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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Ukraine's foreign affairs minister has high praise for constructive atmosphere in relations with U.S.

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — “I cannot recall such an exceptionally constructive and positive atmosphere in our relations.”

That was how Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, who says that in one way or another he has been involved in Ukraine's foreign affairs since independence, characterized the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship with one meeting left on his schedule of talks here on March 9-10.

That last meeting — with the president's national security advisor, Stephen Hadley — turned out to include another, unscheduled participant, President George W. Bush himself.

It was an unprecedented conclusion to an unprecedented week, which saw another Ukrainian Cabinet member,

Economy Minister Arsenii Yatseniuk, sign a bilateral World Trade Organization accession agreement here on Tuesday, March 7, the U.S. House of Representatives vote to free Ukraine from the economic shackles of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment on Wednesday, March 8, and the Senate passage of the House version of that legislation on Thursday, March 9.

The only other possible step in the process that remained — and some observers predicted it would happen after Mr. Tarasyuk canceled his scheduled Friday meetings in New York to stay in Washington — would be the signing of the Jackson-Vanik “graduation” legislation by President Bush. This did not happen, but observers see no obstacles to it hap-

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Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk during his meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush.

Yushchenko denounces negative tone of Party of the Regions campaign

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — President Viktor Yushchenko criticized the negative tone of the Party of the Regions election campaign, stating that the party lacks an agenda that can intellectually compete with the government's program.

“This demonstrates a weak morality,” President Yushchenko said at a March 14 press conference in Kyiv. “Politics is won by those who uniquely communicate, command knowledge and are able to offer a means of how to make things better.”

Throughout the parliamentary election season, the Party of the Regions has bombarded Ukrainian television with negative ads that emphasize how things have changed for the worse, citing the current government's inability to provide jobs and control inflation.

The president mocked such ads in which “a funereal bass voice talks about how hard it is to live in this country, how bad unemployment is, in a voice without character, the voice of an abnormal person.”

Such ads have made the 2006 election campaign “uninteresting, from the point of view of campaign platforms, which are marked by primitivism, shady ventures and black PR,” he said.

Seated under the words “Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Choice,” which were carefully placed against a background wall, President Yushchenko answered questions posed by reporters, many visiting from different regions of Ukraine.

He stressed the successes of his first year in office, specifically citing Ukraine's improved relations with Western powers.

“In the past five months we have been

recognized as a free market economy by the United States and the European Union,” the president said. “Had that existed before?”

The U.S. Congress's recent moves to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment will allow for exports to grow by \$200 million, Mr. Yushchenko said.

Ukraine's metallurgical, chemical and, to some extent, its coal industry will gain access to the U.S. market, he said. Graduation from Jackson-Vanik will also free Ukraine from more than 1,000 anti-dumping measures that have cost the Ukrainian economy about \$2 billion in potential trade, the president added.

The recent U.S.-Ukraine agreement establishing new bilateral trade protocols will increase Ukrainian exports by an additional \$500 million or \$600 million, Mr. Yushchenko said.

Along with the U.S. recognition of Ukraine's market economy status, Jackson-Vanik graduation will enable

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Voters' committee voices concerns about state of district election bodies

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The formation and activity of district election commissions remains in a “catastrophic” state, Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) Chair Ihor Popov said at a March 14 press conference.

Virtually all the district election commissions began their work significantly behind schedule, and nearly a third of them haven't even begun to fully function, he said.

“The Ukrainian government must take quick and decisive steps to save the elections,” Mr. Popov said. “The situation today in providing the organizational and technical means to conduct elections is catastrophic, primarily in organizing the work of district election commissions.”

District elections commissions are those local voting stations where Ukrainians will cast their ballots. A Ukrainian oblast can have anywhere between 900 and 1,800 district commissions, and about 33,000 will operate nationally.

The main reason for the disorder, according to a CVU report released on

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On the eve of elections, the view from Luhansk

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

LUHANSK, Ukraine — Viktor Yanukovich didn't falsify the vote. If he did, then Viktor Yushchenko falsified them, too.

And besides, the European Union doesn't want Ukraine to join. And even if it did, Ukrainians are too different to become Europeans.

More than a year after the Orange Revolution, such are the sentiments of residents of Luhansk, Ukraine's easternmost outpost, which will give the Party of the Regions the overwhelming majority of its votes on March 26, when the nation will elect its Parliament.

In a February 26 poll conducted by

the citizens activist organization Molod — Nadiya Ukrayiny (Youth — Hope of Ukraine), 69 percent of Luhansk voters will support the Party of the Regions.

“I trust Yanukovich like I trust my father,” said Yulia Chaplyna, 20, who added that she doesn't follow politics much. “He wants to build a better future for Ukraine. (Yushchenko's) not doing anything good for Ukraine.”

Of 15 Luhansk residents approached by The Weekly's Kyiv bureau, nine said they would vote for the Party of the Regions. Another voter was undecided, but said he was leaning toward the Party of the Regions.

Since the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of the

Regions further fortified their position among Luhansk voters, earning their admiration and trust.

Party of the Regions supporters said they fully trust Mr. Yanukovich, believe that he cares about Ukraine's future and, in fact, “it was Mr. Yushchenko and his supporters who falsified the vote,” Ms. Chaplyna said.

Anna Honcharenko, 75, echoed that sentiment.

“It was the Orangists who falsified the vote, not Yanukovich,” said Ms. Honcharenko, who belongs to an organization of 3,000 pensioners from her factory who, she said, “all want a Yanukovich victory.”

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ANALYSIS

Kyiv tightens customs controls along border with Transdniester

by Jan Maksymiuk
RFE/RL Newsline

On March 3 Ukraine introduced new customs rules along the Transdniestrian stretch of its border with Moldova. The new rules make illegal the shipment of any goods from the Russian-speaking separatist Transdniester region that have not been cleared by Moldovan customs. The Ukrainian move has effectively imposed a ban on exports by Tiraspol to Russia, its main trade partner.

Transdniester leader Igor Smirnov said the move is tantamount to an economic blockade and threatened to withdraw from multilateral talks on the settlement of Transdniester's conflict with Moldova. Will the tightened Ukrainian-Moldovan border controls make the unrecognized Transdniestrian Republic more pliant in reunification talks with Moldova or just bring more chill to the "frozen conflict"?

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov declared in Kyiv on March 6 that Ukrainian customs officers will now grant free passage across Ukraine only to

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

those Transdniestrian shipments that have a stamp from Moldovan customs.

The rules had been enacted three days earlier, and Mr. Yekhanurov noted that Ukraine had given Transdniester notice of the change in February. Still, he acknowledged with some surprise and disappointment, Tiraspol's response to date had been "ill-advised."

Moldovan Prime Minister Vasile Tarlev has likewise commented on the new customs rules. Speaking on March 6 in Chisinau, Mr. Tarlev said the regulations are intended to make Transdniestrian business entities register according to Moldovan law and legalize their external trade activities.

At the same time, Mr. Tarlev denied Tiraspol's assertion that the Ukrainian move is an economic blockade of Transdniester that was planned in collusion with Moldova.

"There was no economic blockade of the Transdniestrian region. There was not, is not, and will not be [a blockade]," Mr. Tarlev said. "The Moldovan government is not interested in an economic blockade of its citizens, and we want to live in peace and prosperity together with our brothers and fellow citizens from this region."

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Transition to parliamentary rule in the CIS: diverging trends

by Ilian Cashu

Two diverging political trends have emerged over the past five years in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In the first group of countries, which comprises the Central Asian states and Belarus, incumbent presidents already serving their second terms have instigated referenda with the express aim of extending their rule for one or several addition terms, making it theoretically possible for them to remain in power for a further decade, in the case of Tajikistan's Imomali Rakhmonov – or even for life, as with Turkmenistan's Saparmurat Niyazov.

Other CIS states, by contrast, have set about curbing presidential powers through constitutional reforms. Moldova (2000), Ukraine (2004) and Armenia (2005) have all adopted models of the parliamentary rule that altered the power balance in favor of legislative majorities and their Cabinets. Proponents of parliamentarism emphasized its greater potential for democratization while highlighting the authoritarian character of presidentialism.

Yet whatever the official justification for these democratic reforms, basically they reflected bitter battles among political elites for influence and power control. In all three cases, the bulk of the bargaining was conducted behind the scenes, with little or no effort made to explain the essence of such important constitutional changes to the public.

The Armenian opposition launched a vocal campaign urging voters to boycott last November's referendum on constitutional changes, arguing that the amendments did not go far enough in curbing the

president's powers, and they subsequently rejected as rigged official claims of 65 percent turnout, with 93 percent of participants endorsing the proposed changes.

President Robert Kocharian's opponents fear (as did those of Ukraine's ex-President Leonid Kuchma) that he plans to use the reform as a means to remain at the peak of Armenian politics beyond 2008, when his second presidential term expires, by assuming the post of prime minister.

It is speculated that Russian President Vladimir Putin, too, may favor a transition to parliamentary rule in order to remain in power as the head of the Cabinet after his second presidential term ends in 2008.

These constitutional changes determine the official rules of the political game, and, therefore, are vital to mitigating conflicts among the ruling elites. To that end, the implementation of the new rules counts more than the debates surrounding their design. With a parliamentary republic in place since March 2001, Moldova offers an indication of how things might develop in Armenia and Ukraine.

The Moldovan Parliament approved the regime reform bill by an overwhelming majority (a vote of 98-2) in July 2000. The reform aimed at dampening the political aspirations of then President Petru Lucinschi to introduce a superpresidentialist system along the model established by Boris Yeltsin in Russia. According to Mr. Lucinschi, such magnified presidential powers were a necessary precondition for successfully carrying out enduring economic reforms.

By contrast, his most vocal opponents, like Party of Moldovan Communists (PMC) leader Vladimir Voronin, insisted parliamentary rule would distinguish

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NEWSBRIEFS

Rada bans sale of Nikopol plant

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 15 voted to include the Nikopol Ferroalloys Plant on a list of enterprises that cannot be privatized in 2006-2007, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Parliament endorsed a similar bill in February, but it was subsequently vetoed by President Viktor Yushchenko. In January the Supreme Court ruled that the 2003 sale of a 25 percent stake in Nikopol for some \$80 million to Viktor Pinchuk, the son-in-law of former President Leonid Kuchma, was illegal and returned it to the state. The government intended to sell a 50 percent stake plus one share in Nikopol at an open auction later this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

CVU says voter lists inaccurate

KYIV – Ihor Popov of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), a non-governmental organization monitoring election campaigns in the country, told journalists on March 14 that between 5 percent and 10 percent of voter lists prepared for the March 26 parliamentary elections are inaccurate, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Popov was commenting on the results of a monitoring mission that his organization carried out in early March. He added that irregularities in voter lists can be found in all regions of Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Activists arrested at Miensk rally

MIENSK – Police detained at least five Belarusians and six Ukrainians immediately after a campaign meeting convened by opposition presidential candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich in Miensk on March 12, RFE/RL's Belarus Service reported. It was Mr. Milinkevich's third meeting with voters in the Belarusian capital on that day and was attended by more than 2,000 people. There were also an unspecified number of activists of the Ukrainian organization Student Brotherhood, who came to Miensk from Ukraine. Police also detained Hanna Horozhenko, a journalist of Kyiv-based Channel 5, while she was reporting live by the telephone to Kyiv. "The actions of the OMON [riot police] – that was really

something. I have never heard such words addressed to a human being, I have never seen such boorishness. I was shocked," Ms. Horozhenko told RFE/RL's Belarus Service later the same day, after she spent several hours in jail and was released following an intervention of the Ukrainian Embassy in Miensk. The fate of the other arrested Ukrainians and Belarusians is unknown. "We have come here with a peaceful purpose, to support the Belarusian people. We see that people are intimidated here. They are afraid but they want changes," a Ukrainian girl named Natalka told RFE/RL shortly before her arrest. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv concerned about detainees

KYIV – The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry circulated a statement on March 13 to express deep concern over the Belarusian authorities' move to arrest six Ukrainian nationals in Miensk on March 12. The six were attending a rally of one of the candidates for the presidency. In addition, the ministry expressed concern over the forcible termination of a TV report from Miensk by journalists of Ukraine's Channel 5. The statement says the Ukrainian detainees were denied the right to meet with Ukrainian Embassy staffers, which contradicts Article 36 of the Vienna Consular Convention of April 24, 1963. The statement urges Belarusian authorities to promptly release the Ukrainian citizens. It also calls upon Belarusian authorities to respect political and human rights, and secure conditions for unhampered media coverage of the election campaign in Belarus. (Ukrinform)

Court sentences Ukrainian detainee

MIENSK – The Miensk City Court on March 13 sentenced five of six Ukrainians detained in the Belarusian capital to 10 days under arrest. The six Ukrainian citizens were detained on March 12. The Ukrainian Embassy together with jurists of the Associations of Human Rights Protection are readying an appeal to challenge the ruling. Mykola Karpynskyi, one

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UCCA officially registers delegation of international election observers

by **Tamara Gallo Olexy**
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – As of March 7, Ukraine’s Central Election Commission has officially registered 130 international election observers from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) to monitor the upcoming parliamentary elections, with dozens more still awaiting accreditation.

The UCCA expects to have over 200 international observers scattered throughout Ukraine on election day. Following two days of intensive briefing sessions on March 23-24 in Kyiv, the UCCA observers will be dispatched to Crimea, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Odesa, Sumy, Poltava, Cherkasy, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Rivne, Chernivtsi, Zhytomyr and Kyiv to monitor Ukraine’s parliamentary election process.

UCCA observers will also be monitor-

ing the elections in four out of five U.S. polling stations, including: New York City, Washington, Chicago, Illinois and Kent, Wash. The UCCA National Office, located in New York City, held a pre-election briefing on Monday, March 13, for those observers monitoring the elections state-side and for observers interested in obtaining more detailed information regarding Ukraine’s election process.

The UCCA delegation of international election observers will assist in the upcoming parliamentary elections by ensuring that they are conducted in a free and fair manner.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America has been organizing delegations of international election observers since 1994. In 2004 the UCCA’s delegation, which numbered 2,408 individuals, was the largest delegation of international election observers ever registered by Ukraine’s Central Election Commission.

Alberta UCC fund-raising banquet heightens awareness of election monitors’ importance

EDMONTON – Over 200 people gathered on Tuesday, February 28, here at St. John’s Cultural Center for an election observer fund-raising banquet initiated to raise awareness for the need to have observers for Ukraine’s upcoming elections, and to assist with the funding of the observers.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) was successfully involved in the observer mission to Ukraine for the presidential election in 2004, which was deemed fair and democratic by the international community.

“The upcoming parliamentary elections on March 26 are just as important, if not more important, for Ukraine to secure its democratic and free-market economic reforms. There is no guarantee that a democratic process will automatically extend to the parliamentary elections, and for this reason, it is vital that again a significant number of International Observers be present,” said Luba Boyko-Bell, who emceed the evening.

Ms. Boyko-Bell herself is travelling to Ukraine as an observer and was present

as an observer during the presidential election in 2004.

Dave Broda, president of the UCC-APC, welcomed the gathering, and Catherine Chichak, Observer Project chair, provided a status report on the fund-raising efforts to date. The event included both live and silent auctions.

Special guests included Metropolitan John, archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Diocese and metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada; Laurie Hawn, MP for Edmonton Center and his wife, Judy; John Williams, MP for St. Albert; Lorraine Goldring, wife of Peter Goldring, MP for Edmonton East; Ed Stelmach, member of the Legislative Assembly for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville, minister of international and intergovernmental relations; Gene Zwodzesky, MLA for Mill Creek Constituency, minister of education; Dan L. Backs, MLA for Edmonton-Manning; City Councillors Kim Krushell and Mike Nickel; Janice Sarich, trustee, Edmonton

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Election Notebook

by **Zenon Zawada** *Kyiv Press Bureau*

- **KYIV** – With two weeks left in the election campaign, rival political parties aren’t pulling any punches. In fact, some may be hitting below the belt.

