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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Party of the Regions, Tymoshenko Bloc top polls in parliamentary elections

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The Party of the Regions of Ukraine emerged from the March 26 parliamentary elections with the most votes, but it was Yulia Tymoshenko who was crowned the winner.

Defying most expectations, her political bloc placed second in voting, steam-rolling over the Our Ukraine bloc and handing her rival and former boss Viktor Yushchenko an embarrassing defeat.

In giving her the majority of their votes, Ukraine's Orange electorate passed the revolution's torch to Ms. Tymoshenko, seizing it away from Mr. Yushchenko who disappointed many when he fired her in September 2005 and signed a pact with Viktor Yanukovych soon thereafter.

When it became clear that her bloc would finish a strong second, Ms. Tymoshenko called upon the Ukrainian president on March 27 to recreate the Orange coalition in the Verkhovna Rada, with the intent that she'd be at the helm as prime minister once again.

"Either we, for the last 10 years, fought for the result that oligarchs and clans would not simultaneously be the political power in Ukraine, and today we have a victory in that struggle, or we return to the same road that was personified by [former President Leonid] Kuchma," Ms. Tymoshenko said, referring to the possibility that an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition would be formed.

About 22 percent of the electorate, or 5.6 million voters, cast their ballots for the Tymoshenko Bloc, according to the Central Election Commission's (CEC) final results posted on March 30.

Ms. Tymoshenko's popularity has soared since the 2002 elections, when her bloc earned 1.9 million votes, or the support of 7 percent of the electorate.



Cutty Sark Co.

Yulia Tymoshenko at a March 27 press conference calls for an Orange coalition.

So, while the Our Ukraine bloc kept all the symbols and slogans of the Orange Revolution, it was Ms. Tymoshenko who managed to hold onto the hearts and minds of those who stood on Kyiv's Independence Square, known as the Maidan.

The Tymoshenko Bloc won 13 of Ukraine's 24 oblasts, conquering 11 oblasts that Our Ukraine had won in the 2002 parliamentary elections.

The bloc also won in the Poltava

Oblast, which gave the most votes to Socialist Party of Ukraine in 2002, and the Kirovohrad Oblast, which the Communist Party of Ukraine had previously won.

The Tymoshenko Bloc even won the Sumy Oblast, where Mr. Yushchenko was born and raised, winning 33 percent of the vote compared to 19 percent for Our Ukraine.

The Tymoshenko Bloc also made gains in regions that Our Ukraine could never succeed in.

In five oblasts that typically vote for pro-Russian parties or blocs, the Tymoshenko Bloc placed second, despite the presence of prominent nationalists such as Levko Lukianenko and Andrii Shkil in her party's leadership.

In the Kherson Oblast for example, the bloc won 17 percent of the vote. It won 15 percent of the vote in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, where Ms. Tymoshenko grew up.

While Ms. Tymoshenko enlarged her political sphere of influence, the Party of the Regions secured a plurality in every single one of its oblasts from the 2004 presidential elections, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

As widely expected, the Party of the

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CEC releases final results

With 100 percent of the ballots counted, the Central Election Commission on Thursday evening, March 30, released the following results of Ukraine's parliamentary elections of March 26.

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Party of the Regions | 32.12% |
| Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc | 22.27% |
| Our Ukraine | 13.94% |
| Socialist Party | 5.67% |
| Communist Party | 3.66% |
| Natalia Vitrenko Bloc* | 2.93% |
| Lytvyn's People's Bloc* | 2.43% |
| Kostenko/Plusch Bloc* | 1.87% |
| Viche Party* | 1.74% |
| Pora/Reforms and Order* | 1.47% |
| "Ne Tak!" Bloc* | 1.01% |

*Did not reach the 3% support required for representation in the Verkhovna Rada.

NB: Thirty-four parties received less than 1 percent of the vote.

An election day snapshot: balloting in Cherkasy Oblast

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

TALNE, Ukraine — The Cherkasy Oblast was a wild card in the 2006 parliamentary election.

Our Ukraine had won it in the 2002 elections, but Oleksander Moroz and his Socialist Party of Ukraine were always popular among its rural inhabitants, which make up 46 percent of the oblast's population.

In the town of Talne, with a population of more than 16,000, the wide spectrum of political views in Ukraine's heartland oblast was apparent.

The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau interviewed 12 voters who named seven different parties they were supporting. Some were less known, while others were notorious.

"I will vote for the Communists," said

Valentyna Vitkivska, 54. "During Soviet times, we didn't live too badly. I educated myself. I obtained a free apartment and a free education."

It was very common for family members or married couples to be split in their political leanings.

Kin Horholov, 68, said he chose the Socialist Party because he trusts Mr. Moroz, who isn't beholden to business interests.

His wife, Raisa Horholova, 65, voted for the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc because she believes the former prime minister is an educated, thoughtful woman who did a lot for Ukraine during her months in office, particularly for its children.

"Ms. Tymoshenko endured a lot and had many obstacles in her job," Mrs. Horholova said. "I admire this woman for

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International observers say elections were free and fair

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's 2006 parliamentary elections were the most free and fair since the nation gained independence nearly 15 years ago, international observers said.

Instead of dealing with fraud and violence, problems were limited to those of a technical nature, such as polling stations that opened late, voter lists that had incorrect or missing names and long lines to vote, they said.

"The citizens of Ukraine have freed themselves of their fear," said U.S. Federal Judge Bohdan Futey, who visited eight polling stations in Chernihiv and Kyiv.

Having Ukrainian elections since 1990, he noted that the Orange Revolution had created the conditions for Ukraine's first truly democratic elections. "There's no more fear, and they approached these elections very realistically and calmly," Judge Futey said. "Without fear, they'll have success."

The successful parliamentary elections were a critical step for Ukraine in demonstrating it is a country that holds democratic values and is capable of upholding Western standards of democracy, observers said.

"In our view, Ukraine has proved itself up to the task," said Michael Trend, a former member of the British Parliament who led the International Republican Institute's election observation team. "All freedom-loving people will recognize these elections as a success for Ukraine," he added.

Mr. Trend said he couldn't comment on how the elections might influence Ukraine's aspirations for European Union membership.

Ukraine's political leaders didn't have the same high praise for their elections as Western observers.

Holding what she charged was an improperly completed protocol sheet in her hands, Yulia Tymoshenko told a March 29 press conference that her campaign staff had collected and documented numerous examples of fraud committed at various district election commissions.

As expected, voting recounts were demanded by the leaders of those parties and blocs that failed to break the 3 percent barrier for the Verkhovna Rada.

