer Citizenship Preparation Classes at the UUARC Headquarters, which are taught by Metodij Boretsky, head of the UUARC's Information Bureau. This is the eighth time the courses have been held at the UUARC, with excellent results. Immigrants are completely prepared to take the citizenship exam.

The requirements for applying for citizenship are a "green card" and four years' residence (two years if married to a U.S. citizen), but the courses can be taken slightly in advance. This course consists of 10 classes, from February 3 through April 7.

The UUARC is exploring the possibility of expanding both of these programs to areas throughout the United States where new immigrants have settled.

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# PIKKARDIJSKA TERTSIA

**CLEVELAND, OH**  
Saturday 7 P.M., March 4  
Hall of Ukrainian Pokrova Church,  
6812 Broadview Rd., Parma, OH 44134  
216-240-4997

**DETROIT, MI**  
Sunday 4 P.M., March 12  
Hall of Ukrainian Cultural Center  
26601 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI  
586-757-1306

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**  
Sunday 2:30 P.M., March 19  
Hall of the Ukrainian  
Cultural Center  
700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA  
215-663-1166

**CHICAGO, IL**  
Saturday 7 P.M., March 11  
Hall of the St. Nicolas Ukrainian Catholic School  
2200 West Rice St., Chicago 60622  
773-774-5997 ("Ukrainian Wave" Radio)

**WASHINGTON D.C.**  
Saturday 7 P.M., March 18  
Hall of the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine  
of the Holy Family 4200 Harewood Rd.,  
Washington D.C., 20017  
410-952-8374

**NEW YORK, NY**  
Friday 7 P.M., March 24  
Hall of Ukrainian National Home  
140 Second Avenue,  
New York, NY 10003  
216-240-4997



Buy Ukrainian at  
[www.UAmuzon.com](http://www.UAmuzon.com)

**TORONTO, CANADA**  
Saturday 8 P.M., March 25  
Hall of Ukrainian Cultural Center  
83-85 Christi St.  
Toronto, Ontario M6G 3B1,  
Canada  
416-236-9357

# PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

Studies (1 Devonshire Place). For information call 416-946-8113, e-mail [larysa.iarovenko@utoronto.ca](mailto:larysa.iarovenko@utoronto.ca) or log on to website [www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/](http://www.utoronto.ca/jacyk/).

**Saturday, April 1**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) hosts a presentation of the book "Ukrainian Language in the XX Century: the History of the Linguicide" (Kyiv, 2005), the publication of which was initiated and sponsored by the NTSh in America. The book will be presented by one of its co-compilers, Orysia Demaska-Kulchytska (Kyiv), a candidate of philological sciences, who is the associate director of the Institute of the Ukrainian Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**JENKINTOWN, Pa.:** All are cordially invited to attend a special benefit dinner for the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, to be held at 5 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road. The main speaker at the dinner will be the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, honorary chair of the event, will be a guest of honor at the dinner. A film will be shown, along with various exhibits from the university. Tickets are \$40 and should be purchased by March 27. Tickets may be purchased at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, the Byzantine Church Supply Store at the cathedral, Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, First Security Bank or from individual committee members. For more information call the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation at 773-235-8462 or e-mail [flanagan@ucef.org](mailto:flanagan@ucef.org).


## PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Items may be e-mailed to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com).

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# Cabaret Night to benefit Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey

by Yarema Belej

WHIPPANY, N.J. – While contractors bulldoze and labor to construct the foundation of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ), the growing Ukrainian community in New Jersey and the surrounding area rallies around the project.

"We are starting to see a lot more participation in the project," said Michael Zawadiwsky, fund-raising chairman for the UACCNJ, "people are coming up to me and asking how they can help."

Interesting methods are being utilized in attempts to raise money and support for the vital project, including the raffling off of a brand new Lexus ES-330, and a Cabaret Night that will include comedy and music.

"We are looking to spur enthusiasm for the project," said Chris Bilanycz, chairperson of the Cabaret Night, "plus, everyone needs a good laugh."

Coinciding with the raffle drawing on April 1 will be a Cabaret Night called "Enchanted Evening," highlighted by a performance of the Chicago comedy troupe "Spalenyi Teatr," and a musical performance by vocalist Olya Fryz accompanied by Andriy Stasiw.