During the March 15 session of the Verkhovna Rada, Socialist Party National Deputy Mykola Rudkovskiy took the podium and accused Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn of taking part in ordering the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze and blocking the investigation for five years.

“I am convinced that Volodymyr Lytvyn is liable to a criminal investigation and removal of his diplomatic immunity, considering that all the evidence linking his involvement to the crime is among the Verkhovna Rada investigation committee’s official documents,” Mr. Rudkovskiy declared.

At one point, Mr. Lytvyn interrupted Mr. Rudkovskiy’s speech and advised him not to use the Parliament’s podium to “spit all over a person, when there has already been a court decision.”

A court had ruled in January that statements made by former Kuchma security officer Mykola Melnychenko accusing Mr. Lytvyn of taking part in Gongadze’s murder were baseless.

“Toward which Europe are you going?” Mr. Lytvyn asked Mr. Rudkovskiy, mockingly referring to the Socialist Party’s slogan, “Building Europe in Ukraine.” He added, “If you want to build Europe in Ukraine, first learn to respect you own people.”

Mr. Rudkovskiy called the court “prejudiced,” stating that it neglected to review documents and materials produced by experts, the investigating committee and the Procurator General’s Office.

As Mr. Rudkovskiy made his accusations, U.S. asylum winner Mr. Melnychenko sat in the Rada’s loge. He later told reporters he was there to look Mr. Lytvyn in the eyes.

Mr. Melnychenko is a close ally of Oleksander Moroz, the leader of the Socialist Party of Ukraine and Mr. Lytvyn’s top rival for the Rada chairman’s position.

In the 2006 elections, Lytvyn’s People’s Bloc and the Socialist Party are heated rivals battling for the same electorate: rural voters throughout Ukraine and central Ukrainians voters who support none of the three leading political blocs.

- **KYIV** – The battle between the Party of the Regions and Our Ukraine bloc turned nasty when Regions campaign chief Yevhen Kushnariov accused the latter of producing a propaganda film against his party that contained subliminal images of a frightening skull.

At a March 14 press conference, Mr. Kushnariov displayed images of the blue skull, which he alleged was displayed five times during the program, “Menace, the Scary Truth.”

Each time, the skull image was displayed for three flash frames against the audio sound of chattering teeth, Mr. Kushnariov said.

The Party of the Regions had two independent experts review the video and confirm the presence of the subliminal images, which Mr. Kushnariov said played on the subconscious of television viewers.

The party has submitted its concerns to the Central Elections Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, he said.

“Menace, the Scary Truth,” which aired on March 10 on the UT-1 public broadcasting network, explored the lurid criminal history of the Donetsk clans during the 1990s, indirectly linking them to the Party of the Regions.

It also featured Our Ukraine supporters in Donetsk attesting to attacks they continue to endure from Party of the Regions campaigners, as well as images of Regions cohorts setting orange flags and campaign literature on fire as recently as February 2006.

The politically motivated program ran under the broadcasting quotas that distribute television airtime to competing parties.

- **KYIV** – Ukraine’s political parties have spent more than \$1 billion on advertising during the 2006 parliamentary campaign, said Oleksander Chekmyshev, the chair of the Rivnist Mozhlyvostey election monitoring organization.

The irony is that government funding of district election commissions, including salaries, is so inadequate that its employees will have to work in extreme conditions of discomfort and pressure, he said. District election commission workers earn \$10 a day for their work.

POLITICAL BLOC PROFILE: The Communist Party of Ukraine

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 the Communist Party of Ukraine.

KYIV – About 20 percent of Ukrainians voted for the Communist Party of Ukraine in the 2002 parliamentary elections.

As widely predicted, that was the party’s last stand.

This time around, Ukrainians will reduce the Communists’ presence in the Verkhovna Rada to no more than 10 percent of the seats, a testament to the inevitable demise of an ideology that inspired the murder and displacement of tens of millions of Ukrainians.

When recently confronted with the brutal history of communism, leader Petro Symonenko asserted that his Communist Party is the only alternative to deal with economic hardship in a landscape of political parties that serve only the interests of wealthy businessmen.

“If you’re going to talk about these or other tragic pages of our history, don’t forget that 14 years of Ukrainian independence have brought significantly more poverty and suffering to our people than what is in our history,” Mr. Symonenko said during a February 27

chat organized by the Russian-language Korrespondent, a Ukrainian news magazine.

The Communist Party has the support of 9 percent of the electorate, according to a January poll conducted by the National Institute for Strategic Research, a government agency that performs work for the president and his Secretariat.

According to the Western-financed Democratic Initiatives Foundation, about 4 percent of the electorate supports the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Party leaders

Mr. Symonenko has been Ukraine’s Communist poster boy ever since he became the party’s first secretary in 1993. The next year, the Donetsk native became a national deputy and leader of the Communists’ parliamentary faction.

He’s been a fierce political competitor ever since, having led a formidable campaign against Leonid Kuchma for the Ukrainian presidency in 1999, earning 38 percent of the vote.

Ukrainians recognize him most for his impassioned speeches in the Verkhovna Rada, where he is relentless in criticizing businessmen of any stripe for selling out Ukraine, either for their own personal gain or to foreign interests, such as multinational companies.

Interestingly enough, his son Andrii doesn’t seem to



A logo of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

care much for the writings of Marx or Lenin. He was an executive at Donetsk-based Promconbank.

Second on the party list is Mr. Symonenko’s longtime partner and right-hand man, Adam Martyniuk, who is the first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada.

(Continued on page 10)

Ukrainian Federation of America announces health care project for Ukraine

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian Federation of America, based in Philadelphia, has finalized a plan for a major health care initiative for Ukraine. Called “Project Lifeline,” the initiative follows a series of meetings in Ukraine in December between the federation, the first lady of Ukraine, representatives of the international fund Ukraine 3000, the Ministry of Health and representatives of various international health care organizations, including Safe Blood International, the World Hemophilia Foundation and the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations.

The focus of this initiative will be on the health needs of children and adolescents with particular emphasis on family medicine/preventive medicine, safe blood, HIV/AIDS, hemophilia and general oncology, and related areas.

Following a three-hour meeting with First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and members of her staff at Ukraine 3000, the federation delegation traveled to Kharkiv for a series of meetings with doctors and staff at the Academy of Medicine.

These meetings reflected a keen interest on the part of the medical community in Ukraine to work aggressively on the initia-



Participants of a meeting held to discuss “Project Lifeline” (from left): Dr. Yanna Antonenko, Dr. Yuriy Derpak, Dr. Vira Pavlyuk, Dr. Ihor Katernyak, Stephen Robinson, Vera Andryczyk, Dr. Alexander Bojko, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, Orest Chebenyak, Dr. Zenia Chernyk, Marijka Tatunchak, Karl Ottosen, Vice Minister of Health Valentin Snisar, Press Secretary of the Ministry of Health Ulana Lozan, Charles Dougherty, Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj and Dr. Eugene Mochan.

tive with the federation, Ukraine 3000 and associated organizations and groups.

A series of interim meetings will be held by all parties of the initiative to finalize the action plan prior to an implementation meeting, which will again be hosted

by the first lady, in late spring in Kyiv.

Members of the delegation included Dr. Zenia Chernyk (chair), Vera Andryczyk (president), Marijka Tatunchak (social services), Dr. Eugene Mochan (family practice medicine), Dr. Roxolana

Horbowyj (World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations), former U.S. Rep. Charles Dougherty, Karl Ottosen (Safe Blood International, Ukraine coordinator) and Stephen Robinson (director, World Hemophilia Foundation).

Stefan Tatarenko runs for re-election to Clifton City Council

CLIFTON, N.J. – Encouraging young activists to consider a political career is one of the forces that drives one New Jersey politician of Ukrainian descent to run for office.

Clifton City Councilman Stefan Tatarenko started his own political career in 1991 at the prompting of his friend and mentor Severyn Palydowych with a run for the Clifton Board of Education. Since then he has not looked back and has run for, and won, a second term on the Board of Education and then two consecutive four-year terms on the Clifton City Council. With the elections slated for May 9, he is running for his third term on the City Council.

Mr. Tatarenko said he “caught the political bug at the age of 15,” when he was elected president of the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League.

After being elected to the Clifton Board of Education in 1991 and 1994, Mr. Tatarenko recalled that “in 1998 the City Council was about to undergo major changes with retiring councilmen, and I was encouraged by many new friends to run for council. I decided to run and fortunately was able to win the seventh position.”

He continued: “Our form of government has elections every four years, and every seat is up for grabs. The City Council members then vote for the new mayor – usually the highest vote-getter. In 2002 I ran again and



Stefan Tatarenko

captured the sixth position. The vote tally between the third- and sixth-place finishers was no more than 300 votes. As time-consuming as it gets, in this position I always had a great feeling about the accomplishments and progress the City Council has made. That is why I have decided to run again.”

Mr. Tatarenko underscored that he derives a tremendous amount of pleasure from assisting and helping his constituents, friends and associates in various dealings with local bureaucracies and in navigating the government maze that for many is so hard to maneuver.

“In Clifton we have many Ukrainians who call upon me for my opinion, ask for guidance in dealing with government or in attending to local issues, or even for help on non-political issues,” Mr. Tatarenko noted. “I feel most satisfied when I hear a thank you.”

Mr. Tatarenko’s activism and community service are not limited to his local town. He remains active in the Ukrainian community – be it as a parishioner of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church, as a committee member of the 2005 Ukrainian Festival at the Meadowlands, as a member of the local branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, or as an active member of the Ukrainian National Association (Branch 171).

Running for government office is an expensive proposition – to run for any type of government position requires substantial financing. Mr. Tatarenko’s campaigns

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The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: January

Amount	Name	City			
\$250.00	Daniel Kashimer	Brooklyn, N.Y.		Taras Shepelavy	Niskayuna, N.Y.
\$160.00	Anna Maluca	Dundas, Ill.		Olena Wawryshyn	Toronto, Ontario
\$100.00	Neonila Sochan	Morristown, N.J.		Peter Woloschuk	Dorchester, Mass.
\$80.00	Oksana Trytjak	Plainfield, N.J.	\$10.00	Malyna Dziuba	West Seneca, N.Y.
\$50.00	Volodymyr and Ulana Diachuk	Rutherford, N.J.		William Kataryniak	Bayonne, N.J.
	Victor Omelczenko	West Hollywood, Calif.		Roman Kokolskyj	Montclair, N.J.
	Halyna and Stan Jakubowycz	Brick, N.J.		Mary Luszczyk	Staten Island, N.Y.
	Millie Lotocka-Jones	Virginia Beach, Va.		Christine Matiash	Las Vegas, Nev.
	Jerry Petryha	Santa Monica, Calif.		Walter Myskiw	Mahopac, N.Y.
	Thomas Urchuk	North Bergen, N.J.		Maria Oharenko	Redondo Beach, Calif.
	Radoslav Zuk	Montreal, Quebec		O. Rybak	Berlin, Md.
\$45.00	Anna Harmaty	Chatham, N.J.		Joseph Sachno	Flushing, N.Y.
	Stefa Hryckowian	Ridgewood, N.J.		Larysa Szanc-Smarsh	Astoria, N.Y.
	Sofia Malachowsky	Redondo Beach, Calif.	\$5.00	Mary Gaboda	Belvidere, Vt.
\$35.00	Ulana Sos	San Antonio, Tex.		Petro and Olenka Galadza	Ottawa, Ontario
\$30.00	Andrew Chudoba	Souderton, Pa.		Michael and Alice Haritan	Pittsburgh, Pa.
	Kathryn Sos-Hayda	San Antonio, Tex.		Merle and Bonnie Jurkiewicz	Toledo, Ohio
\$25.00	George Chomyn	Weston, Ontario		Daniel Kozak	Greenville, N.C.
	D. Chromowsky	Little Egg Harbor, N.J.		Eustachius Krawczuk	North Port, Fla.
	Daria Dykyj	Forest Hills, N.Y.		Jaroslav Kutynsky	Hollywood, Fla.
	Andrij Maryniuk	Bay Harbor Island, Fla.		Chrystyna Lysobey	Cherry Hill, N.J.
	George Mencinsky	Germantown, Md.		Roman Ninowsky	Detroit, Mich.
	Roman Olijnyk	Radnor Pa.		Stefan Nowozeniuk	West Mifflin, Pa.
	Richard W. and Ludmilla K. Murphy	Bethesda, Md.		Larysa Pyk	Chicago, Ill.
	Arnold Rudakewych	Alexandria, Va.		Victor Rosynsky	Pennington, N.J.
\$20.00	Ihor Chorneyko	Dundas, Ontario		Ihor Sonevytsky	Lexington, N.Y.
	Michael Drabek	McLean, Va.		George Steciuk	Convent Station, N.J.
	Ihor Kuryliw	Weston, Ontario		Stephanie Tatchyn	Timonium, Md.
	Vera and Alexander Pokora	Pickerington, Ohio		Adrian Zobniw	Reading, Mass.
	Andrew Saporoschenko	Anderson, S.C.	\$3.00	Roman Herasymowycz	Reisterstown, Md.
	Adrian Shepelavey	Baltimore, Md.			
\$15.00	Theodore Kuzio	Granby, Conn.			
	Mykola and Nadia Lawrin	Sterling Heights, Mich.			
	Markian Onuferko	Jenkintown, Pa.			
	Eugene Repeta	Warren, Mich.			
	Orest Shegda	St. Catharines, Ontario			

TOTAL: \$1,803.00

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Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine to regain a “series of systematic competitions” that Ukraine lost in the U.S. market in 1996.

“Considering the past 15 years, these changes are radical for Ukrainian trade,” Mr. Yushchenko said. “They are changes of the highest quality.”

Ukraine hasn’t progressed in trade relations only with the West, but it has also signed about 20 agreements related to the Single Economic Space, none of which existed before his presidency.

“What is in this that’s ‘Ne Tak’?” Mr. Yushchenko asked, referring to the political bloc (whose name translates to Not So) led by former President Leonid Kravchuk that is advocating Ukraine’s membership in the Single Economic Space.

Ukraine also signed bilateral trade protocols with China under his leadership, the president said.

Another example Mr. Yushchenko cited of Ukraine’s improving economic situation is the fact that immigrants from Asia and Africa are even starting to come to Ukraine.

Ukraine is currently home to 14,000 refugees, he said.

Mr. Yushchenko had a stern and irritated response to a Crimean reporter who asked whether the rights of Russian speakers were being curtailed. The president noted that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is part of a Ukrainian state, where the language of the nation’s roots should be respected.

He pointed out there are 96 Hungarian schools in Ukraine (mostly in Zakarpattia), but only a single Ukrainian school in the entire Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The government is funding all the Russian schools in Crimea, from the elementary to the university level, which is a demonstration of Ukraine’s unusual tolerance, Mr. Yushchenko said.

Use of the Ukrainian language doesn’t have to come at the expense of the Russian language, but as a necessary supplement, he said.

“I am sure that my children speak Russian,” Mr. Yushchenko told the



President Viktor Yushchenko speaks at a March 14 press conference in Kyiv.

reporter. “I don’t know whether your children speak Ukrainian.”

In response to Our Ukraine’s campaign slogan “Don’t Betray the Maidan,” one reporter asked Mr. Yushchenko whether he thought forming a parliamentary majority with the Party of the Regions would be a betrayal of the maidan, the site of the Orange Revolution.