Among these were Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Bloc, the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc, the National Democratic Party and the Viche Party.

"[We] acknowledge the election

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ANALYSIS

Has the Orange Revolution received a new lease on life?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report
March 28

The March 26 parliamentary elections in Ukraine were won by Viktor Yanukovich's Party of the Regions with from 27 to 31 percent of the vote, according to three different exit polls. But these polls also indicate that the major players in the Orange Revolution – the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party – could form a parliamentary majority if they are able to reunite their "Orange" coalition of 2004. Both President Viktor Yushchenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko have signaled that they are open to joining forces again. Will they be able to agree on the crucial post of prime minister?

Ukrainian pollsters announced the results of three separate nationwide exit polls immediately after voting on March 26 parliamentary elections came to a close.

All three polls had the elections being won by the Party of the Regions led by former Prime Minister Yanukovich – President Yushchenko's main rival in the 2004 presidential elections.

The exit polls predict that Mr. Yanukovich's party will win from 27 to 31 percent of the vote when official results are announced on March 28, which could translate into as many as 183 mandates in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc will

finish second with 22 to 24 percent of the vote, while the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine will follow with about 15 percent, according to the polls.

These predicted results suggest that the three forces that made up the core of the 2004 Orange Revolution – the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party – could together account for more than 226 parliamentary seats, enough to allow them to form a new Cabinet. Such a Cabinet could depend on the support of between 229 and 257 deputies in Parliament.

President Yushchenko has signaled that he is primarily inclined to seek another coalition with Ms. Tymoshenko, whom he fired as prime minister in September 2005. "Tomorrow we will start consultations with the political forces that formed the previous administration and the same forces that won the Orange Revolution," he said after casting his ballot in Kyiv on March 26. "We will begin talks tomorrow morning, and this may give us an opportunity to develop a political strategy in the negotiations process – and the early message is that we are looking to lay the foundation for the negotiations process."

After the polls closed, Ms. Tymoshenko went a step further, asserting that her bloc has essentially agreed on a renewed coalition accord with Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party, and is

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An endgame for Ukraine's Orange Revolution?

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Newsline
March 24

In addition to determining a new legislature with wider powers than those of its predecessors, Ukraine's March 26 parliamentary elections will effectively set in motion a constitutional reform transforming the country from a presidential to a parliamentary republic. The results of the elections were also expected to clarify whether President Viktor Yushchenko will be able to step up the implementation of his reformist policies declared during the 2004 Orange Revolution or whether he will get mired even deeper in political wrangling with his opponents.

The elections to the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada are the first in independent Ukraine to be contested under a fully proportional, party-list system. In effect, this means the representatives of each party in Parliament have been predetermined based on the party leadership's positioning of candidates on its candidates list, leaving voters merely to decide the number of parliamentary mandates each party will obtain.

Only parties garnering at least 3 percent of the vote will be represented in Parliament. Ballots cast for parties scoring less than 3 percent will be disregarded by the Central Election Commission in distributing election gains among the winners.

There are also two other important

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novelties in the election law. The new Verkhovna Rada will be elected for five years, compared to four years, as was previously the case.

Furthermore, individuals elected to Parliament will be barred from quitting the caucus of the party from which they were elected. The clause is potentially very controversial, as it does not include any suggestion as to what to do with lawmakers who might formally remain in a given caucus but vote against it.

The new Verkhovna Rada will have wider prerogatives than its predecessor as a result of the constitutional reform that was passed on December 8, 2004. That reform was seen as a compromise deal between the camp led by Mr. Yushchenko and that by his presidential rival Viktor Yanukovich to overcome an electoral impasse at the peak of the Orange Revolution.

Under the constitutional reform, a majority in Parliament, rather than the president, will appoint the prime minister and most of the Cabinet members. The president retains the right to appoint the foreign affairs minister, the defense minister, the procurator general, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine and all oblast administration chairs.

Moreover, Parliament, rather than the president, will have a decisive say in dismissing the prime minister or any other Cabinet member. On the other hand, the constitutional reform gives the president the right to dissolve Parliament if it fails to form a majority within 30 days after its first sitting, or to form a new Cabinet within 60 days after

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NEWSBRIEFS

Yushchenko vows to work for coalition

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in a television interview on March 23 that he will actively participate in forging a new governing coalition after the March 26 parliamentary elections, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Yushchenko said he is convinced that the Our Ukraine bloc will form the core of such a coalition, which, he added, should also include the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Pora-Reform and Order Party Bloc and the Pliusch-Kostenko Bloc. Asked whether Our Ukraine could form a coalition with the Party of the Regions led by his former presidential rival Viktor Yanukovich, Mr. Yushchenko said Our Ukraine could cooperate with Mr. Yanukovich's party on specific issues within the new Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko: restore Orange coalition

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, head of the eponymous political bloc, called on President Viktor Yushchenko on March 27 to sign a deal that would recreate the Orange Revolution coalition between her bloc, the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party, Ukrainian media reported. "Principles have been agreed. The party winning the greatest number of votes among the three participants puts forward its candidate for prime minister, with no right of veto," Reuters quoted Ms. Tymoshenko as saying. "We should not lose a single minute. We need to make a decision immediately and form the government ... in order not to disillusion people again." President Yushchenko has not yet responded publicly to Ms. Tymoshenko's proposal. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko meets with party leaders

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on March 28 held separate meetings with Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich, Yulia Tymoshenko, head of the eponymous political bloc, and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz to discuss the post-election situation and the formation of a future coalition in the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "I can say that today's meeting with the president testifies that the

path [toward restoring an Orange coalition] is absolutely possible, and we are beginning today to conduct practical consultations and make steps toward rapprochement," Ms. Tymoshenko told journalists. Mr. Moroz said of his meeting with President Yushchenko: "We have not reached any agreement with anybody, as there are only preliminary talks. ... Since there are no official returns from the elections, there can be no final documents on the coalition." The Party of the Regions press service reported that Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich agreed that "the elections were democratic and transparent, although there were flaws in organization and, as a result, a lot of citizens were unable to vote." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Voters in U.S. support Our Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The majority of Ukrainian citizens who voted in the United States in the Verkhovna Rada elections supported the Our Ukraine Bloc, which received a total of 3,974 votes. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was backed by 841 votes, the civil bloc Pora-Reforms and Order Party by 363 votes, the all-Ukrainian union Freedom by 130 votes and the Party of the Regions by 73 votes. Polling stations functioned in the District of Columbia, New York City, Chicago, San-Francisco and Kent, Wash. (Ukrinform)

SPU supports democratic coalition

KYIV – The political council of the Socialist Party of Ukraine on March 28 passed a resolution in support of the Memorandum on Forming the Coalition of Democratic Forces of Ukraine comprising the SPU, Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. According to the SPU political council resolution, "in local radas SPU might form blocs only with the Our Ukraine People's Union, the Tymoshenko Bloc and political parties of these blocs." It also noted that "Political agreements on mutual support for staff appointments can be reached with other parties and blocs. All SPU staff decisions must be preliminarily adjusted with the political council

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Parliamentary election winners by oblast: a look at the map



Voters in Kyiv and Lviv, concerned about local issues, elect new mayors

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Cities dear to the Ukrainian diaspora, Lviv and Kyiv, have new mayors.