Spalenyi Teatr is a group of nine Ukrainian Americans from the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) in Chicago. Their performance pokes fun at the experiences of growing up as Ukrainian Americans. This comedy troupe has taken over the legacy left behind by the group that had existed early in the 1990s under the same name.

The new incarnation of the comedy troupe came in 2005, filling a void that had been felt for more than a dozen years. The group performs

under the direction of Oleh Kulas, a graduate from the Second City Training Center in Chicago.

"The comedy resonates with many Ukrainian Americans," said Mr. Kulas, "it is a blend of acts and improvisation that involves the audience."

Performing mainly in the Chicagoland area, this upcoming performance is the troupe's first foray to the East Coast. "We are very excited to be coming out to the East Coast," said Mr. Kulas. (Look ahead to future performances of Spalenyi Teatr on May 20 in Chicago, and in Wisconsin at a date that will be announced in the future.)

Ms. Fryz is an accomplished singer and musician who has recorded four albums during her career. With a love of Ukrainian music that has spanned the scope of original, folk and children's songs, Ms. Fryz's albums can be found in many Ukrainian homes.

"We used to do a lot of these Cabaret performances," said Ms. Fryz, "but recently I have been promoting my CD for children, so it will be nice to perform some fun and more adult songs." She added, "I am really happy to see all the Ukrainian organizations working together on this project, it's inspiring."

Performing with her during the Cabaret Night will be Mr. Stasiw, a professional accompanist, who also is the musical director and conductor of Prolisok, a girls' choir of the Ukrainian American Youth Association in New York and Yonkers, N.Y. He has several recordings with contemporary and opera artists, including "Olya," "Darka and Slavko" and "Ika."

Those feeling lucky have a chance to win a luxury automobile for only \$20 a ticket. The Lexus ES-330 is a beautiful car that was provided by Warnock Lexus located on Route 10 in Livingston,



The comedy troupe Spalenyi Teatr of Chicago.

N.J. The number of raffle tickets is limited to 3,500, thus giving ticket buyers better odds to win.

The sparkling new car can be seen in the parking lot of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church on the corner of Route 10 and Jefferson Road in Whippany, N.J. It has graced the intersection for a few weeks under a protective tent (when the weather is cooperative).

The Cabaret Night committee

and the members of the UACCNJ committee encourage everyone to come and support a project that is vital to the preservation and betterment of the Ukrainian American community in New Jersey.

To obtain tickets for the raffle or the Cabaret Night, please visit the website of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, <http://uaccnj.org>, or call Chris Bilanycz, 973-285-5006.

## UNA SENIORS' CONFERENCE

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**June 11-16, 2006 – Senior Citizens' Week**

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On behalf of the UNA Seniors Club, we would like to invite all seniors to participate in our annual UNA Seniors Club Week, which will be held from Sunday, June 11, to Friday, June 16, 2006. For your general information, please note that the Seniors Club was organized over 30 years ago. The purpose of the UNA Seniors is to support UNA endeavors, to preserve and cultivate the Ukrainian heritage, promote unity within the community, develop social activities and maintain Ukrainian community life in America. We have finally reached a time in our lives when Ukraine is independent and living a democratic life. Ukraine will always have our thoughts and support. But there is a time when we must concentrate on maintaining our own Ukrainian community. There is much that can be done. We will try to make the week interesting and fun. As you may have read in our publications, last year we had over 60 participants, seven interesting speakers and entertainment in the evenings. Fun was had by all. Again, we have an interesting program scheduled and hope that you will be able to join us for an interesting, inexpensive weekend. Follow the press for further information about Seniors Citizens' Week.



Make your reservations for the UNA Seniors' Conference, which will be held at our mountain resort SOYUZIVKA, beginning Sunday, June 11, starting with a buffet dinner, through Friday, June 16, including brunch. All inclusive: five nights, all meals, banquet, entertainment, special speakers.