In his response, Mr. Yushchenko didn’t rule out forming a coalition with any of his current political competitors.

The guiding ideal of the maidan was the primacy of Ukraine’s national interests above all others, the president said. Therefore, Mr. Yushchenko said he’s looking to form a parliamentary coalition with any political forces interested in promoting that one guiding principle. Coalition partners will also have to value freedom of speech, human rights and democratic principles.

In an indirect slap at the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, however, the president said it was the behavior of certain Orange political forces during the New Year’s natural gas crisis that discredited the maidan.

Personalities are to blame for the current split in the Orange political forces, not policies, Mr. Yushchenko said. “The skepticism among voters isn’t related to policies,” he said. “People don’t like the behavior of those representing the Orange team.”

Rather than fumbling politics, Mr. Yushchenko said he made a personnel mistake in his first Cabinet of Ministers. “A part of those who stood next to me on the maidan were first-class actors there, but, upon entering their government offices, they exchanged the nation’s ideals for base, primitive conveniences,” he said.

Memorial service slated for Eugene Iwanciw

ARLINGTON, Va. – A memorial service for Eugene Iwanciw, former president of the Optimist Club of Arlington, Va., will be held here at the Walker Chapel, United Methodist Church, 4102 North Glebe Road, on Saturday, April 1, at 10:30 a.m.

The service is open to the public.

The late Mr. Iwanciw was a government relations consultant and former

staffer on Capitol Hill. He was director of the Ukrainian National Association’s Washington Office in 1988-1995 and since 2002 was second vice-president of the association.

He died on March 25 at the age of 53.

For information readers may call (703) 538-5200 or e-mail Beth Wolffe at wolfflelaw@verzion.net.

On the eve...

(Continued from page 1)

She’s voting for the Party of the Regions also as a protest against President Yushchenko, whom she blamed for failing to improve the economy.

Both her daughter and granddaughter can’t find any work, she said, and they’re all living together in one apartment on her pension check.

The Party of the Regions is free of corruption and entanglements in business schemes, which is why 45-year-old Maria Vaschenko said she’s supporting them for Parliament.

On top of that, Ms. Vaschenko said she dislikes Mr. Yushchenko’s “accent on nationalism.” The Donbas region can’t accept that, considering that more than 100 nationalities came to Donbas during the Soviet era to work in its mines and factories, she said.

Luhansk voters cannot accept the notion that the Party of the Regions engaged in widespread voting fraud because they genuinely don’t believe it to be true, explained Oles Donii, chair of the Kyiv-based Center for Political Values Research and 96th on the Socialist Party’s electoral list.

They were faced with a situation in which all their family members and friends unanimously voted for Mr. Yanukovych during the 2004 presidential elections. Therefore, the high vote percentages reported for Mr. Yanukovych made perfect sense to me, Mr. Donii said.

At the same time, the Kyiv-based mass media and government establishment was telling them that they falsified and exaggerated the vote, Mr. Donii said.

Therefore, many Luhansk voters can only conclude that it’s the Kyiv authorities and the Orange forces that are the actual liars and vote falsifiers, he said. As a result, a troubling psychological resistance has emerged in the Donbas region against Kyiv, Mr. Donii said.

“In their view, the government didn’t need to take part in falsification in Donbas because they all voted for their own guy,” he said. “Now there’s this problem: even if there’s true information coming from Kyiv, they won’t believe it because in their view, the news of falsification wasn’t true.”

Iryna Tsurkan, 47, is a perfect example. She said it was Mr. Yushchenko, not Mr. Yanukovych, who engaged in falsifications.

“Considering the wide circle of acquaintances and co-workers I have, I believe there’s no way,” she said of the possibility that the Party of the Regions falsified the vote. “That’s based on the community I interact in.”

When it came to tangible political and economic positions to back their choice to support the Party of the Regions, Luhansk voters were able to name only a handful.

Most often, the subject of pensions, wages, relations with Russia and the Russian language came up.

Some Luhansk voters said the Yushchenko government has failed to

increase pensions and salaries, while others said the increases weren’t enough to keep up with inflation.

In fact, the Yushchenko government has raised payments to such a degree that even Mr. Yanukovych derided such measures as “populist,” blaming the steep increases for causing inflation.

Party of the Regions supporter Tania Igoshena, 19, said she wants all government documents printed in the Russian language, in addition to Ukrainian.

The Russian-Ukrainian language divide is always exploited by Ukrainian politicians during elections, said Vadym Hladchuk, chair of the Molod – Nadiya Ukrainy youth association.

It’s one of those inflammatory issues that will mobilize people to vote, he said.

Granting the Russian language official status nationwide simply doesn’t have enough support in Ukraine’s Parliament, so the issue is exploited for mere political gains, Ukrainian political experts concur.

Ukraine should re-unite with Russia, said Ms. Tsurkan.

She has three brothers and numerous cousins there and, although Ukrainians can freely travel to Russia without a visa, she said the border procedure is too inconvenient. “We wait so long at the border and then we go through all the checks,” Ms. Tsurkan said. “It’s very unpleasant.”

Party of the Regions supporter Maria Rakhmaliov, 29, spent several years working in Spain, but thinks Ukraine is better off keeping its close relations with Russia.

Ukraine’s needs are different than Europe’s, she said. “At the moment, we’re closer to Russia than the West,” Ms. Rakhmaliov said. “Our standards are entirely different. How they live won’t work for us. We’re a northern country and it’s colder here. We’re very dependent on energy. Look what’s going on in this world in terms of energy supply. England has five years left and the U.S. has 25 years.”

But Luhansk isn’t unanimously for the Party of the Regions.

Anatolii Romanov, 51, said he’s supporting Natalia Vitrenko’s People’s Opposition because she supports closer relations with Russia and government status for the Russian language.

Ms. Vitrenko enjoys relatively strong support in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, bastions of pro-Russian politics.

One Luhansk resident said he was supporting Lytvyn’s People’s Bloc.

Vitalii Maltsev, 37, said he was supporting the Party of Ecological Rescue because at least they’re trying to improve the ecology and protect nature. Mr. Yushchenko’s government has not done anything positive in the past year, he said.

Ultimately, however, support for other parties paled in comparison to the immense popularity of the Party of the Regions.

Ms. Tsurkan may have best summed up the reason why Mr. Yanukovych remains so popular in eastern Ukraine, despite being disgraced throughout Ukraine and the rest of the world.

“We trust Yanukovych and we really wanted him to be our president,” she said.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE of UNA BRANCHES OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on Friday, March 31, 2006, at 2:00 p.m.
at the UNA Home Office, 2200 Rt. 10, Parsippany, NJ

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are
District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates
and two delegates each from the following branches:

25, 27, 37, 42, 70, 76, 133, 134, 142, 171, 172, 214, 234, 287, 340

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:
Stefan Kaczaraj – UNA President
Christine E. Kozak – UNA National Secretary
Roma Lisovich – UNA Treasurer
Eugene Oscislawski – UNA Advisor

DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Stephan Welhasch, District Chairman
Daria Semegen, Secretary
Walter Honcharyk, Treasurer

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's elections

In just a week from the date of this issue, Ukraine's citizens go to the polls to elect a new Verkhovna Rada in an election that many see as a vote of confidence, or lack thereof, in the administration of President Viktor Yushchenko. Another way to view the election is as Volodymyr Kulyk of the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, put it: "it is these elections ... that will determine whether or not the promises of the maidan are kept."

It is important to note that the 2006 parliamentary elections are the first to be based on a purely proportional system, whereby voters vote not for candidates but party lists. That is why, careful readers of this paper will note, the party lists are top-heavy with big names, even stars. For example, pop music icon Sofia Rotaru is second on the Lytvyn's People's Bloc list, talk show host Olha Herasymuk is fourth on the Our Ukraine list, and former boxing champion Vitalii Klitschko is No. 1 on the Pora-Party of Reforms and Order list (even though he is also running for mayor of Kyiv). The number of candidates on a party's list who get elected depends on the proportion of the votes cast for the party. Furthermore, none of these candidates on the list necessarily has to accept election. If, say, the No. 2 candidate on the list declines, everyone else moves up a slot. In fact, with this system, it is completely conceivable that many of those who ultimately wind up as national deputies will be people unknown to the voters.

Significantly, the new Rada – consistent with the constitutional reforms that went into effect on January 1 – will have more much power. Most notably, it is the Rada majority that will now approve a Cabinet of Ministers. Thus, which party or bloc – or coalition of parties or blocs – has the majority in the new Verkhovna Rada is key.

Among the hopefuls for prime minister are former Prime Ministers Viktor Yanukovych of the Party of the Regions and Yulia Tymoshenko of the eponymous bloc. (Both leaders says their blocs could work with President Yushchenko provided, of course, that they are tapped to be prime minister...) Also rumored to be interested is the richest man in Ukraine, businessman/oligarch Rynat Akhmetov, also of the Party of the Regions, who is reportedly upset with Mr. Yanukovych. And that's just the tip of the iceberg, as there are plenty of Cabinet posts to be filled.

President Yushchenko, meanwhile, has said it is inexpedient to bargain for government positions before the elections. Furthermore, he said, "to start a coalition from bargaining for posts means discrediting the principle of coalition building" – which should be based on agreement on key ideas.

And, after the elections, the new game begins: the coalition-building that thus far has not succeeded during the period leading up to the election. It remains to be seen whether this post-election coalition building will be any more principled than the pre-election talks about coalitions that have been such an abject failure. No wonder so many of Ukraine's voters are confused, or apathetic, or both; no wonder that as recently as early March a fifth of the electorate was undecided.

Even if the Party of the Regions turns out to be the largest winner in the election, as all the polls are forecasting, it still will need to have partners to form a majority. (Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk told The Washington Times last week that Mr. Yanukovych and his allies will control at most a third of the seats in the new Parliament, while pro-Western factions will control much of the rest.) On the other hand, if Orange sentiments prevail and the Yushchenko and Tymoshenko followers join forces, the two combined should be stronger than the Yanukovych machine. But, there are other scenarios that are being discussed. Thus, it is not at all clear who will be calling the shots in the new Verkhovna Rada and, in turn, in the new government.

Therefore, it remains to be seen whether the 2006 elections will bring about a realization of the hopes of the Orange Revolution.

March
24
1996

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, our issue of March 24, 1996, reported that the Russian Duma, the lower house of that country's Parliament, had voted overwhelmingly – 250 to 98 – for a resolution that reversed a Soviet legislative decision made in December 1991

that renounced the 1922 treaty forming the Soviet Union.

Although the vote on March 15 had no legal force (it was a resolution, not a bill), it perturbed democrats in Russia, as well as democratic forces in other former Soviet republics.

"You cannot turn back history; history cannot be rewound like a tape in a recorder. Ukraine decided its fate and confirmed its independence in a referendum," said Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. His predecessor, Leonid Kravchuk, who signed the Belaya Vezha accord along with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian leader Stanislau Shushkevich, said the action could signal "the beginning of the collapse of the Commonwealth of Independent States," a weak body of 12 former Soviet republics.

Our editorial on the topic did not mince words: "Let's just say it right off the bat: The Russian Duma's resolution of March 15 – which attempts to turn the clock back by stating that the break-up of the Soviet Union in December 1991 was illegal – is dangerous. Though it is merely a resolution, not a bill, and thus is not legally binding, it nonetheless gives the world reason to pause and ponder the developments in 'democratic' Russia – not to mention its destabilizing effects regionally and worldwide."

Ukraine immediately denounced the Russian Duma's action in a statement issued by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "In Ukraine, the adoption of this resolution by the State Duma of the Russian Federation is assessed as an attempt by certain political circles in Russia to revive the former USSR," that statement noted. "Ukraine condemns such actions as a threat to peace and stability not only for these countries, but for the entire world as well." It went on to underscore that almost 92 percent of the population (of Ukraine) voted for Ukraine's independence" and states that the Russian Duma's vote was "an internal act of the Russian Federation and cannot have extraterritorial jurisdiction."

(Continued on page 21)

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



The debut of "Orange Sky"

As much as Ukrainians enjoy ridiculing Hollywood and its "khepi" endings, "Pomarancheve Nebo" (Orange Sky) has a cookie-cutter Hollywood plot with a finale that could have come directly from a "Happy Endings 101" textbook. (See news story in last week's issue.)

It's the very simple Hollywood story line (boy meets girl; boy must choose between lusty bad girl and idealistic virgin) that is desperately needed in the anemic Ukrainian film industry that hasn't yet been able to produce a commercial success and capitalize on the basic pop culture sensibilities of average people.

In this sense, "Pomarancheve Nebo" will likely go down as the film that launched modern Ukrainian film-making.

Just maybe, it took something as dramatic at the Orange Revolution in order for this to happen because without it, "Pomarancheve Nebo" never would have been made.

Only now is it becoming apparent that the significance of the Orange Revolution is extending far beyond politics or Viktor Yushchenko. It was a cultural revolution that re-ignited Ukrainian consciousness and identity.

With "Pomarancheve Nebo," we're not talking about "A Beautiful Mind" or "American Beauty" – films that change the way people think or view the human experience.

It's monumental simply because it's a high-quality film that features contemporary Ukrainians in positive roles, and for no other reason than that.

After all, it was a pleasant surprise to ride a Kyiv metro escalator and suddenly see an advertisement for a Ukrainian movie.

The last attempt at a large-budget Ukrainian film was 2002's "Prayer for Hetman Mazepa," a film that some Ukrainian culture critics say set Ukrainian film backwards with its vicious tone and further stereotyping of Ukrainians as provincial barbarians.

"Pomarancheve Nebo" isn't perfect, in the sense that two of the three lead roles involve Russians playing Ukrainians speaking in Russian.

But it's a start, and perhaps in 20 years it will be Russians playing Ukrainians and speaking Ukrainian.

Mark Zadukha (played by Russian Aleksander Lymariyev) is the wealthy son of a powerful Kyiv Oblast chairman who made his fortune indulging in the rabid corruption of the Kuchma administration.

The film opens at a protest at the Central Election Commission just as the Orange Revolution begins to erupt.

Curious about the political events taking shape, Mark is in the crowd when he suddenly receives a blow to his face courtesy of a law enforcement officer.

The young, idealistic revolutionary Ivanna, played by Vinnytsia native Lidia Obelenska, dusts off the bloodied Mark and helps him to his feet.

Their eyes twinkle, he asks for her cellphone number and thus their courtship begins.

As with any Hollywood love story, Mark and Ivanna must overcome social and cultural obstacles and hurdles that stand in the way of realizing their love.

Mark already has a love interest, a devilishly sexy fellow aristocrat named Asya (played by Russian Ksenia Bielaya), with whom he has long since made plans to

study at a London university.

His plans with Asya are supported by his father, who has invested a lot in his son's foreign education and fiercely opposes the Orange Revolution because it threatens his wealth and way of life.

In spite of his bright future in London with Asya, Mark is mysteriously enamored with the innocence and passionate idealism of Ivanna, who as the movie's leading patriot, is, of course, a native of Lviv.

Mark's internal conflict between embracing Ivanna and Asya extends far beyond love or politics.

Asya symbolizes the human desire to indulge in life's selfish, immediate pleasures and evade difficult struggles, while Ivanna represents the righteous self-sacrifice that man must undertake in order to further society and grow spiritually.

"Pomarancheve Nebo" contains enough cheesy love scenes to make the average emotionally reserved male cringe in discomfort. They are topped off by a climactic love-making session in a tent on the Khreschatyk that is among the stranger love scenes this reporter has ever seen.