In the capital city, Praveks Bank President Leonid Chernovetskyi won a decisive victory over newcomer Vitalii Klitschko and incumbent Oleksander Omelchenko, who was stung by a real estate debacle in March that hurt his campaign.

In Lviv, media mogul Andrii Sadovyi triumphed in a race to fill the mayor's post vacated by Lubomyr Buniak, who was forced to resign by the City Council in September for his incompetent and combative conduct as the city's leader.

Residents have high expectations that the new mayors will solve problems that are significant yet distinct for both cities.

Among Lviv's most serious crises is its deteriorating and neglected infrastructure.

The city's sewage system is woefully inadequate, while historic churches, monuments and buildings are wearing away without any upkeep from the city.

When running for mayor in 2002, Mr. Buniak based his campaign on promising to provide Lviv residents with 24-hour access to water, vowing to resign if he didn't. Four years later, most Lviv residents still have access to water for only four hours out of a typical day.

Such problems with utilities management have brought Lviv "to the brink of man-made catastrophe," Mr. Sadovyi said.

In the election to replace Mr. Buniak, both Mr. Sadovyi and his rival Vasyl Kuibida ran as members of the Our Ukraine bloc.

However, Our Ukraine decided to

endorse Mr. Kuibida, the assistant chair of the National Rukh of Ukraine Party, who had served as Lviv's mayor before Mr. Buniak.

In response, Mr. Sadovyi got the support of the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc.

When the campaign started in January, Mr. Kuibida had far higher ratings than Mr. Sadovyi.

The campaign was a vicious fight among 16 candidates, and Mr. Sadovyi won the election with about 40 percent of the vote. Mr. Kuibida finished with 30 percent, despite his name recognition and powerful endorsement.

The 37-year-old Mr. Sadovyi represents a new generation of leaders. He owns several media outlets, including Radio Lyuks and the Postup newspaper.

He also launched the Samopomich (Self-Reliance) citizens project in early 2005, an organization that offered Lviv residents free legal consultations, as well as help in repairing utilities, obtaining municipal services or dealing with other socio-economic problems.

"For this project, Mr. Sadovyi gained enormous popularity," said Ihor Balynskiy, the editor-in-chief of the Zakhidna Informatsiyna Korporatsia in Lviv.

Lviv's economy also had failed to improve during Mr. Buniak's tenure. Mr. Sadovyi said he would try to create 50,000 new jobs during the next four years.

While Lviv's problems revolve around providing its residents with basic utilities, Kyiv's government hasn't been able to provide affordable housing.

As a result of a poorly regulated construction industry, Mr. Omelchenko's critics complained that builders were accommodating only the city's wealthy,

while the vast majority of its residents are paying rent that is hardly affordable.

When the Elite-Center began to offer new apartments at more affordable prices, it turned out to be a scam that cost some 1,500 investors more than \$70 million in savings.

Mr. Chernovetskyi ran against Mr. Omelchenko under his own self-financed political bloc and wasn't expected to win.

He had about 15.5 percent support, ranking third behind Mr. Omelchenko and Mr. Klitschko in a Ukrainian Sociology Service poll conducted between February 14 and 22.

After election day, the Kyiv Regional Election Commission announced Mr. Chernovetskyi won 32 percent of the electorate, with 54 percent of the vote counted.

Mr. Klitschko trailed with 24 percent and Mr. Omelchenko placed third with 22 percent of the vote.

Mr. Chernovetskyi is known for owning one of Ukraine's largest banks, where he sells a book he wrote called, "How to Make Your First Million."

He served as a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada in the last session as a member of the Christian-Liberal Party.

The banker is a charismatic Christian, which means that he believes the Holy Spirit is active today and can offer extraordinary abilities accessed through prayer.

Throughout Kyiv, Mr. Chernovetskyi is well-known for charity work that helps the elderly and disabled people.

He was able to pull his upset victory with the help of a unique strategy in which his supporters distributed food and

supplies to poor, elderly and needy Kyiv residents.

The materials were distributed in the summertime, before election laws kicked into place, forbidding gift-giving by candidates.

Kyiv's new mayor doesn't speak Ukrainian, and has expressed no intention to start doing so.

However, it looks as though he may have other problems.

Four days after the election, the votes still haven't been counted to officially declare him mayor.

Mr. Chernovetskyi led a March 30 protest of 500 supporters to demand that the city's regional election commission speed up its count.

Mr. Omelchenko has demonstrated he won't give up so easily.

He has submitted a request to cancel the election results, accusing Mr. Klitschko and the Pora-Reforms and Order bloc of slandering him for having direct involvement in the Elite-Center real estate scam.

The Elite-Center partners who scammed investors, Russian-born Oleksander Volkonskyi and Oleh Shestak, have fled Ukraine and are being sought under an international search warrant.

Correction

Due to editing errors on Zenon Zawada's story "Ukrainian Catholics mark 60th anniversary of Soviets' attempted liquidation of their Church (March 26), the story was incorrectly datelined Lviv, while it should have been datelined Kyiv. In addition, the photo credit should have been given to Petro Didula.

ANALYSIS: Ukraine's free elections and its kamikaze president

by Taras Kuzio

Ukraine held its fourth parliamentary elections on March 26 in an atmosphere totally different from that of earlier elections. President Viktor Yushchenko can be credited with ensuring that these elections will be Ukraine's first free and fair elections since it became an independent state in January 1992. The democratic breakthrough initiated by the Orange Revolution of late 2004 has been consolidated.

Ukraine's elections stood in stark contrast to neighboring Belarus, where the elections held a week earlier proved that the regime of Alyaksandr Lukashenka is the last dictatorship in Europe. Russia recognized the Belarusian election results, while the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United States rejected them. In the case of Ukraine, the opposite happened: Russia called the elections "unfair" while the EU, OSCE and U.S. described them in glowing and positive terms.