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# The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey

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## Enchanted Evening

*Dinner-Cabaret & Car Raffle*

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Birchwood Manor

111 North Jefferson Road, Whippany, New Jersey

Performing:

"Spalenyi Teatr" - Comedy troupe from Chicago CYM

Olya Fryz - accompanied by Andriy Stasiw

6:30 - Cocktails

7:00 - Dinner

*Semi-formal Attire*

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For Tickets Contact Nadia Belej 973-537-7053

[nadiabelej@hotmail.com](mailto:nadiabelej@hotmail.com)

*All proceeds to the UACCNJ Building Fund*

### Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey

Supporting the Activities of our  
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- CCRF
- Cym
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- Plast
- Plast Pryjat
- Ridna Shkola
- Sich - Sports Club
- Selfreliance UA  
Credit Union
- St. John The Baptist  
Ukrainian Catholic Church-  
Whippany
- UCCA - Morris and NJ
- Ukrainian Community  
Center-Ington

### Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey

7 South Jefferson Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981

Web Site: [www.UACCNJ.org](http://www.UACCNJ.org)

E-mail: [info@uaccnj.org](mailto:info@uaccnj.org)



[For Car Raffle Tickets Go To UACCNJ.org](http://UACCNJ.org)



## OUT AND ABOUT

March 18-19 Chicago	Springtime Pysanka Bazaar, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020
March 18 Washington, DC	Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family, 410-952-8374
March 19 Jenkintown, PA	Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 215-663-1166
March 19 New York	European Folk Festival, featuring the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers, among others, Fashion Institute of Technology, 718-846-0682
March 23 New York	"The Orange Revolution. A story full of sound and fury, signifying?" - presentation of three films, Columbia University, (212) 854-4697
March 24 New York	Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Ukrainian National Home, 216-240-4997
March 25 Scranton, PA	Pysanky Workshop, Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum, 570-963-4808
March 25 Toronto	Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 416-236-9357
March 26 New York	Spring Concert of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky School of Ukrainian Dance, St. George Academy, 201-432-6359
April 1-2 Arden Hills, MN	"Iskry/Living Embers," art exhibit by Orysia Sinitowich-Gorski, St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 763-754-6618

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com). Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.



**SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK**  
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### 55-th Annual Membership Meeting

will take place on  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2006**  
at 2:00 p.m.

in the  
**St. George Academy Auditorium**  
215 East 6th Street, New York City

#### Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
3. Reports:
  - Management
  - Credit Committee
  - Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion and approval of reports
5. Election of 3 members to the Board of Directors
6. New business
7. Adjournment

Board of Directors

Members are required to bring their regular share passbooks.



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### TENNIS CAMP AGES 10-18

Kick off the summer with 2 weeks of intensive tennis instruction and competitive play directed by George Sawchak. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, expert lessons and a life time of memories are included!

June 25- July 7, 2006

\$540- UNA Members, \$590- Non UNA Members + \$130 Instructors Fee/Per Student

### EXPLORATION DAY CAMP AGES 7-10

A day camp for boys and girls ages 7-10, with daily supervised day fun in the outdoors!

Session #1: June 26- June 30, 2006

Session #2: July 3- July 7, 2006

\$100.00 Per Week/Per Child OR \$25.00 Per Day/Per Child

### DISCOVERY CAMP AGES 8-15

Calling all nature lovers for this sleepover program filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, scuba, organized sports & games, bonfires, song and much more. Older kids will participate in overnight campouts with focus on wilderness survival skills. Room, Board, 24 Hour Supervision, and a life time of memories are included!

Session #1: July 9- July 15, 2006

Session #2: July 16- July 22, 2006

\$400- UNA Members, \$450- Non UNA Members

### CHILDREN'S UKRAINIAN HERITAGE DAY CAMP AGES 4-7

Formerly known as Cherny Camp, this day camp exposes kids to their Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games, ending w/a performance.

## Summer Camps 2006

Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Session #1: July 16- July 21, 2006

Session #2: July 23- July 28, 2006

\$150 Per Camper, \$190 Per Camper If Not Overnight Guest

### SCUBA DIVING COURSE AGES 12-ADULTS

This one week course will complete your academic, confined water and open water requirements for PADI open water certification. Classes are given by George Hanushevsky, scuba-diver instructor. Space is limited so sign up now!

July 16- July 22, 2006

\$400 for Course (\$120 Deposit Required)

### UKRAINIAN "SITCH" SPORTS CAMP AGES 6-18

This is the 37th Annual Ukrainian "SITCH" Sports Camp that will take place here at Soyuzivka for the 1st time. Run by the Ukrainian Sitch Sports School, this camp will focus on soccer and tennis and is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Registration for this camp is done directly by contacting Marika Bokalo at 908/851-0617.