(Perhaps I'm a bit prudish, but the film could have just as well done without a scene in which the lead male is pleasuring his companion with his fingers. I need not get any more specific than that.)

A few other things about the film may irk Ukrainian Americans.

First off, I would estimate that 65 percent of the dialogue is in Russian. Before you shudder in disgust, the film's screenplay writer said the use of Russian is meant to reflect the reality in Kyiv, where there is a Russian-speaking majority.

In many of the film's dialogues, the use of either Russian or Ukrainian language carries political significance as well.

Mark Zadukha and his family all speak Russian, representing the Russo-centric attitudes and culture of the Kuchma administration.

At one point in the film, a police officer representing the corrupt government speaks Ukrainian, demonstrating that it's not only Russian speakers who are subjugating Ukraine.

Ivanna lives with a couple in which the husband speaks Russian.

But it's his pregnant wife who speaks Ukrainian, which in my view can only signify that it's the Ukrainian speakers who are giving birth to a new Ukrainian nation.

In many dialogues in the film, one person speaks Ukrainian while the other speaks in Russian, representing the odd compromise Ukrainians must undertake in order to peacefully co-exist.

One film critic for a major newspaper I spoke to said she's not bothering to see the film because others have told her it's popular culture mush.

But doesn't Ukraine need those types of films, I asked her? I don't know, she said. It's "aesthetically unconvincing."

I'd say "Pomarancheve Nebo" can appeal to anyone inspired by the Orange Revolution, snobs and dolts alike.

The Orange Revolution spawned two more soon-to-be-released Ukrainian films, these with million-dollar budgets: "Orangelove" and "Prorvemos!"

For all of Ukraine's political gains from the Orange Revolution, at least it now has some semblance of a film culture.

Financial News You Can Use

Capital accumulation and appreciation

by Walter Prochorenko

In our last article we touched on the complexities of setting up financial goals and objectives, and ultimately implementing these goals. However, by following the 10 simple rules which we saw in that article, we can ensure that we will at least have the tools to achieve such goals.

When we start out in a quest for financial independence or achieving a goal, we must first accumulate capital and ensure that it has a chance to appreciate and grow. This is one of the hardest tasks on our agenda. When stocks and bonds or real estate values are rising, just about anyone can look like a financial genius. However, it is when we see the "adjustments," the "corrections" or the so-called "dips" in the market, that we really can separate the wheat from the chaff.

Good financial professionals will find opportunities in any type of market. We know that bond prices go up when yields go down and that prices of bonds will drop as yields and interest rates go up. We have also seen that uncertainty can have detrimental effects on the stock markets. But these are the opportunities that good fund and bond managers can use to bolster the value of their holdings.

Common wisdom, therefore, dictates that good fund families, good fund managers, and proper diversification and asset allocation will most likely assist us in our goals. But how, you may ask, can one find such products in the complex financial world that exists today? History is a good indicator, but as all fund advertisement disclaimer statements say: "past performance is no guarantee of future results." Neither are positive articles in the financial magazines. It is generally well-known that once an article is published, the news is already outdated and the opportunities have probably already passed.

This leaves two options. The first is to intensely study the investment vehicles into which one intends to invest, and the other is to rely on professional advice. Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts in the financial world and rumors heard from the "guy-who-knows-the-sister-of-the-investment-banker's-cousin-who-overheard-the-deal" will most likely result in a financial disaster. If an investor does not have the very extensive amount of time necessary to devote to his or her own financial planning and management, then the obvious solution is to find a professional who will assist the investor in this task.

Although real estate has been making headlines in the financial papers for many years now, it, too, is subject to the peaks and valleys of economic cycles. I vividly recall an investment banker on Wall Street telling me that dot-com companies were not subject to the normal economic cycle rules. This was exactly four months before the dot-com crash and, not surprisingly, his company now

no longer exists. If real estate is used as an investment vehicle, rather than just a domicile, then it should be bound by the same rules as any other prudent investment strategy.

Tax-exempt and municipal bonds have always been a relatively safe and good investment vehicle, but not for everyone. Normally, it is people in high tax brackets that will benefit the most from these types of investments. I could never understand brokers who would push these on pensioners who could derive little or no benefit from such investments.

For families with children who are most likely destined for colleges, 529 and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (Coverdell ESA) would definitely be of great benefit. Both allow for tax exemptions with certain preconditions, but both have some strict rules regarding investing possibilities and strategies. Many grandparents have also taken advantage of these types of accounts for their grandchildren's education needs.

Recently there has been a resurgence of interest in high-dividend-paying stocks and in mutual funds that are composed of such stocks. Generally such mutual funds consist of blue-chip companies that have a good record of paying dividends and, when coupled with the appreciation potential of the component stocks, they can make a safe and attractive investment.

According to the Department of Labor, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, "Private Pension Bulletin: Abstract of 1998," the total assets in IRA's, Keogh and other plans amounted to over \$4 trillion and covered 70 million workers, and provided one-fifth of the income of the elderly. It is believed that these figures have grown significantly since 1998, when considering the problems faced by the Social Security Administration and the concerns that younger workers have with SSA's liquidity when they reach retirement age.

Thus, for peace of mind and for tax-deferred savings, existing and new private pension plans offer great advantages. The only question that remains, however, is how the funds within these plans should be invested. When we read about the disastrous results of pension plans managed by companies like Enron and WorldCom, we again need to consider diversification and asset allocation as primary criteria in our planning. The retirement plans of employees in those companies included a disproportionate amount of investment in the stocks of these companies which eventually bankrupted. This again shows us that proper investment strategies can provide some measures of portfolio safety.

In the next three articles we will deal with capital preservation, capital distribution and professional assistance. Future articles will also address specific issues within these areas.

NOTE: We will welcome any articles dealing with financial, insurance, estate and tax planning, and similar issues from the many Ukrainian professionals in these fields. Since we are a community newspaper, we welcome and encourage the participation of our readers and members in a meaningful dialogue that will help all our brethren.

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

The question not answered

"You never did give me the answer to my question," Marko reminded me, as we occupied our familiar seats at the bar. "What question?" I responded. "The question I asked you last year, remember? Why, exactly, should the UNA exist?"

Oh. That question. No wonder I forgot – it's not a topic I particularly enjoy.

"I'm not letting you off the hook, you know, and with the convention coming up, don't you think you should have an answer?" Marko was not gloating, but he was not about to let me change the subject.

"Didn't Stefko Kuropas answer your question in his reply to me last year? His article was thoughtful, well-considered and even hopeful," I offered. "Detailed and thoughtful, yes," Marko conceded, "but, as his father's articles often are, his response was rooted firmly in the past."

"So what's wrong with that? After all, you have to know your past successes and mistakes to know your future." I felt as if I were a motivational speaker standing in at a Dale Carnegie presentation.

"Oh, Taras, please," sighed Marko. "To have a future, you need a mission. And like it or not, the UNA does not have a mission. Just because the UNA was the organizational glue that held us together in 1962 doesn't mean that it has a role in our community in 2006."

"We would not have a community now if it weren't for the UNA," I reminded Marko.

"Yes, that's true," Marko smiled, "but that does not tell me why we need the UNA today."

"You're forgetting the Fourth Wave – the new immigration," I countered. "They still need life insurance."

"Agreed," countered Marko, "but is that the primary job of the UNA? To sell life insurance? I thought the UNA was a fraternal organization – with a primary role to organize. Isn't that the real benefit of the Ukrainian National Association – to be a force for organization? To make us greater than the sum of our parts?"

"Exactly!" I responded. I had finally converted Marko to my point of view.

"Then, Taras, why isn't the UNA doing its job?" Marko quickly burst my bubble. "Look at the headlines of The Ukrainian Weekly during the last year. It was eventful – we had the Orange Revolution, the repeal of Jackson-Vanik, the gas crisis, you name it. And when the U.S. community responded, was it the UNA responding? No. It was the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. It was UCCA. It was community leaders in New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere. But it was not the UNA. Taras, we're doing a lot of organizing – a lot. But the UNA is not doing it."

"So what's wrong with the UNA,

Marko?" I decided to do something I, too, rarely do: listen. "Tell me what the UNA is doing wrong."

"The UNA isn't doing anything wrong, Taras," Marko took the edge off his criticism, seeing that I was hurting a bit. "It's just that the UNA's greatest strength – its organizing abilities – are not as relevant now as they were 40 years ago. It's nice to buy a \$50,000 term life policy from the UNA and have the profits go to our community. But branch meetings are not the center of our community life today. We have scouting organizations, dance groups, political affiliations, professional associations – we have every organizational group you can think of – so why do we need the UNA to organize us? Organization is critical, but why assume the UNA is the entity that does the organizing?"

Truth be told, I am conscious of my Ukrainian heritage today in no small part because of the UNA. And my fiancée's experience is the same – Helen's father was the treasurer of the KSKJ, which is the Slovenian equivalent of our UNA. But if God grants us children, their experience will be different. We will do our best to inculcate our love of our heritage in them – we hope they will participate in the activities of our communities. But we know they will not participate in the UNA or the KSKJ to the extent my father, or Helen's father, did. That's not because either is a bad organization – it's just because they are not as relevant to the organization of our communities today.

So what does that mean for us? Well, it means we have a lot to discuss at the upcoming UNA Convention. For example: how do we move forward with a business model that is not working? What do we do with our publications? And with Soyuzivka? These are all real questions, and they cannot be answered with appeals to be more patriotic or organized. They are structural issues that are only going to get more pronounced in the future.

As we near the 2006 convention of the Ukrainian National Association, I pray that we embrace change. I pray for the understanding that our organization is not what it once was – not because of any individual leaders, but of historical circumstance and change within our community. May we have the courage to face that reality, with whatever ramifications it may bring.

And may we keep our eye on the most important goal: an organized vibrant, socially and politically aware Ukrainian American community, existing regardless of the entities through which that goal is accomplished.

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

Dr. Walter Prochorenko, is an accomplished businessperson with extremely varied multi-national project experience in over 40 countries, including Ukraine. He completed his doctorate in international business administration, is a registered NASD and insurance professional in New York and New Jersey, and is a Chartered Wealth Manager.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Will you please help Whippany?

by the Very Rev. Protopresbyter
Roman Mirchuk

Never heard of Whippany? Well, it's a beautiful suburban community, nestled in the heart of Morris County, in the north-west corner of the "Garden State," New Jersey.

And why does Whippany need help? It's not the town that needs help – it's the local Ukrainian community, and especially the local Ukrainian Catholic Church that needs your help.

You say you've got your own local Ukrainian community and your own local Ukrainian church that also need your help? But Whippany is special. It's an up and coming parish and community – one of the few that are actually thriving, expanding and growing.

Founded in 1921 by 23 immigrant families, Whippany was long considered "the country," or the "poor country cousin" by the surrounding urban, more sophisticated and larger Ukrainian

The Very Rev. Protopresbyter Roman Mirchuk is pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of Whippany, N.J.

parishes and communities. But in the last decade it has grown by leaps and bounds as more and more younger Ukrainian Americans abandon the older centers and communities, and "head west" to Whippany and the surrounding small towns.

"God's little acre" – the tiny "island" of land surrounded by highways and busy roads – on which St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, hall and rectory are situated – has served until now as the hub of Ukrainian religious and community life in the area. This is home for some 200 member families, while an additional 250 make use of parish facilities for all sorts of Ukrainian activities, from concerts and other programs to meetings of Plast and Ukrainian dance lessons.

So, why do they need your help? The facilities are too old, too small; there is standing room only on Sundays for services; it is difficult to find a parking spot; the hall and the few rooms are inadequate for the number of children using them for their activities; and the local School of Ukrainian studies, with 180 students, is forced to rent space in a local Catholic high school.

So, building of a new community hub

has begun as of May 2005. Standing now are most of the rectory, and the basement, foundations and frame of a new cultural center. What is remarkable about this project is that the parish has temporarily postponed the construction of its church in order to provide the community with a place – the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey – where it can hold its numerous activities.

Well, you say, this sounds like a local Catholic project. Why appeal to the entire Ukrainian American community? Precisely because it is a community rather than a parish matter, affecting all Ukrainian Americans, Catholic as well as Orthodox and Protestant. The Ukrainian American community of northern New Jersey has no place for its activities, and the new cultural center will provide exactly that. It will be open and available to all Ukrainian Americans, regardless of creed and organizational affiliation.

The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey has its own board of directors, independent of the parish, and a charter document that protects the rights of all organizations and members.

Sounds too good to be true, you say. What's the catch? There is none. Well, not exactly. The catch is that in order for construction to continue, the building campaign needs to collect at least \$1 million in the next several months. The parish has taken upon itself a \$4 million mortgage, postponed the construction of its own church and put its own property up for sale – all for the benefit of the Ukrainian American community. Now it's time for the community to help the parish – and itself – by contributing the

necessary funds.

While other communities are slowly dying or disappearing, that of Morris County is experiencing remarkable growth. This is where the future of the Ukrainian American community in New Jersey lies.

"Hey, I'm thrilled about the center – that I'll have a place to hang out with my friends, play volleyball and basketball, have comfortable room for SUM [Ukrainian American Youth Association] meetings," said Adam Klymko, 16.

"I can see that there isn't enough money to build everything," philosophized Andriy Baran, 16. "But I think if everybody dug deep into their pockets, there would be enough money for both the center and the church. If everybody did that, the church could be built very soon. After all, we're all better off than our immigrant parents or grandparents who, short on cash, still found the money and the means to build countless churches, schools, national homes, community centers, banks, resort centers and camps."

Mykola Kucyna, also 16, chimed in: "Why don't you ask the general Ukrainian community in the United States to help? I'm sure there are a lot of good people out there who would be willing to help. Everyone keeps talking about keeping our youth Ukrainian – this is a wonderful opportunity to do just that: help our youth."

Donations, large or small, may be sent to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, or to the Building Fund of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, at 7 S. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981.



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по-українськи і по-англійськи

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8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

9:00am – 11:00am

Ukrainian Cultural Center
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The beat goes on, as young dancers prepare for first annual recital

by Talia Danysh

NEW YORK – Week after week, season after season, year after year and decade after decade, young Ukrainians in the major New York metro area have danced to the familiar sounds of “one-two-three, one-two-three, one-two-three,” as they learn new Ukrainian dance steps, refine familiar routines and prepare for the next recital.

This familiar beat has gone on with generations of Ukrainian children flocking to the streets of the Lower East Side to study dance at their beloved school. The

The beat of “one-two-three” will be put to good use during all the dances, including the Zakarpatsky Tanok, the Kozachok and the ever-popular Hopak. The program was prepared by the director of the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky New York School of Dance, Orlando Pagan, and his assistant, Larisa Pagan. The recital will feature all levels of the students from the New York school – from the very youngest beginners to the oldest most advanced group. Dressed in their colorful costumes, students will have the opportunity to put their intensive training into practice and delight audiences with their skills.



The members of the youngest dance group with their instructors.

beat began in 1964, when Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky started her School of Dance in New York inspired by her love of dance. Over the years the school has trained thousands of youngsters in ballet, as well traditional Ukrainian dance.

And the beat continues to the present day with a new generation of students eager to continue the tradition set by their parents, as evidenced in the packed dance classes on Lafayette Place every Saturday afternoon.

An integral part of the training of outstanding dancers and a showcase for their talents is performance. With this in mind, the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation will welcome spring by presenting the first in a series of annual performances: the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky New York School of Dance in “Spring Dances – A Concert of Ukrainian Youth,” on March 26. The program will be performed in St. George Academy auditorium at 215 E. Sixth St. between Second and Third avenues in New York City at 2 p.m.