Voting patterns in the 2006 elections have not dramatically changed from those in the three rounds of the 2004 presidential election. Then, and now, the west and center was pro-Orange while the east and south was pro-blue (for Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of the Regions). There are though, two crucial differences. First, Mr. Yanukovich's 44 percent vote on December 26, 2004, is not repeated in the 2006 election. With all the votes counted, the Party of the Regions had 32.12 percent of the vote.

Second, there was a generally lower turnout across Ukraine in 2006 as compared to the 2004 elections. Traditionally,

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eastern Ukraine has a lower turnout than western Ukraine and this was the case in 2006. Another factor working against a high turnout for the Party of the Regions was its highly negative election campaign.

The elections were a crushing defeat for the Communists, who came in at the bottom of the political forces that entered Parliament. Their decline from 120 seats in 1998 to 21 in 2006 is meteoric. Two of Ukraine's regional clans also failed to enter the Verkhovna Rada: "Ne Tak!" (Not So!) headed by the Kyiv clan's Social Democratic Party – United and Labor Ukraine, the Dnipropetrovsk clan. The former Kuchma camp voted for the Party of the Regions.

There was never any doubt that only five or six political forces would enter Parliament, even though the threshold is very low at only 3 percent. Of these forces, three would be the "big players" – the Party of the Regions, the Our Ukraine bloc and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Any parliamentary coalition would have to be created from two of these. As President Yushchenko is the honorary chairman of Our Ukraine, his bloc would inevitably be one of the two coalition partners.

Therefore, there were two likely coalitions: Our Ukraine plus the Tymoshenko Bloc, or Our Ukraine Plus Party of the Regions. Ukraine's new parliamentary coalition, which will create a government and choose a prime minister, will most likely be a revived Orange team of Our Ukraine plus the Tymoshenko Bloc plus the Socialists (SPU). Ms. Tymoshenko has energetically campaigned for an Orange coalition and has warned against the dangers of any alliance with Mr. Yanukovich.

Two factors explain why an Orange coalition will happen. First, an alliance with the Party of the Regions would be political suicide for President Yushchenko. It would be seen as a betrayal of the Orange Revolution and

Mr. Yushchenko's support would collapse. Our Ukraine's public support slumped after it signed a strategically futile memorandum with the Party of the Regions in late September 2005 – a memorandum that President Yushchenko himself discarded in January.

Mr. Yanukovich is not a reformed leader and his Party of the Regions followed the Communists in sending greetings to President Lukashenka on his "victory." (Mr. Yushchenko and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed the Western position, refusing to recognize the Belarus elections).

Mr. Yanukovich has never acknowledged his defeat in 2004 and he still believes he won the election but was betrayed by then President Kuchma. Throughout the elections, the Party of the Regions continued to denounce the legitimacy of the Orange Revolution as an "illegal coup" and continued to denigrate its supporters as "Orange rats."

The Party of the Regions is in favor of economic reform because it is dominated by oligarchs and businessmen. Yet, it voted against World Trade Organization legislation in 2005. The Party of the Regions is opposed to NATO membership, is for full membership in the CIS Single Economic Space, and supports the elevation of Russian to a second state language.

The second reason that the Orange coalition will be restored is that such an alliance between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich would send a signal to the EU and NATO that the Orange Revolution is in retreat. The EU already is passive in its attitudes toward Ukraine and an Our Ukraine alliance with the Party of the Regions would give sustenance to those inside the EU who do not want Ukraine as a member. An alliance with a political force hostile to NATO membership would also lead to a postponement of NATO offering Ukraine a Membership Action Plan at its November

summit in Riga.

Ms. Tymoshenko is in a powerful position because her bloc was second in the balloting and quadrupled the number of its seats in the Verkhovna Rada compared to the 2002 elections. Our Ukraine, in contrast, ran a poor third, with fewer Parliamentary seats than in 2002.

Why has Our Ukraine fared badly when its honorary chairman is Ukraine's president, swept into office by people power? Mr. Yushchenko is a "kamikaze" president. He made countless mistakes in 2005, including sacking the Tymoshenko government and dividing the Orange camp, signing a memorandum with Mr. Yanukovich, mishandling the gas contract with Russia in a non-transparent manner, and keeping Procurator-General Sviatoslav Piskun until October, thereby not following through on instituting charges against high-level officials. Mr. Yushchenko also wasted a year when, though he inherited Mr. Kuchma's extensive executive powers, he failed to use them to stamp his authority on the country.

Ms. Tymoshenko came in second because of Mr. Yushchenko's "kamikaze" mistakes that led to an Orange protest vote going to her, rather than to the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc. Our Ukraine proved to be arrogant, both vis-à-vis Orange voters and vis-à-vis Mr. Yushchenko himself. Senior Orange businessmen accused of corruption in September 2005 refused to back down from standing in Our Ukraine, ignoring Mr. Yushchenko's advice. Meanwhile, political parties in Our Ukraine refused to merge into a single pro-presidential party.

President Yushchenko failed to understand perhaps the most important factor driving the Orange Revolution: the widespread feelings of injustice generated by the public's perceptions of abuse of office,

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UCCA's "Voice Your Vote" program focuses on Ukrainian voter's concerns

by Khristina Lew

KYIV – They may have been slightly older in age in the industrial heartland of the country, but their concerns for the future were the same whether they hailed from Zaporizhia or Lviv. Voters across Ukraine told representatives of political parties and blocs at town hall meetings organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) in the weeks leading up to the March 26 parliamentary elections that they worry about social security benefits, housing, medical care and unemployment.

They were also wary of the new parliamentarians' immunity from criminal charges, claiming that Ukraine's new Parliament will be "filled with bandits." "How do you propose fighting corruption when deputies have immunity?" asked one voter in Lviv. "What kind of accountability can there be?" asked another in Zaporizhia.

The rising rates of cancer and heart disease also concerned voters in both cities. Zaporizhians live in one of the most industrialized cities in Ukraine, and Lviv's former "green zones," in which many sanatoriums are located, are now polluted.

The town hall meetings in Zaporizhia on March 16 and in Lviv on March 18 were part of the 10-city "Voice Your Vote" election program funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. Additional town halls were held in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Odesa on March 10; Ternopil on March 12; Poltava on March 16; Kirovohrad on March 17; and Kyiv on March 23.

The UCCA popularized the town hall concept in Ukraine, having run similar election programs during the 1998 parliamentary elections and the 2004 presidential elections. Since its first town hall meeting, the UCCA has reached over 20,000 voters.

The UCCA's town hall format gives each political party and bloc equal time before the electorate in any given city, and encourages an exchange of ideas and

responsibilities between voters and representatives of parties and blocs. Voters are given an opportunity to address representatives directly with their questions, and the most interesting questions are awarded a prize donated by the UCCA.