Session #1: July 23- July 29, 2006

Session #2: July 30- August 5, 2006

\$340 Per Camper, \$145 for Day Campers

### GOLF DAY CAMP AND BEACH VOLLEYBALL DAY CAMP AGES 8-ADULTS

Instructional golf sessions w/golf instructors, between 8-11am & evening beach volleyball w/professional instruction by All American Volleyball Player between 6:30-8:30 pm.

Session #2 SITCH campers may participate- call for details.

July 31- August 4, 2006

GOLF-\$35 Per Camper/Per Day & VOLLEYBALL-\$20 Per Camper/Per Day

### TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP AGES 8-16

Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky). This sleepover camp has been a Soyuzivka favorite for over 25 years, offering expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced dancers. Attendance is limited to 60 students. The camps end with a grand recital which is always a summer highlight!

Session #1: July 23- August 5, 2006 (NEW ADDED WEEK)

Session #2: August 6- August 19, 2006

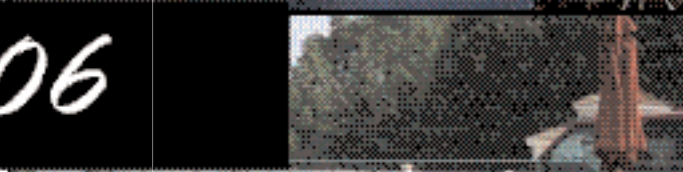
\$610- UNA Members, \$660- Non UNA Members + \$300 Instructors Fee Per Student

\$75 Deposit Required to Register Child into most Camps.

For more information & for camp applications call: (845) 626-5641

or check out our website at: [www.Soyuzivka.com](http://www.Soyuzivka.com)

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# UKELODEON

## FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

### Plast youths share Christmas with children in Ukraine

by Nadia Maczaj

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – On January 26, children from the local Plast branch in shared the Christmas spirit of giving with children in Ukraine. “Novatsvo” (the younger children) and “yunatsvo” (those over age 11), with the help and encouragement of “Bratchyk Denys,” the group’s “Dido,” packed a box almost to overflowing with clothing, art supplies and toys. Even “ptashata,” the preschool siblings of the older children, joined in the fun.

The box is destined to arrive at an orphanage in Ukraine. The children also included their own artwork and letters written to the Ukrainian children. Many of them asked their Ukrainian

counterparts to please write back, hoping to start a penpal relationship.

Kerhonkson’s Plast branch is growing again with an active group of novatsvo and now yunatsvo. The children meet weekly, doing everything from singing and acting, to spinning and embroidery. Even ptashata join in the fun, for some “unofficial” arts and crafts and playtime.

The group has facilitated music classes, taught by Andrij Milavsky of the Ukrainian Folk Ensemble Cheres, for those who are interested. “Pan Andrij” leads the children in sopilka lessons, including practice in musical notation, as well as singing. He has introduced them not just to our



Plast youths in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

Ukrainian folk melodies, but also to the classics by Mozart and Beethoven.

During the Christmas season, the children also visited their Ukrainian neighbors with the traditional “koliada,” or car-

oling. With star in hand, they brightened homes with the joyous songs, music and “vinshuvannia” (greetings) of the season. For many of the children, this was their first experience with this tradition.

### Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the words on the list below in the Mishanyna grid. The place names, or toponyms, that follow are the names of oblasts that are part of Ukraine. (Part I of the Mishanyna featuring Ukraine’s oblasts appeared in our February issue.)

Lviv	Luhansk	Mykolaiv
Odesa	Poltava	Rivne
Sumy	Ternopil	Vinnysia
Volyn	Zakarpattia	
Zaporizhia	Zhytomyr	

V	A	T	O	R	B	Y	S	T	O	C	K	H	O	L
O	R	E	S	P	O	L	T	A	V	A	Y	O	V	V
R	A	R	T	R	A	M	P	O	N	Y	L	O	V	I
O	T	N	R	O	Z	A	P	O	R	I	Z	H	I	A
S	N	O	W	I	V	O	R	I	V	N	E	D	N	R
H	O	P	D	I	S	V	T	K	G	A	I	U	N	Y
Y	L	I	V	Y	V	O	I	H	A	S	U	M	Y	A
V	S	L	E	N	O	G	R	A	T	E	I	U	T	L
O	U	L	E	X	I	A	A	T	L	D	O	D	S	T
K	Z	A	I	R	E	R	T	A	L	O	N	N	I	A
M	O	L	U	H	A	N	S	K	A	V	K	A	A	O
E	L	E	H	A	N	Z	H	Y	T	O	M	Y	R	D
L	S	A	V	T	O	M	O	B	I	L	D	E	M	E
D	A	I	T	T	A	P	R	A	K	A	Z	A	P	S

### “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday” acquaints youths with Ukrainian heritage



Participants of “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday” together with the clergy of St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio.