To add a different kind of beat to the concert, Prolisok, the girls’ choir of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), has been invited to perform as a special musical guest. The choir, under the leadership of music director Andriy Stasiw, is composed of girls between the ages of 13 and 20 who promote Ukrainian culture through the beauty of traditional and modern Ukrainian songs.

The program will be moderated by Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych, the executive director of the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation. Tickets for reserved seating are \$10 and may be purchased prior to the performance by calling 212-533-0100. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase.

In the meantime, as you walk down the streets of downtown New York, just listen and you’re bound to hear that steady beat of “one-two-three” as our children practice and practice their steps, and grow to appreciate the artistry of their native dance.



The oldest group of dancers in the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky School of Dance.



Members of the dance school's intermediate group.



The girls of the youngest dance group strike a pose.



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program

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Voters' committee...

(Continued from page 1)

March 14, is the constant turnover of commission members and an inability to appoint a chair, an assistant and a secretary. Few Ukrainians are interested in serving on the commissions, a job that requires an immense amount of work for payoff \$10 per day.

Practically all the district election commissions have secured locations, but many lack heating, telephones and financing, the report said.

Executive government bodies (the Presidential Secretariat) and local city governments haven't provided adequate material and technical means to organize the elections, the report said.

Mr. Popov lauded the Verkhovna Rada for its March 14 vote to allocate an additional \$27 million to fund the election commissions.

Nevertheless, election day on March 26 will be "very complicated," Mr. Popov said.

Voters can expect to wait in line at least one hour in order to vote, he said. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

At that point, a 15-hour ballot-counting process will begin and continue until 1 p.m. the next day, Mr. Popov said. District commission members will have to work a 31-hour shift. They won't be alone, as both Ukrainian and international election observers will also have to pull the all-nighter to ensure ballots are properly counted.

Voter lists are unsatisfactory, the report said, and up to 10 percent of the

lists are inaccurate. Many of the inaccuracies crop up as a result of "automatic translations" of Russian names into Ukrainian.

In some cases, voter lists are organized alphabetically, instead of the proper way, which is by buildings and apartments, the report said. District election commissions have largely failed to organize the processes to review and correct the lists, the report said.

Law enforcement authorities have failed to arrest and prosecute those identified as violating or exploiting administrative resources, which the committee finds "disturbing," its report said.

"This has led to a continued increase in the amount of administrative and criminal interference in the election process during the first half of March," Mr. Popov noted.

For example, the mayor of the village of Makiyivka in the Kyiv Oblast, along with his entourage, forced villagers to join Lytvyn's People's Bloc and vote for him, threatening to fire them from government-paying jobs.

Criminal acts included arson and assaults.

In Konstantynivka, a city in the Donetsk Oblast, Party of the Regions supporters carried out several attacks on Our Ukraine campaigners in late February and early March.

In the same city, someone called the chair of the territorial election commission, who belonged to the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, and threatened to harm her son and burn her home if she

(Continued on page 11)

The Communist...

(Continued from page 3)

Russian-born Ivan Herasymov is third on the Communist Party's election list. The 84-year-old Mr. Herasymov was a Red Army general and has chaired the Organization of Ukrainian Veterans since 1991.

Fourth on the election list is Kherson native Kateryna Samoilyk, who chairs the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Youth Politics, Physical Education Sports and Tourism. Prior to her political career, Ms. Samoilyk was a teacher of the Russian language and literature.

Omelian Parubok, who serves on the Verkhovna Rada's Committee for Agrarian and Land Policy, is fifth on the party list. He is a twice-selected Hero of Socialist Work.

Political strategy

The Communist Party of Ukraine traditionally had two bases of support: those who actually agree with the ideology and those who support close cultural and economic ties with the Russian Federation, said Oles Donii, a political expert who is ranked 96th on the Socialist Party's electoral list.

The Communists can blame the Party of the Regions for much of their decline, he said, because it has become the party of choice for Russophile Ukrainians and ethnic Russians in the last few years.

The other reason the Communists have slid in popularity is that their electoral base, pensioners and veterans, is gradually dying off, Mr. Donii said.

It goes without saying that the Communists have a strict pro-Russian orientation economically, culturally and politically.

The Communists also support returning all major industries to state control, as well as offering free medical care and education.

Mr. Symonenko pointed to the People's Republic of China as a successful model of a Communist state.

"We aren't interested in what will happen with Russia, we are thinking of what to do with China," Mr. Symonenko said in the Korrespondent online chat, paraphrasing Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Campaign strategy

The Communist Party has done little advertising in the way of billboards, television advertisements or street stands.

It has mostly retreated from central Ukraine, focusing its campaigning on the southern and eastern oblasts, where support for the party remains strong.

Pensioners, veterans and Russian sympathizers remain at the party's core electorate as few Ukrainians under age 30 have any interest in renewing communism in Ukraine.

The Communist Party has launched a few television advertisements that are strikingly mediocre compared to other campaigns. They are not only poorly produced, but they are also trying to appeal to two segments of the electorate that have no interest in the party: young people, and contemporary Ukrainian intellectuals.

The most prominent television ad quotes Pablo Picasso as to why he became a devoted Communist: "Through painting and color, I want to advance my understanding of people and this world in that direction in which this understanding makes us freer. My membership in the Communist Party is the logical extension of all my life and all my work."

Amidst Picasso's musing is a visual depiction of his artwork. The ad concludes with the slogan, "Geniuses think alike. Communist Party of Ukraine."

One of the stranger ads depicts a young weightlifter bench-pressing in a gym and successfully impressing two admiring women with his strength. At the end, it's revealed that the hunk is none other than a Communist.

"Their ads don't reflect their electorate," Mr. Donii said. "They're oriented toward young people with the message that voting for the Communists is cool. It's an unsuccessful strategy."

Ukraine's foreign minister...

(Continued from page 1)

pening in the very near future.

Minister Tarasyuk's visit, which began with a meeting with his counterpart Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, also included talks with Vice-President Dick Cheney and Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England.

He met with representatives of American businesses, many of whom, along with Ukrainian American groups, had lobbied Congress to get rid of the Jackson-Vanik constraints; with prominent members of Congress, among them Sens. John McCain and Richard Lugar; addressed a foreign policy audience at the Brookings Institution; and briefed a small group of Ukrainian American community leaders at the Ukrainian Embassy on the status of U.S.-Ukraine relations and Ukraine's relationship with its diaspora.

He also laid a wreath at the Taras Shevchenko monument, where he was the featured speaker on the program commemorating the poet's birthday anniversary.

During the briefing at the Embassy of Ukraine Mr. Tarasyuk said that the "exceptionally positive developments" over the past few months, including that week's events and the reinstatement of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits for Ukraine in late January, improved not only political but business relations between American firms and Ukraine. And this became very evident during his meetings with such firms as Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

"This is very serious," he said. "It means that all of these systemic decisions by the administration paved the way for our cooperation with U.S. high-technology industries," he added, predicting that in the next few years there will be increased close cooperation between U.S. and Ukrainian companies in such areas as aviation and space technology.

In his foreign policy address at the Brookings Institution, Minister Tarasyuk underscored the accomplishments of President Viktor Yushchenko's administration in building a democracy in Ukraine, where freedom of speech is flourishing – and used by opposition leaders – and where the media is now free from government interference.

"This level of freedom of speech wasn't dreamed of just a year ago," he said. As for the coming elections to the Verkhovna Rada, he expressed optimism about the results: "There should be no doubts that the pro-democracy parties are capable of bridging their differences and restoring the Orange coalition."

During his meeting with Ukrainian American community leaders, Minister Tarasyuk said that Ukraine's government decided that its relations with the diaspora will be coordinated through a special office at the Foreign Ministry which already has prepared a government plan of support for diaspora Ukrainians through 2010.

He recalled how in the first years after independence, when the Ukrainian government did not have the funds necessary to establish its diplomatic representations abroad, the diaspora came through with timely assistance, including helping fund



Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk speaks at the Taras Shevchenko anniversary ceremony at the poet's monument in Washington.

the procurement of the Embassy building in Washington and other capitals.

"I always felt uneasy about this because Ukraine was not able to give anything back in return to these Ukrainian organizations," he said. Now, he added, the government is able to respond and will begin establishing Ukrainian cultural-information centers abroad that will work in cooperation with diaspora organizations.

Both at the Embassy briefing and at the Shevchenko monument, Minister Tarasyuk also thanked the Ukrainian American community for helping bring about what he characterized as the best U.S.-Ukraine relationship ever.

Standing in front of the statue of Shevchenko, he also noted that just over a year ago "a new Ukraine" was born. It is "a Ukraine of Taras Shevchenko's dreams – of your and our dreams."

Voters' committee...

(Continued from page 10)

didn't quit the commission.

On February 28, Mykola Azarov, former prime minister and Party of the Regions candidate for national deputy provoked a conflict between his supporters and Our Ukraine campaigners in Sverdlovsk, a city in the Luhansk Oblast.

In a speech he accused the Our Ukraine camp of shameless tactics for hanging orange bands throughout the town. After his speech, members of his audience attacked an Our Ukraine campaign stand.

In Lviv on March 6 arsonists set fire to the campaign headquarters of the Party of the Regions candidate for

mayor, Petro Pysarchuk. The fire burned campaign literature and technical equipment.

Campaign chair Yurii Berezovsky also reported that Party of the Regions supporters have been attacked in Lviv, and its billboards damaged.

The bright side to this year's election, Mr. Popov said, is that only very minimal vote fraud is expected to take place.

The Committee of Voters of Ukraine is financed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Eurasia Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Westminster Foundation and the Civil Liberties Foundation.

Its latest report is available on the website <http://www.cvu.org.ua>.



Easter Greetings 2006

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UNA Branch 287

"Sons of Ukraine"

will hold its annual meeting and elect a delegate to the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association on Monday, March 20, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. at the UNA Home Office, 2200 Rt. 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Dana Szymczyk, Branch Secretary

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\$25,000 Kobzar Literary Prize awarded to two finalists

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Laura Langston of Victoria, British Columbia, author of the acclaimed novel “Lesia’s Dream,” and Danny Schur of Winnipeg, Manitoba, who composed and produced “Strike! – The Musical,” were named co-recipients of the \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award 2006 at the inaugural dinner and ceremony on March 2.

Other finalists for the award included Lisa Grekul of British Columbia for her novel “Kalyna’s Song,” and author Larry Warwaruk of Saskatchewan for “Andrei and the Snow Walker.”

The presentation ceremony was held at Toronto’s Eglinton Grand, a historic landmark former cinema that has been restored to its original Art Deco appear-

ance. The event was sold out and attended by over 270 persons, including former Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson and Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, honorary patrons of the award.

During the evening program, readings from all four finalists’ works were done by professionals – actor August Schellenberg, whose latest role is that of Powhatan, father of Pocahontas in the film “The New World,” stage and television actor Joan Karasevich; television actor Fred Keating, a regular on CBC’s “DaVinci’s Inquest” and “DaVinci’s City Hall;” and theater and television actor Lubomir Mykytiuk.

Literary awards – both international, such as the Man Booker Prize and Canadian, such as the Giller Award – have helped to put Canadian literature on the world stage. Although part of a large

English-speaking international literary community, Canada is a small country which needs to work harder to make its voice heard and, by giving books “celebrity status,” literary awards help publishers and authors to market their books.

That was the thinking behind the creation of the Kobzar Literary Award by the Shevchenko Foundation, which was set up to recognize contributions to

Canadian literary arts through the author or writer’s presentation of a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit. The award is meant to increase the visibility of such works, encourage people to buy them and interest authors in taking up a Ukrainian Canadian theme. At its inauguration, the award was presented to the winners by Andrew Hladyshevsky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation.

What’s a Ukrainian Canadian theme?

One of the criteria for the Kobzar Literary Award was that the work should “explore Ukrainian Canadian themes that are relevant to Canadians.” Let us look at the four works nominated for the 2006 prize to see how the “Ukrainian Canadian theme” was interpreted by each author.

“Andrei and the Snow Walker” by Larry Warwaruk is a historical novel for young people, an immigrant story which takes place in 1900 and is interwoven with Scythian and Kozak (rendered in the book as “Cossack,” elements of Ukrainian history. The description of the settlement of the family in Saskatchewan mixes the traditions brought over, contacts with other immigrants and the local population, particularly the Metis. Twelve-year-old Andrei adapts to the new country and learns from the Metis. Local traditions are brought into the story gradually and woven together with traditions brought over from Ukraine. In the end, it is not a magical Scythian cup that saves Andrei but the Indian spirit man Snow Walker. Andrei learns that “here there are heroes other than Cossacks.” Politics does not play a role in this story which is one of survival. The Ukrainian Canadian theme is the quintessential immigrant story – one will survive and even prosper through hard work, traditions, dreams, community and a sense of history all interwoven with the new reality.

“Lesia’s Dream” by Laura Langston is also a historical novel for young people, but it is based on actual historical events and politics of the time, which play an integral part in the story. Lesia’s family members are illiterate peasants from Galicia who arrive in 1914 with hopes and dreams but confront a brutal reality – the terrible boat ride, the marginal and uncleared prairie land, cheating agents, nasty neighbors and, finally, discrimination against new immigrants and a government hostile toward newcomers. When the outbreak of World War I brings internment for the father and son, the family’s Canadian dream turns into a Canadian nightmare. The

family is continuously under attack – by nature, by the Canadian authorities, by the locals. Although possessing inner strength and resourcefulness, what 15-year-old Lesia really craves is respect and acceptance. The Ukrainian Canadian theme here deals with the achievement of this acceptance, while the story reflects the politicized reality of Canada entering a modern age, a reality which clashes with the expectations of immigrants unprepared for the country’s hostile and brutal circumstances.

“Kalyna’s Song” by Lisa Grekul begins in 1990. It is not a story-narrative but an account of a search for identity – not an overwhelming defining identity but a post-modern one constructed out of various aspects of one’s life experiences. Seventeen-year-old Colleen doesn’t speak Ukrainian but communicates with her heritage through music and traditions. Her parents and family members are “lapsed Ukrainians” who cherry pick Ukrainian traditions they still remember. Her story begins when she is 13 years old, and over the four years depicted in the book, shows her veering between being too Ukrainian for her milieu or not Ukrainian enough. She can’t seem to get the balance right and doesn’t fit in easily anywhere.

“Strike – The Musical,” script by Danny Schur and Rick Chafe, deals with Winnipeg’s General Strike of 1919. The strike is the central historical event around which the authors provide a picture of the political and social conditions of post-World War I Canada where there are numerous conflicts in progress – Ukrainians and Jews, workers and police, police and government, returning soldiers and immigrants, and the gentry among themselves. If conflict is the essence of a stage production, it’s here galore. As this is a script and not a literary work, there is a simplification of history and sketched out characters, basically stereotypes, meant to keep the story on stage moving.

– Oksana Zakydalsky



Oksana Zakydalsky

Kobzar finalists (from left): Danny Schur, Larry Warwaruk, Laura Langston and Lisa Grekul.



Oksana Zakydalsky

At the Kobzar Award dinner (from left) are: Dr. Christine Turkewych (award program director), former Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson and Andrew Hladyshevsky.

NEW RELEASE: Latest sacred choral composition by Roman Hurko

TORONTO – Composer and opera stage director Roman Hurko’s latest sacred choral music composition, “Vespers,” has been released on Right Angel Records, a Canadian label that specializes in sacred choral music.