For the 2006 parliamentary elections, the UCCA invited all 45 registered political parties and blocs to participate in "Voice Your Vote." Thirty-nine parties and blocs took part in the program nationwide, including the larger Our Ukraine bloc, the Party of the Regions and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, as well as the smaller Pora Reforms and Order Party citizens' bloc, Lytvyn's



A voter delivers his question to town hall moderator Anatolii Yakovets in Lviv.



A representative of the Communist Party of Ukraine

People's Bloc and the Politics of Putin Party.

Voters in Lviv were particularly incensed by the Not So! (Ne Tak!) bloc's position on granting the Russian language official status in Ukraine. At that town hall meeting, voters challenged Not So! representative Andrii Karpynskyi's assertion that a Ukraine with two languages was similar to Switzerland with three official languages or Belgium with two. "We are one nation and do not need to speak two languages," said one voter.

The UCCA is an international community-based organization registered as a not for profit, 501 (c) (3) entity. It has been conducting civic education programs in Ukraine since 1994.

UWC: elections legitimate, fair

Below is the statement of the Ukrainian World Congress regarding the parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The statement was released on March 27.

International observers from the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), totalling 221 people from seven countries (the largest being the delegation from the Russian Federation, at 150 observers) were dispersed across 19 regions (oblasts) of Ukraine prior to and on the day of the elections where they actively participated in observing the election process.

Of a total of 34,000 electoral districts, UWC observers visited over 3,000 (i.e., 10 percent). On the basis of information received by the UWC mission coordinator, the following determinations have been made:

- the elections proceeded according to electoral law and international standards;
- the elections were transparent, democratic, fair and honest; and
- no major breaches of the law were noted.

Breaches that were noticed were minor, mainly of a technical nature, and had no material impact on the final election results.

Therefore, the Ukrainian World Congress believes that the elections of 2006 were legitimate and a fair demonstration of the will of the Ukrainian people.

The Ukrainian World Congress would like to acknowledge and thank the Central Election Commission, headed by Yaroslav Davydovych, as well as other government agencies for their efforts in ensuring that the elections were properly carried out. Especially appreciated was the accreditation of the UWC observers by the Central Election Commission.

These elections demonstrated, once again, that Ukraine is continuing on the road to democracy.

Victor Pedenko
General Secretary

Eugene Czolij
Chair of UWC Election Committee
and UWC Mission Coordinator

UCCA monitors report on voting

NEW YORK – More than 200 international observers from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) fulfilled their duties at various polling stations in 16 oblasts of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as five polling stations in the United States. The UCCA finds that the 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine were conducted in a free, open and transparent manner.

International observers from the UCCA have registered insignificant technical problems, mainly, misspellings or other minor inconsistencies in the voter lists and the lack of space, which interfered with the voters' ability to cast their votes in secret. It is necessary to note the following organizational issues:

- Some members of the electoral commissions did not possess sufficient legal knowledge.
- Polling stations were not adequately equipped.

All these difficulties, in the UCCA's opinion, occurred because the parliamentary elections were combined with the elections to the municipal organs. All observers, without exception, noted the extremely long lines the voters had to endure in order to register; some people had to wait for hours to receive their ballots(s).

The 2006 parliamentary elections demonstrated that Ukraine continues to move along the road of reforms and the

significant voter turnout provides evidence that the civic community, which ensures that every vote matters in deciding the future of the country, continues to strengthen.

In addition, UCCA observers, who have a long-time experience of observing parliamentary and presidential elections (1994, 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2004), underscored that the pre-electoral campaign and the atmosphere in Ukraine on the whole were democratic. All political forces had equal access to the media, and there was no evidence of government interference, as opposed to the previous campaigns.

In order to minimize the time needed to count the votes as well as to simplify the voting process for the Ukrainian electorate, the UCCA proposed that parliamentary and local elections be held separately. The UCCA also recommended including professionals familiar with the electoral legislation and elections procedures on electoral commissions.

The UCCA expressed sincere gratitude to the Central Elections Commission of Ukraine, headed by Yaroslav Davydovych, for overall cooperation and the chance to observe the elections. This allowed the UCCA to be part of establishing Ukraine's democracy yet again.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America also congratulated the people of Ukraine, noting that it "joins them in celebrating a new victory of democracy."

Voters' committee issues statement

Following is the full text of the preliminary statement of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, which was issued by the CVU Press Service on March 27.

The Committee of Voters of Ukraine is a national civic organization that has conducted complex monitoring of election campaigns and voting in Ukraine for 12 years to encourage participants to follow Ukrainian legislation and international standards for democratic elections.

For the March 26 elections, CVU deployed 5,000 short-term observers on election day to polling stations throughout Ukraine with the status of official non-partisan observers or Tochka Zoru newspaper representatives. Additionally, a free telephone hotline was available before and during election day, providing legal advice and registering complaints

on violations. On election day, 28,000 voters and election commission members called the hotline to provide or request information.

The voting for parliamentary and local elections took place and was conducted under free and transparent conditions. CVU registered very few acts of pressure on voters, members of election commissions, mass media and observers. The ballots put into the boxes reflect accurately the will of voters.

Despite challenges, the organizers of the elections continue to work in order to finalize the vote count. On election day morning, almost all of the polling stations opened and closed on time. As of 10 a.m. on March 27, CVU has not received information about serious viola-

(Continued on page 29)

Ukrainian elections free and fair, says OSCE's Election Observation Mission

KYIV – The March 26 parliamentary elections in Ukraine further consolidated the breakthrough in the conduct of a democratic election process that began less than a year and a half ago. Overall, fundamental civil and political rights were respected. This enabled voters to make informed choices between distinct alternatives and to freely and fairly express their will, concluded the International Election Observation Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in a statement released in Kyiv on March 27.

The mission deployed over 900 observers from 45 countries including 200 members of Parliaments, to observe the elections.

"These elections can only be described as free and fair, and so it is the Ukrainian people who are the real winners," said OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Alcee Hastings, a U.S. congressman from Florida who was appointed by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as the special coordinator for the short-term observers.

Renate Wohlwend, head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and co-rapporteur for PACE's monitoring of Ukraine, said, "Despite serious technical failings, in a clear break with the past, all Ukrainians have demonstrated their commitment to the democratic process."

"The media coverage was generally balanced, even though in the last days of the campaign, political views of the owners became more evident. All in all, the parties and candidates were able to get their different messages across through a vibrant media, giving the people of Ukraine the possibility to freely make a political choice and express it," said Marek Siwiec, leader of the delegation of the European Parliament.