PARMA, Ohio – On Sunday, February 12, the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League (UOL) chapter of St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Parma, Ohio, sponsored its third annual “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday,” to acquaint friends with the Orthodox faith and Ukrainian heritage.

On that day, the Junior UOL members and their guests attended the 8:30 a.m. divine liturgy, sitting in the front pews, body. Each visitor was presented with a souvenir and all were invited to a breakfast sponsored by the Senior UOL chapter.

**OUR NEXT ISSUE:** UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated April 9, please send in your materials by March 31.

UKELODEON, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; phone (973) 292-9800; e-mail, [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com).



# Soyuzivka's Datebook

**March 18, 2006**

Birthday Party

**March 24-26, 2006**

Grace Church Men's Retreat

**March 31 - April 2, 2006**

Plast Kurin "Chornomorski Khvyli" Annual Rada

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

**April 2, 2006**

Wedding Shower

**April 7-9 2006**

BUG (Brooklyn Ukrainian Group) Spring Cleaning Volunteer Weekend

**April 16, 2006**

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

**April 18-19, 2006**

Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Program

**April 22, 2006**

Alpha Kappa Sorority Formal Dinner Banquet

**April 23, 2006**

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

**April 28, 2006**

Ellenville High School Junior Prom

**April 28-30, 2006**

Spa Weekend organized by UNWLA Branch 95

**April 29, 2006**

Birthday Party Banquet  
TAPS New York Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain, round trip bus from Soyuzivka, \$20; special room rate - \$60/night

**May 5-7, 2006**

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

**May 14, 2006**

Mother's Day Brunch

**May 20, 2006**

Wedding

**May 21, 2006**

Communion Luncheon Banquet

**May 26-29, 2006**

UNA Convention

**June 2-4, 2006**

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

**June 3, 2006**

Wedding

**June 5-9, 2006**

Eparchial Clergy Retreat

**June 10, 2006**

Wedding

**June 11-16, 2006**

UNA Seniors' Conference

**June 16-18, 2006**

3rd Annual Adoption Weekend

**June 17, 2006**

Wedding

**June 18, 2006**

Father's Day Luncheon and Program

**June 23-24, 2006**

Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada

**June 24, 2006**

Wedding

**June 25-July 2, 2006**

Tabir Ptashat Session #1

**June 25-July 7, 2006**

Tennis Camp

**June 26-June 30, 2006**

Exploration Day Camp

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

216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529

Kerhonkson, NY 12446

E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com

Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

## Iskry/Living Embers

an exhibit of the art of

**Orysla Sinitowich-Gorski**

(of Winnipeg, Canada)

April 1-2, 2006, 1-4 p.m.

Meet the artist: Sunday, April 2, 2006, 1-4 p.m.

Introduction: Dr. Alexandra Pawlowsky

**St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church**

Minneapolis/St. Paul vicinity

1600 West Highway 96, Arden Hills, Minnesota

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Wednesday, March 15**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, New York City chapter, will present a lecture on "Engineering Inventions, New Technologies and Intellectual Property" by Walter Hanchuk, attorney for Chadbourne & Parke LLP at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Sign-in/networking begins at 7 p.m. and the lecture at 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$5; free for students with valid ID. This lecture will count towards New York State continuing education credit for licensed professional engineers. To receive announcements about these and other UESA events send a blank e-mail to [uesa-event-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:uesa-event-subscribe@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, March 18**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society's Medical-Biological Section invites all to a lecture by Dr. Marta Kushnir titled "The History and the Significance of the Medical University in Lviv." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**Sunday, March 19**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club presents "The OMYA Collection," an exhibit featuring artwork from the Ukrainian Artists Association collection. This is the first of two final exhibitions to take place at the present location. Sculptor Anya Farion, director of OMYA Gallery, will make introductory remarks. The exhibit will open at 1 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. The exhibit will be on view through March 26. Gallery hours: Friday, 6-8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 1- 5 p.m. For more information call 212-260-4490 or 212-477-6175, log on to [www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/](http://www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/) e-mail [ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com](mailto:ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com).