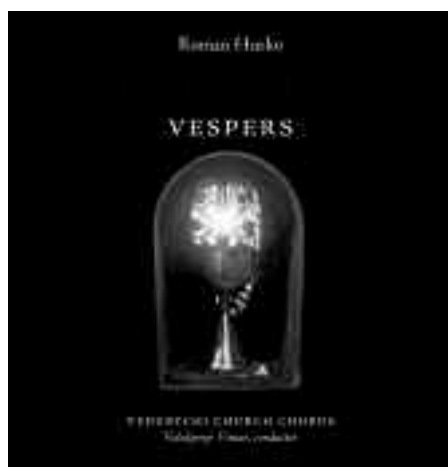
As an opera stage director, the Toronto-based Mr. Hurko has worked with such luminaries as Placido Domingo, Dmitry Hvorostovsky, Andrea Bocelli and film directors Atom Egoyan and Werner Herzog, among others.

“Vespers” is Mr. Hurko’s fourth major composition of sacred choral music, following the critically acclaimed Liturgy No. 2 (2003), Requiem for the Victims of Chernobyl (2001) and Liturgy 2000.

Mr. Hurko has also composed the music for two plays for the Yara Arts Group at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York City: “A Light from the East” (1990) and “Explosions” (1992).

In 1999 he co-directed Prokofiev’s “War and Peace” with Gian Carlo Menotti at the Spoleto Festival (Italy). Most recently, he directed Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” and Wagner’s “Flying Dutchman” for the Vancouver Opera.

“Vespers” premiered on September, 24, 2005, at the Holy Dormition Cathedral in Kyiv’s Monastery of the Caves, where it was performed by the Vydubychi Church Chorus under the direction of Volodymyr Viniar.



Cover of Roman Hurko’s “Vespers.”

The CD was launched at a reception on January 29 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto.

“Vespers,” as performed by The Lemer Iseler Singers and Kyiv Chamber Choir, received a very favorable critical review in The Ottawa Citizen, in an article penned by Richard Todd (November 5, 2004).

Mr. Hurko’s CDs are available through the Canadian Music Center at the website www.musiccentre.ca. For further information about Mr. Hurko please visit: www.romanhurko.com or contact Right Angel Records, 1207-580 Christie St., Toronto, ON, M6G 3E3; telephone, 416-569-8075; e-mail, rightangelrecords@yahoo.ca.

Multi-media exhibit chronicles life in regions affected by Chornobyl



Musicologist Y. Yefremov records traditional songs in the house of Anna Ivanivna Chala in the village of Teremsti. From left are: Olha Kuzminova Pryshchepa, Tetiana Ustymivna Deshcha, Maria Hryhorivna Zhurova and Anna Ivanivna Chala (November 29, 2004).

by Romana Labrosse

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Museum is commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant disaster with a major multimedia exhibition that explores the accident's impact on the lives of residents in the territories of Ukraine most heavily contaminated by radioactive fallout.

Titled "Chornobyl + 20: This Is Our Land ... We Still Live Here," the exhibition includes approximately 175 color photographs with accompanying captions. Supplementing the photographs are other visual materials – maps, charts, text panels – that place the accident in its historical context, describe the actions subsequently taken by authorities to mitigate the disaster (such as the relocation of area residents) and provide detailed information about population shifts, levels of radiation and the like. The exhibition opened to the public on March 12 and continues through May 28.

An important component of the exhibition is an interactive audiovisual program consisting of 14 film clips, each about a minute long. The visitor-activated clips include interviews with residents of the irradiated territories, views of the landscape, a religious holiday celebration, and musical performances and craft demonstrations by residents.

Background

The Chornobyl disaster began on April 26, 1986, when the worst nuclear power plant accident in history resulted in a partial meltdown of the core in reactor No. 4 at the Chornobyl Atomic Energy Station just outside the city of Prypiat in what was then the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Over the next decade, more than 160 villages were evacuated; more than 160,000 residents were permanently resettled; and thousands of other families, many with young children, voluntarily left the irradiated regions.

Nevertheless, more than 1 million people – nearly 70 percent of them elderly pensioners – continue to live in contaminated areas of Ukraine, noted Prof. Myron Stachiw, co-curator of "Chornobyl + 20." Among them are several hundred mostly elderly former residents of the heavily irradiated 30-kilometer "exclusion zone" around the reactor. "They have returned to their homes to live out their remaining days in familiar surroundings," he added, "sometimes alone in their villages, often under condi-

tions closer to the 18th century, largely forsaken by the 21st."

The exhibition

"Chornobyl + 20: This Is Our Land ... We Still Live Here" chronicles the lives of people who, 20 years after the accident, make their homes within the "dead" (forcibly evacuated) villages of the 30-kilometer exclusion zone, as well as those who still reside in the unevacuated villages that authorities deem "safe" enough to inhabit.

Since 1994 Ukrainian scholars have worked to document and preserve the archaic and unique traditional culture of Polissia, the region of Ukraine most heavily irradiated in the disaster. This act of "cultural rescue" is unprecedented in its scale and scope in modern history. The photographs and video clips in this exhibition, taken during ethnographic expeditions in 2004 and 2005, show the people, their daily lives, and the places where they live and work; they also document the work of the expeditions.

The film clips (all with English subtitles) tie in directly to the photographs. They include interviews with residents of both "dead" and "safe" villages, show craftspeople at work and traditional songs performed by residents, and present images of the irradiated territories, focusing on the homes and gardens of residents.

One interesting effect of the collapse of the economy in the irradiated regions, including the system of collective farms, is the disappearance of most mechanized agricultural technology. As a result, residents are returning to oxen and horses for transport and motive power to plow, cultivate and harvest their crops; grain is more often threshed with a flail than with a combine; and nearly forgotten arts like blacksmithing, coopering and basketweaving are staging a comeback.

The organizers

The photographs and videos in this exhibition are the work of its co-curators Prof. Stachiw of East Woodstock, Conn., and Serhiy M. Marchenko of Kyiv. The exhibition was designed by Alfredo Maul of Maul Dwellings, S.L., San Sebastian, Spain.

Mr. Stachiw is an associate professor of historic preservation in the School of Architecture, Art and Historic Preservation, Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I. He is currently in his second year as a Fulbright Fellow in Ukraine, where he is studying the impact of the Chornobyl disaster on the cultural her-

itage of the country's irradiated territories.

Prof. Stachiw is also producing a documentary film on the continuing efforts of Ukrainian scholars to document and preserve the traditional culture of the Polissia region, which has been identified by scholars as containing the most archaic surviving cultural traditions of any part of Ukraine.

Mr. Marchenko is a Ukrainian filmmaker and photographer living in Kyiv. Since the early 1990s, he has been involved in photographing and filming life in the Chornobyl exclusion zone, as well as the efforts of Ukrainian scholars to rescue the region's traditional culture.

The photographs and films in this exhibition are the product of the curators' participation in two ethnographic expeditions with Ukrainian scholars and several additional journeys into the irradiated territories between August 2004 and December 2005.

"Chornobyl + 20: This Is Our Land ... We Still Live Here" is sponsored by Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union.

The Ukrainian Museum

The Ukrainian Museum is committed to acquiring, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting articles of artistic or historic significance to the rich cultural heritage of Americans of Ukrainian descent. At its founding in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the museum was hailed as one of the finest achievements of Ukrainian Americans; in the three decades since then, it has become known as one of the

most interesting and dynamic smaller museums in New York City.

Each year, the museum organizes several exhibitions, publishes a number of bilingual catalogues and conducts a wide range of public programming, frequently in collaboration with other museums, educational institutions and cultural centers.

In the spring of 2005 the museum moved into a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility in the heart of Manhattan's vibrant East Village. The new museum building was designed by the Ukrainian American architect George Sawicki of Sawicki Tarella Architecture + Design in New York City; it was funded thanks to scores of donations, large and small, from the Ukrainian American community, including exceptionally generous gifts from Eugene and Daymel Shklar and Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union.

The museum's new home, with spacious galleries and facilities for public programming, allows it to mount more elaborate exhibitions, to accommodate more visitors, and to preserve and showcase its growing collections of folk art, fine art and archival treasures.

The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second and Third avenues), New York, NY 10003; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org; e-mail, info@ukrainianmuseum.org. museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.



S. Marchenko

Toys left behind in a children's nursery in Prypiat. (November 30, 2004).



S. Marchenko

The parks and open spaces of Prypiat have become overgrown as forest reclaims the city. The building in the lower right housed a children's nursery before the disaster. (November 30, 2004).

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

of the detainees, told the court he was beaten by persons in civilian clothes, who tied his wrists with a flag of the Kostenko-Pliusch People's Bloc, insulted him and threatened to make him eat the flag. The sixth Ukrainian in the group was released on March 13 thanks to the efforts of Ukrainian authorities. On March 13 Ukrainian and Belarusian Ministers Borys Tarasyuk and Sergey Martynov spoke on the phone about the case. After the talk, Ukrainian Ambassador to Belarus Valentyn Nalyvaichenko conveyed a note of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry to the Belarusian Foreign Minister, demanding that the Ukrainians be freed and also protesting against the violent halt to reporting by accredited journalists of Channel 5. The Belarusian ambassador to Ukraine was called to the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry to be presented with a copy of the note. (Ukrinform)

Journalists not allowed into Belarus

KYIV – Belarusian border guards on March 15 denied entry to Belarus to two journalists of the Kyiv-based Channel 5, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Reporter Andrii Zhyhulin and camera operator Vitalii Doroschenko were turned back without any explanations from a Kyiv-Miensk train at the Ukrainian-Belarusian border. Both reportedly had accreditations issued by the Belarusian Foreign Ministry for working in Belarus during the presidential election campaign. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Opposition seeks electoral law changes

KYIV – The Party of the Regions gathered some 2,000 people in front of the Ukrainian Parliament on March 14 to demand changes to electoral legislation, UNIAN and Interfax-Ukraine reported. The Party of the Regions wants the Verkhovna Rada to give precinct election commissions the right to add names to voter lists on election day. The Parliament on March 14 passed a bill allowing such a procedure on election day, but only in instances where an individual voter has already won a court decision to ensure his/her name is entered accurately on the list. The opposition alleges that the authorities compiled lists of voters for the March 26 parliamentary elections with many deliberate mistakes and omissions aimed at depriving many voters of the right to cast ballots. The People's Opposition bloc, led by Progressive Socialist Party Chair Natalia Vitrenko, staged a separate rally in Kyiv on March 14 to demand that the government allow Ukrainian citizens in the Transdnister region to vote in the March 26 elections. Volodymyr Marchenko of the Progressive Socialist Party told a crowd of some 1,000 people that there is not a single polling station organized by the Ukrainian authorities in Transdnister, where he said 67,000 people have Ukrainian citizenship. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Shamshur presents letter of credence

WASHINGTON – On March 13, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in the United States Dr. Oleh Shamshur presented his letter of credence and a letter of recall of his predecessor to U.S. President George W. Bush. In his reply to the remarks presented, as per protocol, to the newly appointed ambassador of Ukraine, President Bush noted: "The United States remains optimistic about Ukraine's future and looks to Ukraine to be a model for democratic development for its neighbors and beyond." He also expressed his expectation that he would be "working with a new government that will maintain Ukraine's momentum on democratization and reform." The document also noted:

"Even as Ukraine faces significant challenges, it has an historic opportunity to consolidate and expand the changes that will make Ukraine a democratic, prosperous member of Europe and of the international community." (Embassy of Ukraine in the United States)

4.5 M want referendum on NATO, EU

KYIV – Initiators of a referendum on Ukraine's potential membership in NATO and the European Union have collected more than 4.5 million signatures in support of staging such a vote, Central Election Commission (CEC) Chairman Yaroslav Davydovych said in an interview published in the March 11-17 issue of the Zerkalo Nedeli weekly. Mr. Davydovych said the CEC will need one month to check the authenticity of collected signatures. He added that the president of Ukraine has the right to order a recheck of the signatures, as well as to request a ruling from the Constitutional Court on the legality of questions proposed for the referendum. Mr. Davydovych did not speculate on when, if at all, the referendum might be held. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Number of adoptions to double

KYIV – According to Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yurii Pavlenko, the state department for matters of adoption and children's rights will start functioning in May. The Ukrainian government intends to double the number of adoptions this year, Mr. Pavlenko noted. To that end, he said, the ministry will petition the Cabinet to extend benefits that families with children enjoy to foster families, including a three-month leave for one of the foster parents, with a view toward letting foster children become used to a new familial environment. According to data by Ukrainian consular bodies, in late 2005 the number of Ukrainian children who were adopted by foreigners reached about 16,000. A total of 5,743 Ukrainian children were adopted in the United States, 2,172 in Spain, 809 in France and 658 in Israel. (Ukrinform)

Russia slams U.S. over WTO...

WASHINGTON – Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the Moscow daily Vremia Novostei of March 13 that the United States is holding up Russia's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) for unspecified political reasons. Moscow avidly wants to join the WTO and still needs to conclude only two bilateral agreements – with the United States and Colombia – as a prerequisite for doing so. Mr. Lavrov said that U.S. negotiators repeatedly bring up issues that the Russians thought had already been settled "in principle," such as "the opening of direct branches of foreign banks in Russia." He noted that Russia's current policies are acceptable to U.S. bankers, "but the administration wants something more. Even though the administration, you would think, would [consider the interests of] its bankers." The minister charged that the United States is treating Ukraine more favorably than Russia in regard to joining the WTO. The U.S. House of Representatives voted recently to repeal the Jackson-Vanik Amendment restricting trade with respect to Ukraine, but the measure remains in force regarding Russia. Mr. Lavrov also denied unspecified suggestions that Moscow is prepared to modify its position on Iran's nuclear program in return for a deal with Washington on WTO membership. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... and human rights report

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on March 10 that the recent U.S. report on human rights in Russia could damage bilateral relations,

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

mosnews.com reported. The statement said that the report consists of “a clear juggling of facts and is an example of blatant double standards.” All this hinders the “normal development” of bilateral ties. The ministry said it believes the report shows that Washington’s policies are “biased against Russia.” The statement stressed that neither the United States nor any other country has an “ideal” situation in regard to human rights. The ministry argued, however, that Russia is working “to perfect systems designed to provide for the rights and freedoms of its citizens.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Bartholomew concerned about schism

KYIV – Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople is concerned about the schism between the Orthodox faithful in Ukraine and is working for the union of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, said Ukraine’s foreign affairs minister, Borys Tarasyuk, after a meeting with the patriarch. According to cerkva.info, Mr. Tarasyuk said Patriarch Bartholomew had authorized him to coordinate relationships between the Orthodox Churches. Mr. Tarasyuk himself emphasized that he expects that the Orthodox faithful and their leaders in Ukraine and Russia will solve these problems by themselves. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UOC-KP to open dialogue with UGCC

KYIV – In response to the appeal of Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) in the name of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the UGCC, requesting to hold dialogue on Christian union, Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), in the name of the Holy Synod of the UOC-KP, confirmed the UOC-KP’s readiness and openness to cooperate. News of the UOC-KP reply was posted by cerkva.info on March 2. According to Patriarch Filaret’s letter, the only possible way to the unification of Churches is a “return to the unity of faith between the Christian West and the East broken in 1054.” As for the UOC-KP, it will “adhere to the Eastern Orthodox dogmatic and canonical tradition.” On the occasion of the coming anniversary of the events of 1946, when the UGCC was liquidated by the Soviet regime, the UOC-KP has condemned the interference of the state in Church matters. According to Patriarch Filaret’s letter, “the revival of brotherly feelings between Orthodox and Greek-Catholics is possible on the basis of Christian love. Such love, strengthened with actions, can further the union of Orthodox Rus’ and Greek-Catholic Rus’ which Metropolitan Petro Mohyla and Metropolitan Yosyf Rutsnyi had high hopes for.” Metropolitans Mohyla and Rutsnyi were, respectively, Orthodox and Greek-Catholic Church leaders of the 17th century in Ukraine. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

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)