Pierre Lellouche, president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and head of its delegation, said: "The fairness and transparency of these elections confirms the irreversible changes in Ukraine's democratic transformation. The door to Euro-Atlantic integration remains open to Ukraine and it is up to its people to decide when is the appropriate time to take the next steps."

Lubomir Kopaj, head of the long-term observation mission of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), stressed the need for continued overhaul of voter lists and electoral legislation. "Ukraine has come a long way in just over one year. I urge

the authorities not to lose momentum, now that we have seen what can be achieved. I hope that a serious case, described by our observers as deliberate fraud in Kirovohrad, where local militia was observed directing the vote count, will remain an isolated incident."

The campaign was competitive and dynamic and was covered comprehensively by media. This enabled parties and blocs to communicate their messages to the voters. The election was administered in a transparent manner and the presence of a large number of both partisan and non-partisan observers further enhanced the transparency, the OSCE noted.

Problems in staffing polling station commissions, and an excessive number of voters in some polling stations, caused a degree of disorder on election day. There was a political will to overhaul and update voter lists, but a limited number of errors still remains, the OSCE added.

The organization also reported that election day was peaceful, despite overcrowding observed in 30 percent of the polling stations. These delays were largely due to the simultaneous holding of general and local elections and further compounded by the large size of the ballot. Because of the delays, voting outside the polling booth was observed in 12 percent of cases, possibly compromising the secrecy of the vote. In spite of these sometimes stressful conditions, a vast majority of the polling station commissions conducted their work in a credible manner, with virtually no incidents recorded.

Meanwhile, speaking from Brussels, the OSCE's chairman-in-office, Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, on March 27 expressed his satisfaction over the conduct of the March 26 parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

"It was a competitive ballot, open to the representatives of a wide political spectrum. This is a crucial move for the consolidation of the democratic process," he said. "The citizens of Ukraine were allowed to express their vote freely."

The chairman-in-office also welcomed the large participation of the voters in the election. "The conduct of yesterday's elections is encouraging," Minister De Gucht said.

"It shows that Ukraine has already made considerable progress. However, these positive dynamics should be pursued in order to further strengthen democracy and the rule of law in the country," he concluded.

Canadian monitors praise conduct of elections

WINNIPEG – Canadian election observers monitoring Ukraine's parliamentary elections on March 26 reported they received excellent cooperation from the country's election control bodies and political parties as the lengthy job of counting votes began in earnest.

"Generally, we have received superb cooperation from Ukraine's central and local election commissions and from all parties across the country," said Paul Grod, a Toronto lawyer who is mission chief for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), the Winnipeg-based national organization representing 1 million Canadians of Ukrainian ancestry.

More than 150 Canadians signed on with the UCC to be a part of an election observer mission. The Canadian contingent visited more than 2,000 of Ukraine's 33,000 polling stations in seven regions of the country.

Mr. Grod said it will take at least another day until final results are known. The lengthy vote count is the result of the fact that voters were electing representatives for five levels of national and regional government.

Unlike Canada's first-past-the-post method of elections, Ukraine has adopted a form of proportional representation from which elected candidates are selected from party lists.

"The fact that Ukrainians were voting for five different levels of public representatives contributed to lengthy line-ups at the polls, and will probably contribute to lower voter turnout overall," said Mr. Grod.

"As representatives of Ukrainian Canadians our mandate was to contribute to the conduct of free and fair elections and to provide an independent and impartial observation," Mr. Grod noted.

FOR THE RECORD: Members of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition

On March 8, the House of Representatives approved HR 1053 to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The Senate followed suit the next day. President George W. Bush signed the bill into law on March 23.

For the historical record, The Ukrainian Weekly is publishing the complete list of members of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, an ad hoc group whose goal was the lifting of Jackson-Vanik restrictions and the granting of permanent normal trade relations to Ukraine.

Membership List, March 2006
Ambassador Steven Pifer and Ambassador William Miller, Co-Chairmen
ABEA Ltd.
ACDI/VOCA
Adams and Reese LLP
AES Corp.
Affiliated Appraisers
American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine
American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
American International Group (AIG)
American Ukrainian Medical Foundation
Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine
Andrew J. Futey & Associates
Arbor View Dental Clinic, Mount Prospect, Ill.
Aspect Energy LLC
Association for the Democratization of Ukraine
Association of American Youth of Ukrainian Descent (ODUM)
Atlantic Group Ltd.
“Awakening” Independent Film Studio
A W and Sons Inc.
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz
Berdiansk Reapers
B’nai B’rith International
Boeing
Bolshoi Agrotechnica Machina (BAM) America
Borough of Roselle Park, N.J.
BRAMA Inc.
Breakthrough to People Network Inc.
Breeze Ventures Management
BSI Group
Buckner Orphan Care International
Canada-Ukraine Foundation
Cape Point Capital Inc.
Case New Holland Inc.
Cardinal Resources PLC
Cargill Inc.
Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, New York
Chadbourne & Parke LLC
Chicago Kyiv Sister Cities Committee
Chopivsky Family Foundation
Coca-Cola Co.
Conlan & Associates
Council of Ukrainian-American Organizations of Greater Hartford
Crestway Manor Apts Ltd.
Customs, Trade & Risk Management Services Ltd.
David D. Sweere & Sons International Ltd.
Democrats Abroad – Ukraine Chapter
Diaspora Enterprise
Dr. James Mace Holodomor-Genocide Memorial Fund
Drake Group Holding Corp.
Draper Fisher Jurvetson NEXUS
Dutko Worldwide
ECdata Inc.
Energy Alliance
Excelsio Communications
Exquisite Elixirs Inc
Eye Center of Delaware
Floral Designs by Katya, Chicago
“Freedom” Ukrainian-American Publishing House
GN Associates
Gold Coast Construction
Gold Coast Properties Inc.
Gongadze Foundation
Gordon C. James Public Relations
Gnxpert Color Inc.
Gnxpert Netral Technologies Inc.