**Wednesday, March 22**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University will host Dr. Anna Procyk, who will give a lecture titled "Young Europe in Ukraine." The similarities between the ideological foundations of Young Europe and the guiding ideals of the Brotherhood of Ss. Cyril and Methodius have intrigued a number of students interested in the intellectual history of Ukraine. This presentation will explore the various channels through which political ideas formulated in the revolutionary conclaves of Western Europe have reached Ukrainian students and educators in Lviv, Kharkiv and Kyiv, and will conclude with a discussion of the impact of Young Europe's political program on modern Ukrainian nationalism. Dr. Procyk is an associate professor at City University of New York. The lecture will take place at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, Columbia University, 420 W. 118th St. Contact [ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu](mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu) or 212-854-4697 for more information.

**Thursday, March 23**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will present two perspectives on the Orange Revolution during the presentation "Orange Revolution. A Story Full of Sound and Fury, Signifying?" A Ukrainian and an American filmmaker will give their individual accounts of what happened on and around the maidan (Kyiv's Independence Square). The event will include three films: "NEVSEREMOS. People from Maidan" (2005, director Serhiy Masloboyschikov, Ukraine), documenting the opposing pro-Yushchenko and pro-Yanukovich political perspectives; "Zlydni" (Poverty) (2005, director Stepan Koval, Ukraine), a tongue-in-cheek plasticene animation about the "blessing" of Russia as Ukraine's neighbor; and "Borderland, Ukraine and the Rebirth of Democracy" (2005, director Paul Tremblay, U.S.), a historical background and analysis of the Orange Revolution. The screening will take

place at 7:30 p.m. in 614 Schermerhorn Hall, Columbia University, 1190 Amsterdam Ave. All films are either in English or with English subtitles and will be introduced by the film club's director, Yuri Shevchuk. Contact [ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu](mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu) or 212-854-4697 for more information.

**Sunday, March 26**

**PARMA, Ohio:** All are invited to attend a special benefit dinner for the Ukrainian Catholic University, to be held at 1 p.m. at Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church, 6812 Broadview Road. The main speaker at the dinner will be the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Bishop Robert Moskal, honorary chair of the event, will be a guest of honor at the dinner. A film will be shown, along with various exhibits from the university. Tickets are \$25 and should be purchased by March 19. Tickets may be purchased at the Cleveland Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, from individual committee members or from the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation by calling 773-235-8462.

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites you to a meeting with two Ukrainian scholars from Kyiv: Lesia Stavyska, doctor of philology and chair of the department of sociolinguistics at the Institute of the Ukrainian Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the author of several monographs on Ukrainian jargon and slang, and the 2006 Shklar Fellow at the Harvard Institute of Ukrainian Studies; and Myroslava Antonovych, associate professor of jurisprudence at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, the author of the monograph "International Public Law." The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 2 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**Tuesday, March 28**

**MONTREAL:** Dr. Taras Kuzio, George Washington University, one of the leading experts on contemporary Ukraine, will deliver the lecture "The Ukrainian 2006 Elections: Breakthrough to Democracy Revenge of the Past?" The event is part of the Montreal lecture series organized by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies of the University of Ottawa with the support of the McGill University Faculty of Education and the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Montreal. The event is free and open to public, and begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Faculty Club of the McGill University, 3450 McTavish. For more information call Prof. Yarema Kelebay, 514-398-4972 or 514-488-3989.

**Thursday, March 30**

**CHICAGO:** The Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago, in collaboration with the Lake Forest School of Management, invites members and the community to a presentation by Pat Davis Szymczak on "Russia, Ukraine and the Geopolitics of Energy." An American journalist and former Chicago Tribune staff writer, Ms. Szymczak is publisher and editor of Moscow-based "Oil and Gas Eurasia," a trade publication specializing in Russia's energy sector. The presentation will be held at the Federal Reserve Bank Building, 230 South LaSalle St., LaSalle Dining Room, third floor. To register (required for security purposes) contact Diana Booth, 847-574-5152 or [dbooth@lfgsm.edu](mailto:dbooth@lfgsm.edu). Admission: \$10 for UBPG members; \$20 for guests.

**Friday, March 31**

**TORONTO:** The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the University of Toronto hosts a lecture by Prof. David Marples (University of Alberta) titled "Chornobyl: 20 Years Later" held in Room 108N, Munk Center for International

(Continued on page 18)