President vows to hold fair elections

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told students at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv on March 9 that the authorities “have done everything to secure democratic, honest and transparent elections.” Mr. Yushchenko also said he finds it deplorable that the people who just 18 months ago were engaged in “shadow politics” – an apparent reference to the manipulation of the presidential vote that sparked the Orange Revolution and his eventual election – are now calling on the nation to turn to the past “behind the backs of political leaders.” The president said of the upcoming parliamentary elections: “It is not about choosing colors, it is about a way of life and whether we want to turn back or not.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. reports on rights in Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The U.S. State Department said on March 8 in its annual report on human rights worldwide that while Ukraine’s human rights performance significantly improved in important areas in 2005, in a number of respects it remained poor. The report says that the improvements followed the Orange Revolution. Accountability by police officers and prison conditions have become better after the change of power. The mass media became much more independent, and restrictions on freedom of assembly largely ceased. There are no reports of political prisoners in Ukraine. However, the report points to arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life, politically motivated disappearances and hazing in the Ukrainian army. The report also notes that corruption remained a serious problem in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government, including the armed services. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Mittal announces development program

DNIPROPETROVSK – More than 20 percent of investments, which were envisaged by the program of modernization of iron-ore mines of the ore mining-dressing and metallurgical plants of the public joint-stock company Mittal Steel Krivoi Rog for 2006-2008, have been directed for energy-saving measures, improvement of ecology, and the health and safety of people. Mittal Steel Krivoi Rog Director General Narendra Chaudhary said on March 11 that \$1.2 billion (U.S.) is to be spent for the mill’s development. The long-term development program is aimed at introducing environmentally friendly and energy-saving technologies, and improving the health care and safety of workers – that is, bringing the enterprise into compliance with environmental and social norms in Ukraine and European Union standards. (Ukrinform)

U.S. awaits results of Rada elections

BORYSPIL, Ukraine – The United States will consider the prospects of Ukraine’s membership in NATO after the elections to Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada are completed and a new government is formed, said Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine’s minister of foreign affairs, at a press conference upon his return to Ukraine on March 11. According to Mr. Tarasyuk, the Bush administration is favorably disposed toward proceeding to the action plan for Ukraine’s membership in NATO. (Ukrinform)

Horbulin to head integration center

KYIV – Presidential adviser Volodymyr Horbulin has been appointed head of the National Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine. President Viktor Yushchenko signed the relevant decree on March 1. The center is a deliberative body that functions under the president and must be engaged in drafting conclusions and

recommendations with regard to strategic planning and state policy on Ukraine’s integration into NATO. The center is to draft a systemic approach in deepening cooperation between Ukraine and the North Atlantic Alliance in the political, defense, economic, legal, information, scientific and other spheres, as well as drafting program documents with regard to Ukraine’s further integration into NATO. The center comprises officials of the National Security and Defense Council, the ministries of the Economy, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Internal Affairs, Industrial Policies, Emergencies Management, Finance and Justice, the Television and Radio Broadcasting Committee, the Security Service of Ukraine and the Intelligence Service, as well as national deputies. (Ukrinform)

Local deputies’ immunity at issue

KYIV – The Our Ukraine faction is collecting signatures in the Parliament for submitting a bill on the cancellation of local rada deputies’ immunity, presidential representative to the Verkhovna Rada Yuriy Kliuchkovskiy told a press conference on March 1. “The process of signature collecting is under way; our faction and allies have already signed the petition,” Mr. Kliuchkovskiy said, adding that 150 signatures are needed to include the bill on the Verkhovna Rada agenda. (Ukrinform)

Car theft a widespread crime

KYIV – According to information from the Internal Affairs Ministry, automobile theft remains one of the most widespread crimes in Ukraine. On average, 30 automobiles are stolen per day in Ukraine. Ukrainian legislation differentiates between automobile theft (punishable by a jail term of three to five years) and “hijacking” of automobiles (up to two years of correctional work for “hijacking”). As a result, teenagers are sent to steal automobiles and every teenager caught claims he is not a thief but merely wants to take a ride. (Ukrinform)

Western Union to have competitor

KYIV – The Ukrainian state-run enterprise UkrPochta has been granted a license to handle money transfers by the National Bank of Ukraine and will soon launch an international transfer service from and to countries where Ukrainian citizens reside, the director general of UkrPochta, Ihor Kravets, said at a March 2 press conference. Thus, the UkrPochta will start competing with the American company Western Union, which presently leads the market for money transfers in Ukraine. The Anti-Monopoly Committee stated that Western Union set high tariffs on money transfers and that this can be remedied through the operation of a competing company on the Ukrainian money transfer market. The Ukrainian state-run enterprise UkrPochta is the national mail operator and consists of 15,000 departments in all regions of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Water supply to be reorganized

KYIV – There are plans to reorganize water supply enterprises into joint-stock

enterprises in which local authorities will own controlling stakes (50 percent + 1 share) as part of the reform of the housing and utility industry. Minister of Construction, Architecture, Housing and Utilities Pavlo Kachur announced this on March 2, while presenting a program for reform of the housing and utility industry. According to Mr. Kachur, the remaining 49 percent of stakes in such joint-stock enterprises will be sold. He said utility enterprises must first be made attractive to investors before this step can be taken and that reform of the housing and utility industry would facilitate this. Specifically, he said that regional centers are expected to have 24-hour water supplies, expenditures on energy resources are expected to be reduced, while the number of population centers with access to centralized water supply systems is expected to increase by 3 percent during the 2006-2007 period. He added that a 24-hour water supply is expected to be the norm in cities of regional and district importance by the year 2010. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko, Dobriansky meet

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko met with U.S. Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky in Kyiv on March 2. The two discussed Ukrainian-American cooperation, and the Ukrainian president briefed the undersecretary about the political situation in Ukraine on the eve of the parliamentary elections. Mr. Yushchenko said Ukraine’s authorities will spare no effort to hold the elections openly and freely. He thanked the U.S. for moves toward deepening bipartite cooperation and, in particular, for granting market economy status to Ukraine. The meeting was also attended by American Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko seeks info on RosUkrEnergo

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on March 1 that neither the Russian party nor the Austrian side have responded to his request for exhaustive information about the RosUkrEnergo company’s founders, the company that on Russia’s insistence, was chosen as the go-between in supplying Turkmen gas to Ukraine’s borderline under the January 4 gas agreement. According to the president, information that the Security Service of Ukraine possesses is insufficient to clarify the issue of the company’s stockholders, primarily on the part of the Austrian bank Raiffeisen, which is in charge of safeguarding its clients’ stocks in the RosUkrEnergo. The president said he has instructed Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov to approach GazpromBank and Raiffeisen to petition these institutions for full information about the company’s record and current activities. Mr. Yushchenko once again stated that, to the best of his knowledge, no high-level Ukrainian officials have ever been involved in either RosUkrEnergo or its precursors, the companies Itera and UralsGaz, as all these companies were not Ukrainian businesses and were not registered in Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

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OUT AND ABOUT

March 24 Irondequoit, NY	"Dancing With Rochester's Stars Live," featuring dance champions Taras and Wendy Denysenko, St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 585-424-4310
March 24 New York	Pikkardiyska Tertsia in concert, Ukrainian National Home, 216-240-4997
March 25 Whippany, NJ	Dinner and a movie - "With Fire and Sword," Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 75, 973-376-4829
March 25 Horsham, PA	Wine tasting and art exhibit, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-362-5331
March 25 Scranton, PA	Pysanky Workshop, Pennsylvania Anthracite Museum, 570-963-4808
March 26 New York	Special tour of Ukrainian folk art exhibit, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
March 26 Piscataway, NJ	Traditional Ukrainian Egg-Decorating Workshop, East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 732-745-4489
April 1 New York	"James Giles Project" concert, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660
April 1-2 Arden Hills, MN	"Iskry/Living Embers," art exhibit by Orysia Sinitowich-Gorski, St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 763-754-6618
April 2 Hillside, NJ	Pysanky workshop, Immaculate Conception Church, 908-289-0127
April 4 Ottawa	Roundtable discussion about Ukraine's parliamentary elections, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, 613-562-5800, ext. 3692

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. 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.



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 - Credit Committee
 - Supervisory Committee
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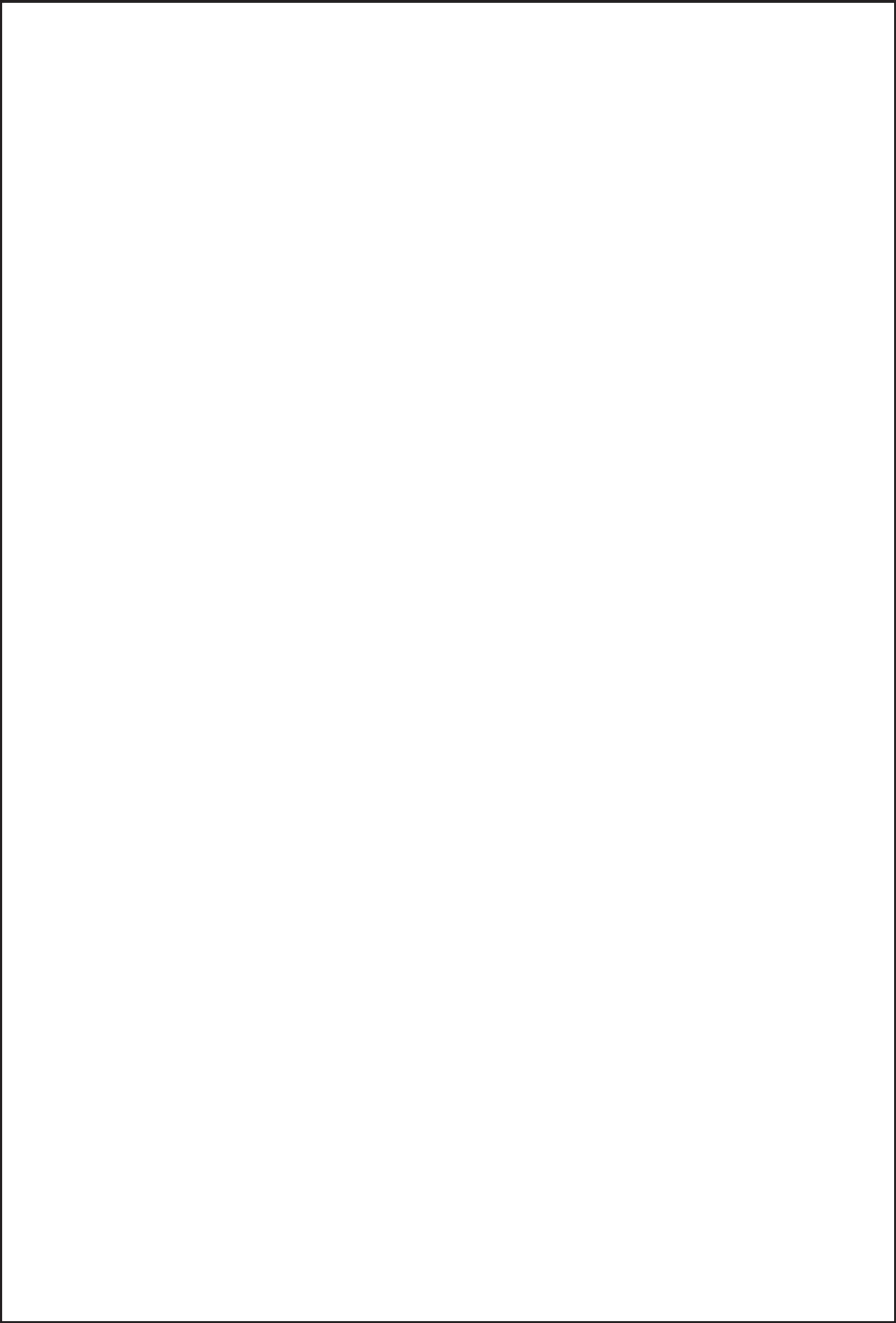
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Kyiv tightens...

(Continued from page 2)

Moscow – whose political and economic support is critical to Transdnier's survival – seems to take a similar view to Tiraspol with regard to the situation on the Ukrainian-Transdnierian border.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov suggested as much on March 6, during his official visit to Canada, saying, "What is taking place there, according to our information, looks like an economic blockade. If this really is the case, urgent measures are needed, of course, to stop this blockade."

Moscow has, however, apparently not yet made any decision regarding Transdnier. On March 7 it sent an experts' group to Tiraspol to study the situation.

The European Union, by contrast, welcomed the new customs rules. The EU's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, praised the move on March 6, an endorsement that was echoed by Adrian Jakovovits de Szeged, the EU representative for Moldova, in an interview with RFE/RL's Romania/Moldova Service.

"We think that the implementation of the declaration of [the Ukrainian and Moldovan] prime ministers is very important for introducing order on the border, and we fully support putting this declaration into practice," Mr. de Szeged said.

Last October, following a request from Kyiv and Chisinau, the EU launched a two-year border assistance mission in Ukraine, sending some 50 experts to monitor the comings and goings on the Ukrainian-Moldovan frontier. It cannot be ruled out that Kyiv's new customs rules for Transdnier are a direct result of the mission's findings.

The international community has long been worried by speculation about weapons and drugs smuggling across the porous Ukrainian-Transdnierian border. While such rumors have never been confirmed, there is ample evidence that smuggling of other commodities and transit-related swindles are rife there.

These practices apparently benefit not only Transdnier, but also people on the other side of the border as well. Transdnier's leader, Mr. Smirnov, suggested as much on March 6, when he called on Kyiv to reconsider its new customs controls.

"We urge Ukraine to assess the political consequences of this decision and prevent a large-scale social and economic catastrophe, which will also affect hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian citizens," Mr. Smirnov said.

It is not clear what exactly Mr. Smirnov had in mind, but it is likely that he was referring to a trade scheme in which shipments of Ukrainian goods in the port of Odesa are declared as being

bound for Transdnier and not taxed in Ukraine. Transdnierian authorities then confirm receipt, but then often reroute the goods back to Ukraine – a strategy that earns big profits for Ukrainian trade operators and their Transdnierian partners.

So, why has Kyiv decided to put a stop to illegal transit from Transdnier?

One of the reasons seems to be Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's ambition for his country to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) as soon as this year. On March 6 his government made a significant step forward in this regard by signing a protocol on mutual access to commodity and services markets with the United States.

On March 8 Kyiv scored an additional victory when the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill permanently exempting Ukraine from trade restrictions imposed under the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which ties trade status to the rights of Jews to emigrate.

Moldova has been a WTO member since 2001. Chisinau may have suggested to Kyiv that Moldova would give a final "yes" to Ukrainian accession to the WTO only once President Yushchenko took steps to halt Transdnierian transit to Russia.

The second reason may be the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine on March 26, in which forces backing Mr. Yushchenko are facing not only his old pro-Russian rival, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, but also his erstwhile ally, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Ms. Tymoshenko has repeatedly slammed President Yushchenko for yielding to pressure from Moscow and accepting a higher price for gas supplies in 2006. It is not unlikely that, by taking a tough stance on the Russia-backed Transdnier regime, Mr. Yushchenko is trying to reclaim his reputation as a firm leader and win back as many nationalist-minded voters from Ms. Tymoshenko as possible.

Whatever the real motives behind Kyiv's latest move regarding Transdnier, the new customs controls have obviously hit Tiraspol hard and taken the secessionist regime by surprise. Mr. Smirnov could apparently find no strong threats to level in response to the move other than to announce that Transdnier will withdraw from the internationally mediated talks on the settlement of its conflict with Moldova.

"Under these conditions, all negotiations are called off," Mr. Smirnov said. "Besides, Ukraine is becoming the main tool in helping Moldova reach its political [aims]."