GnxTach Inc.
Hamalia South Travel
Heller & Rosenblatt Law Firm
Heritage Foundation of 1st Security
Federal Savings Bank, Chicago
Hollywood Trident Foundation
Holodomor Survivors Inc.
Inco Americas
Independent Voters for Equal Education and Opportunity
International Republican Institute
International Ukrainian Genocide-Holodomor Committee
Irondequoit-Poltava Sister Cities Committee
ISTIL (Ukraine)
ISTIL Group Inc.
Ivan Bahrianyj Foundation, Arlington Heights, Ill.
Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs
John A. Wood, Associates Inc.
John Deere
John Wood Ministries Inc.
Kalik Lewin Law Firm
Kiev-Atlantic Ukraine
Kobzar Society Ltd.
Kraft Foods Inc.
Krislaty Realty Investments
Kvazar-Micro Corp.
Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America
Largo Asset Management LLC
Larry M. Walker Ministries Inc.
L. B. Lyons & Co.
Lemberg Unternehmensberatung GmbH
Light of Crimea Foundation
Lithuanian-American Community Inc.
LPL Financial Services Inc.
MACOIL & Gas International
Maple Investments
Media Finance Management LLC
Medical Relief Charity Fund
Melitopol Tractor Hydro Units Plant
Meta
Ministering to Ministers Foundation Inc.
MJA Asset Management LLC
Moye Handling Systems Inc.
NAS Global Trade Ltd.
National Conference on Soviet Jewry
National Tribune
Nealon and Associates PC
New Millennium Strategies
New Roots Restoration
North Winnipeg Credit Union Limited, Winnipeg
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Odza, Gindhart, Steckiw & Farion
Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine Inc.
Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine
Paco Links International
Parents Targeting Achievement
Parents Targeting Opportunity
Perekhid Media Limited
Perkhid Outdoor
Perkhid Business Publishing
Piedmont Trading Inc.
Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization
Poltava Confectionery
Pro Trade Group
Pro-W International Corp.
Raymond Linsenmayer & Associates
Rescare Inc.
Reut Consulting
Richard W. Murphy Consulting Group
Ring Publishing
RUKH- Ukrainian Movement to aid Democracy in Ukraine, Chicago
Russian-Ukrainian Legal Group PA
Russin & Vecchi LLC, Moscow
Salans Law Firm
Sevastopol Shipyard
Shevchenko Scientific Society
Sibik and Cataldo
Sigma Venture Inc.
SigmaBleyzer Emerging Markets Private Equity Investment Group
Siguler Guff & Co. LLC
Skarabey Group LLC
Society for Fostering Jewish Ukrainian Relations



With the President George W. Bush during the signing ceremony (from left) are: Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Candice Miller (R-Mich.) (hidden), Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.)

Softline
Solid Team LLC
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP
St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Bloomington, Ill.
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral – BMV Sodality, Chicago
St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics Inc., U.S.A.
Svitanok
Sweet Analysis Services Inc.
Techinvest
TEREX Corp.
Town of Irondequoit, New York
The Action Ukraine Report (AUR)
The Bleyzer Foundation
The International Medical Education Foundation Inc.
The PBN Company
The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
The Ukrainian Museum
The Washington Group
TransNational Resource LLC
UBCTV
UkrAgroAssets LLC
UkrAgroSystems LLC
Ukraine-United States Business Council
Ukrainian Academic and Professional Association
Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.
Ukrainian American Bar Association
Ukrainian American Chamber of Commerce
Ukrainian American Civil Liberties Association
Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida
Ukrainian American Coordinating Council
Ukrainian-American Environmental Association
Ukrainian-American Freedom Foundation
Ukrainian American Senior Citizens Association
Ukrainian American Soccer Association Inc.
Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub
Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM)
Ukrainian Association in Austria
Ukraina Citizens International Association
Ukrainian Community Action Network, Chicago
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois Branch
Ukrainian Cossack Brotherhood, Chicago
Ukrainian Credit Union Development Committee
Ukrainian Cultural Center, Fairfax, Va.
Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute
Ukrainian Development Company LLC
Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center

Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America Inc., Philadelphia Chapter
Ukrainian Federal Credit Union
Ukrainian Federation of America
Ukrainian Fraternal Association
Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, Chicago
Ukrainian Gold Cross Inc.
Ukrainian Holodomor Exhibition Committee
Ukrainian Human Rights Committee
Ukrainian Institute of America
Ukrainian Museum-Archives, Cleveland
Ukrainian National Credit Union Association
Ukrainian National Association
Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago
Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Inc.
Ukrainian National Women’s League of America – Regional Councils: Detroit, New York, Central New York, Northern New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Chicago, New England, Philadelphia; Branches at Large: Phoenix, Atlanta, Miami, Pittsburgh, Denver, North Port, Washington, San Jose, Los Angeles, Houston, Tucson, St. Petersburg
Ukrainian Selfreliance New England Federal Credit Union
Ukrainian Wave Radio Program, Chicago
UKRUSA International Ltd.
United Software Corp.
United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York
United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland (UZO)
Usability Matrix Corp.
U.S.-Baltic Foundation
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation (CRDF)
U.S.-Ukraine Foundation
Vantage Enterprises LLC
Venable LLP
VIKO Corp.
Volia Cable
Volia Software Inc.
Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble
Westinghouse
Wilton S. Tifft Photography
WJ Group of Agricultural Companies
WJ Hopper & Co. Ltd.
World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations
World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations, Financial Committee
World League of Ukrainian Political Prisoners
www.ArtUkraine.com Information Service (ARTUIS)
Zaporizhya Meat Processing
Zen Architects



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

National Fraternal Congress unveils "Fraternalists in Action" program

OAK BROOK, Ill. – The National Fraternal Congress of America (NFC) on March 17 unveiled its new fraternal recognition program, "Fraternalists in Action," that will highlight the many contributions of fraternal benefit societies and their members to local communities throughout the country.

This public awareness program was approved by the NFC board of directors at its March 6, meeting in Scottsdale, Ari.

The NFC Fraternalists in Action Program consists of two parts: weekly/monthly recognition of individual fraternal achievement and involvement of elected officials in lodge activities.

The first part of the program will serve to recognize and highlight fraternal efforts and accomplishments every week of the year and then again every month in Washington. The NFC's recognition program will seek to put a face on fraternalism by recognizing five different "Fraternal MVPs" (Most Valuable Participants) each week for their fraternal accomplishments. The names of these Fraternal MVPs will be submitted by the NFC's 76 member-societies. (Because of the diversity of size among the NFC membership, member-societies will be divided into five different groups based on net assets.) Each month, the NFC will fly five fraternalists, one randomly selected from each group for that month to Washington, to meet and be recognized by their respective members of Congress.

The second part will serve to involve members of Congress, as well as state and local elected officials, in member-society lodge activities and events. Many member-societies maintain at least a partial calendar of local lodge activities, functions or events. The NFC will ask its member-societies to share this information so that the NFC can match up events with dates when the member of Congress typically is in his/her state (senators) or district (representatives).