But as with many times in the past, it seems that it is Moscow – and not Tiraspol or anyone else – that will eventually decide whether Transdnier is to continue talks, and with whom.

Stefan Tatarenko...

(Continued from page 4)

have been supported by his many friends, who have supplemented his own very costly financing of his own campaigns.

According to Councilman Tatarenko, his campaign costs far less than that of any new candidate, and this is due to his excellent contacts and his ability to go farther than others can with the funds he raises. However, due to a changing constituency, this year Mr. Tatarenko says his campaign will face greater hurdles than ever before.

Councilman Tatarenko said, "Our city has dramatically changed with a new population moving in and loyal supporters moving out." Nonetheless, he said he

is confident of winning as he is confident that his supporters will not abandon him after all the years of service and assistance he has provided them.

"The election on May 9 will be a challenging one, and I hope everyone will get out and vote. For me it will be the culmination of a gratifying experience as I am encouraged by the number of volunteers we attract from our community who are willing to canvass the area, distribute campaign literature, or even call prospective voters," he observed. "Our community is developing activists among its youth, and we should be pleased with this development."

For information on the Tatarenko campaign readers may call 973-471-2191 or write to Tatarenko for Clifton Council 2006, 25 Friar Lane, Clifton, NJ 07013.

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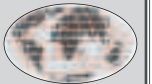
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Transition...

(Continued from page 2)

Moldova from the authoritarian regimes of Central Asian states and set it on a solid path of European-style democracy. In addition, the proposed reform abolished the direct election of the president, thus significantly reducing the legitimacy of the future head of state.

But, following a landslide victory in the February 2001 parliamentary elections, it was the PMC chief who obtained the leverage to both interpret and implement the constitutional reform. Mr. Voronin could have chosen either of the two most influential positions under the parliamentary republic – the Parliament chairman or the prime minister. Instead, he preferred to serve as president, albeit with a much more powerful mandate than his constitutionally reserved ceremonial role.

Given the popular prestige of the presidency and a lingering Soviet legacy for strong executives, Mr. Voronin's choice was not unexpected. In addition, he managed to retain his position as PMC chairman by skillfully exploiting a gap in the reform design, namely the absence of a clear constitutional ban on the president simultaneously holding two positions. A proposal floated by PMC officials in the summer of 2001 to have Mr. Voronin take over the prime ministership on top of his presidential function never saw the light of the day. In fact, the dual executive system was established to use the Cabinet as a scapegoat for potential policy failures.

The issue of a politicized presidency rose to the top of the country's political agenda in the wake of the parliamentary elections of March 6, when, in exchange for voting in favor of Mr. Voronin's re-election as president, one month later several political parties agreed on depoliticizing the position of the head of state. Also, the PMC pledged to abandon its Communist orthodoxy and join the mainstream of modern European leftist parties.

With a Communist majority government and a multiparty presidential coalition, Moldova's parliamentary republic continues to function as it did during the Communists' first term in power (2001-2005). And almost a year after the assurances given to the opposition, President Voronin is still PMC chairman. Nor are there any signs that the party's name will be changed in the near future. Mr. Voronin intends to control both the process of modernizing the PMC and the timing of his resignation as party chairman in order not to jeopardize the Communists' success at the ballot box in the local and parliamentary elections due in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

But while reform of the PMC might well be an internal party affair, the depoliticization of the presidency is not. It deals with the constitutional rules of the political game and affects both the government and opposition players alike.

In November 2005 the leaders of the Democratic Party (DP) and Social Liberal Party (SLP), respectively, Dumitru Diakov and Oleg Serebrian, who backed Mr. Voronin's re-election, publicly accused the president of reneging on his promise to step down as party chief. The SLP leader went even further, calling for the president's impeachment.

Although the SLP lacks the institutional means to carry out this initiative (two-thirds out of a total 101 members of Parliament are required to impeach the president, compared to a combined number of 11 SLP and DP deputies), in itself it constitutes an important symbolic move from a representative of the so-called "constructivist opposition." These developments show that depoliticizing the presidency could become the most explosive political issue during the Communists' second term in power.

Of course, only a relevant constitutional amendment could bridge this legal gap. Even if such a proposal is not currently on the table, Mr. Voronin's official relinquishing of his chairmanship post might strengthen, rather than weaken, the PMC. The Moldovan president could follow the example of his Romanian counterpart, Traian Basescu. Although Mr. Basescu gave up the leadership of the Democratic Party (DP) after winning the presidential elections in December 2004, he remains an influential behind-the-scenes actor in DP affairs. Besides, the unofficial role of Mr. Voronin would perfectly conform to the Byzantine character of present-day Moldovan politics.

In addition, by abandoning the post of PMC chairman, Mr. Voronin would deprive his Transdnister critics from within the sultanistic regime of Igor Smirnov of any pretext to accuse him of authoritarianism. A consolidated democracy is not only a precondition for the reunification of the country with its rebellious Transdnister region, but also for Moldova's efforts to successfully integrate into the European Union.

Despite the fact that a similar reform has been in effect for two months now in Ukraine, its effects still remain inconclusive. The current standoff between the Verkhovna Rada and President Viktor Yushchenko will probably subside after next month's parliamentary elections only if the president manages to reassemble a strong Orange coalition capable of winning the majority of votes.

But whatever the procedural irregularities associated with deciding upon the reform's design before the critical third round of voting in December 2004, Ukrainian democracy would be better served if it is implemented without significant revisions. That would make the Ukrainian political process more transparent and help make the democratic aspirations of millions of Ukrainians who unequivocally supported Mr. Yushchenko during the Orange Revolution a reality.

It is clear from the Moldovan experience that the transition to parliamentary rule is a very complicated political process. Because the rules of the political game remain fluid, politicians tailor them to promote their partisan agendas, and so at times democratic advancement is sacrificed in the name of political stability.

However, curtailing the power of a strong executive is a decisive step in the right direction. Had this process been launched after the first wave of reforms in the mid-1990s, some CIS countries, including Moldova, would have been farther down the path of democratic consolidation today.

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Alberta UCC...

(Continued from page 3)

Catholic School Board; Terese Szlamp-Fryga, president, Canadian Polish Congress, Alberta Branch.

The keynote address was given by Volodymyr Kulyk, Ph.D., of the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies at the National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, who is currently a visiting professor at Stanford University. He spoke on “The 2006 Elections and Ukraine’s Democratic Evolution.”

Dr. Kulyk recalled the events of 2004, “the resolute but peaceful protests of hundreds of thousands people in Kyiv and many other cities and towns against a cynical electoral fraud” and noted the “courage, persistence and wisdom of Ukrainians who went into the squares and stayed there until their demands were met.”

He went on to note that this success “was greatly assisted by the devotion and competence of those foreign citizens, espe-

cially members of the Ukrainian diaspora in the West, who had come to Ukraine on the eve of the election to participate in the international monitoring effort.”

"It is they – or, rather, you, since many of you were there or supported those who were there in various ways – who provided Western governments, non-governmental organizations and the media with undeniable evidence of the flagrant violation of democratic rights by the regime of the former president, Leonid Kuchma, and thus of the legitimacy and moral value of our protest," he said. "This invaluable contribution should not be forgotten, and you have every right to be proud of it."

Mr. Kulyk went on to point out: "... the upcoming elections are vitally important for the implementation of democratic changes in Ukrainian politics, economy and society for which people on the maidan, and those who supported them in Ukraine and abroad, so greatly hoped. In other words, it is these elections ... that will determine whether or not the promises of the maidan are kept."

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, while visiting Kyiv just four days later, tried to assure Ukraine: “Last week’s vote in the Russian Duma to reconstitute the Soviet Union was highly irresponsible. It was as disturbing to us as I know it was to Ukraine. ... Ukraine and other coun-

tries of the former Soviet Union are independent and sovereign nations. Any unilateral attempt to change their status should be rejected by the international community."

Source: "Russian Duma negates decision dissolving USSR," by Marta Kolomayets, Kyiv Press Bureau, and "The Russian Duma speaks its mind" (editorial), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 24, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 12.

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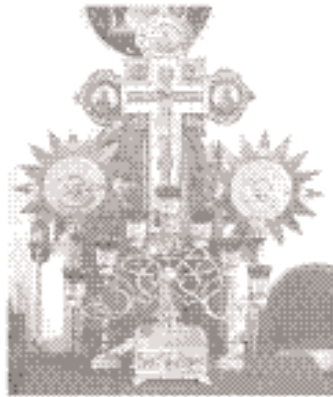
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TENNIS CAMP AGES 10-18

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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

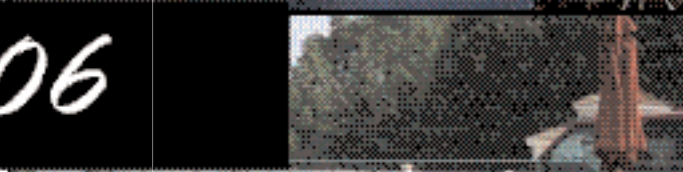
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Ukrainian studies specialists to speak in Chicago

by Diana Howansky

NEW YORK – As discussions about Ukraine’s relations with the rest of Europe continue in political circles and the media, the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University has organized a roundtable on Ukraine for the upcoming 15th International Conference of the Council for European Studies. The conference will be held in Chicago from March 29 to April 2.

In addition, the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago will sponsor a separate event featuring conference participants on April 1.

The council is considered one of the leading U.S.-based academic organizations for the study of Europe. The roundtable on Ukraine, titled “Culture and Identity in Contemporary Ukraine,” is to bring the field of Ukrainian studies to the forefront of the council’s research interests. It will discuss religious, political and linguistic issues in Ukraine and feature two Columbia University Petro Jacyk Visiting Scholars, Prof. Frank Sysyn (University of Alberta) and Mykola Riabchuk (National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy), as well as Columbia’s full-time lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture, Dr. Yuri Shevchuk.

Prof. Sysyn will focus on the problem of religion and “civilizational spheres” in contemporary Ukraine, specifically the premise that Ukraine is divided into Catholic and Orthodox zones. Dr. Riabchuk will address issues of coherence and consistency in Ukrainian post-Communist government policies at home and abroad, while Dr. Shevchuk will ana-

lyze the pressure from the Russian language upon the Ukrainian language community in key spheres of communication.

The roundtable on Ukraine will take place the morning of Friday, March 31, at Chicago’s Drake Hotel, and is being sponsored by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the Ukrainian Studies Fund, Inc. To attend the conference, individuals should first become council members and register for the conference. Forms for membership (\$60) and conference registration (\$95) can be found online at www.councilforeuro-peanstudies.org.

While in Chicago, roundtable participants will also speak before the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 1. This panel, sponsored by the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago, the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago and the Ukrainian Studies Fund Inc., is open to the public (\$10 for members of the UBPGC or the museum, \$15 for non-members). The event, which will take place at the Ukrainian National Museum, will be a special opportunity to meet individuals from the new Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University.

For details about the Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago and the April 1 event, contact Anna Mostovych at mostovy@comcast.net.

For more information about the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University or the Council for European Studies conference, contact Diana Howansky at ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697.



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Soyuzivka's Datebook

- 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

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(all other cities in Ukraine \$100 additional)

** Taxes not included. Lviv and Odessa \$50 additional

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Readers of the Ukrainian Weekly receive \$10 off per ticket.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, March 24

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club presents "Past and Present," an evening celebrating 57 years of cultural activity at the UALC. The program will include reminiscences by art critic Theodore Teren-Juskiw, sculptor Anya Farion (Ukrainian Artists Association Gallery director) and artist Jaroslawa Gerulak (UALC director). Donation: \$7; students, \$5. The gallery presents "The OMYA Collection," featuring artwork from the Ukrainian Artists Association collection (through March 26). The event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. For more information call 212-260-4490 or 212-477-6175, log on to www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub/ or e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 25

HORSHAM, Pa.: The Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub is hosting an elegant evening of wine-tasting and an art exhibit beginning at 7 p.m. The well-known wine connoisseur Peter Tabor, a Ukrainian American from Los Angeles, will feature an array of wines from throughout the world. He will also excite your palate with appropriate foods, teaching you the fine art of how wine and food can enhance each other and help fill your afternoons and evenings with attractive, satisfying tastes and pleasures. From aperitifs to hearty reds and whites – the tastes of Tuscany, the Americas, France and the Rhine will all be found against the backdrop of Tryzubivka's natural beauty. A wine bar and buffet selections matching the wines are included. Guests will be able to view and to purchase some wonderful fine art featuring well-known artists from the Philadelphia area. Tryzubivka is located at Lower State and County Line roads, Horsham, Pa. Admission is \$25 per person (advance reservations and ticket purchases are recommended, as seating will be limited). Proceeds will be dedicated to youth soccer and cultural programming. Call Nika Czajkowski, 215-860-8384, or Natalka Luciwi, 215-362-5331, for tickets and more information.

Sunday, March 26

PARMA, Ohio: All are cordially 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: Branch 113 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America invites the public to The Ukrainian Museum to view the exhibit "The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art." The tour will be led by the curator of the exhibit, Lubow Wolynetz, beginning at 1 p.m. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. A \$25 donation is requested to benefit the museum. No reservations are necessary; for information call the museum at 212-228-0110.

Saturday, April 1

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.

NEW YORK: The Music at the Institute chamber music series invites the public to a concert titled the "James Giles Project" as part of this season's commemoration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. The program will feature James Giles and Sevgi Giles, pianists, Julie Rosenfeld and Solomiya Ivakhiv, violinists, Borys Deviatov, violist, and Wanda Glowacka, cellist, performing Hummel's Grand Sonata for Four Hands Piano in A-flat Major, Op. 92; Mozart's Quintet for Piano and Winds in E-flat Major, K. 452 (arranged for piano and strings by Czerny); Mozart-Busoni's Andantino from Piano Concerto in E-flat Major, K. 271; and Mozart's Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 414 (arranged by Mozart for piano and string quartet). The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. at 8 p.m. Donation: \$30; UIA members and seniors, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call (212) 288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

Sunday, April 2

HILLSIDE, N.J.: A pysanky (Ukrainian Easter egg) workshop will be held at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, located at Liberty Avenue and Bloy Street, immediately after the 10:45 a.m. Sunday divine liturgy. The workshop is oriented toward children, as well as adults. After brief instruction, participants will be encouraged to begin writing their own pysanky. The instructor will be available to provide advice and to assist as needed. All supplies and a light lunch will be provided. To attend, please contact Teresa, 908-289-0127, by March 29. All are welcome. For further information visit the parish website at www.byzantines.net/immaculateconception.

Tuesday, April 4

OTTAWA: The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa will host a roundtable discussion on the results of the 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine. Speakers are: Francoise Ducros (Canadian International Development Agency), Pierre Guimond (Foreign Affairs Canada), Andrew Robinson (former Canadian ambassador to Ukraine) and Borys Wrzesnewskyj (member of Parliament). Prof. Dominique Arel, University of Ottawa, will chair the discussion, which will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the lounge of the Residential Complex, 90 University Private, University of Ottawa campus. The event is free and open to public. For more information contact Halyna Mokrushyna, 613-562-5800, ext. 3692, or ukraine@uottawa.ca.

Saturday, April 8

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites all to a presentation of two Ukrainian-language publications about Lesia Ukrainka (1871-1913) in honor of her 135th birthday. Tamara Skrypka will present "Aristocratic Origins of the Kosach Family" (Lviv, 1999) and "Larysa Petrivna Kosach-Kvitka (Lesia Ukrainka). Biographic Materials. Memoirs. Iconography" (Kyiv-New York, 2004). There will be an introduction by Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk and a commentary by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych. 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.