Because the NFC already has the names and contact information of congressional schedulers through CapWiz, it will not be difficult for the NFC to extend, in the name of a member-society, an invitation to a member of Congress to attend, participate in or speak at a lodge function or event. The NFC also will be able to follow up on these invitations. While such invitations compete for time on a senator's or representative's busy schedule, all it takes is one or two acceptances by that senator or representative to see and understand fraternalism.

NFC headquarters staff will execute the Fraternalists in Action program with board oversight and input from fraternal communicators. The NFC also will coordinate all media for the program, including coordinating press contacts with the member-societies' home offices, as well as with congressional offices, drafting and distributing press releases to local and/or national media, posting information prominently on the NFC website, publishing stories in Fraternal Advantage, arranging for a photographer for photos with the members of Congress, creating a quarterly report/newsletter on the Fraternal MVPs for that quarter, and any other media coordination that is necessary.

"The Fraternalists in Action Program is

ongoing, establishes a fraternal presence on Capitol Hill, recognizes fraternal accomplishment and, best of all, has a negligible impact on the 2006 budget," said NFC President and CEO Frederick H. Grubbe.

Every month, five constituent fraternalists will meet with their respective members of Congress (two senators, district representative and home office district representative). Meanwhile, back in the states and individual congressional districts, other members of Congress will be invited to attend fraternal events.

"The message being conveyed is consistent and uniform," said NFC Chair of the Board Michael J. Wade. "Thus, the board's objective of complementing our Washington, D.C., lobbying efforts is accomplished with the implementation of the Fraternalists in Action program. It personalizes modern fraternalism for members of Congress by putting a name and a face to what we previously described to them, and it creates public awareness of fraternal benefit societies and individual fraternalists."

Specific information on the Fraternalists in Action program, including Fraternal MVP qualifications and program requirements, will be sent to all member-societies this month, as well as posted on the NFC website, www.nfcnet.org.

"The NFC's clear, No. 1 priority is to establish a public awareness presence in Washington, D.C., that engages and educates members of Congress and their staff members," Mr. Wade said. "Therefore, I call on all member-societies to participate in this exciting new program. As we continue to defend our 501(c) (8) tax exemption, we need to keep fraternalism and fraternalists in front of our federal and state legislators."

Initially, the NFC intended to hire a public relations firm to help create a fraternal presence in Washington. However, after reviewing a number of proposals with varying programmatic elements, the board concluded that the NFC should create and administer a national fraternal recognition program versus hiring an outside firm.

"Bringing this program in-house allows the NFC to develop and control the message on behalf of its member-societies," Mr. Grubbe said. "Further, it eliminates the need to educate a public relations firm about fraternalism and fraternal benefit societies. Eliminating the learning curve allows us to implement the program quickly, without any hidden costs or program surprises."

The 120-year-old NFC unites 76 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies operating in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents almost 10 million people in 36,000 local chapters, making it one of the continent's largest member networks. Among its members is the Ukrainian National Association.

Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. Combined, the NFC's member-societies maintain more than \$315 billion of life insurance in force and, in 2004 alone, contributed almost \$390 million to charitable and fraternal programs. In addition, fraternalists volunteered approximately 91.5 million hours toward community-service projects during that same period.

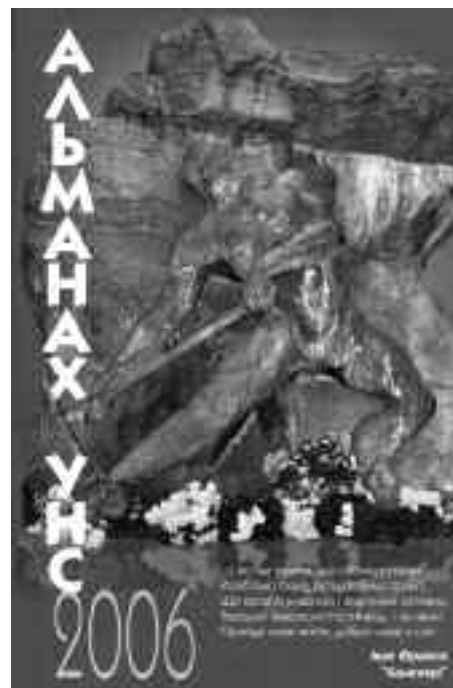
Svoboda Press releases UNA Almanac for 2006

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – This year's Ukrainian National Association Almanac is dedicated to several important Ukrainian anniversaries, chief among them the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko.

The 2006 almanac's cover displays a stone cutter and an excerpt from Franko's well-known poem "Kameniar." The tribute to Franko includes excerpts from memoirs written by his colleagues and friends. Also included are commentaries on Franko's relevance in present times and his past contributions to the Ukrainian nation.

The almanac also includes articles on the 20th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. They range from an essay by Heorhii Dzis who describes how the Chernobyl meltdown impacted his life and the lives of citizens on that spring day of April 26, 1986, to an analysis by Alla Yaroshynska of the web of lies and Soviet propaganda that followed the meltdown, with a concluding essay analyzing seismic activities around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Also part of the almanac is a special tribute to the 160th anniversary of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mykhailo Hrushevsky, and the 100th



anniversary of the birth of Ivan Bahriany. Also mentioned is the 120th anniversary of the birthday of Oleksander Tysovsky – known as "Drot" – the founder of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

An especially interesting chapter is

(Continued on page 18)



Do you know why we're so happy?

Our parents and grandparents invested in our future by purchasing an endowment and life insurance policy for each of us from the Ukrainian National Association, Inc.

They purchased prepaid policies on account of the low premium rate for our age group. If you'd like to be smiling like us, please have your parents or grandparents call the UNA at 1-800-253-9862.

They will be happy to assist you!

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Winners and losers

The 2006 parliamentary elections had some clear winners, and some clear losers. First among the winners were the people of Ukraine, as the elections, by all accounts, were a huge success and evidence that democracy is on the march.

At first glance, of course, it seems that Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of the Regions of Ukraine are the top winners. That's true if you simply look at the vote totals and see that Regions led with 32.12 percent. But Mr. Yanukovich actually lost public support, if you consider that during the 2004 presidential election he had the support of 44.20 of the voters in the third round (which he lost to Viktor Yushchenko).

It was Yulia Tymoshenko and the bloc she heads that are the clearest winners of the March 26 balloting. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc defied the expectations of countless observers when it not only claimed 22.27 percent of the vote, but beat the Our Ukraine bloc by more than 8 percentage points. And, one look at the electoral map on page 3 of this issue shows just how broad Ms. Tymoshenko's support is.

The Yushchenko camp, i.e., the Our Ukraine coalition, came in a disappointing third, and with less votes than predicted by all the pollsters – a mere 13.94 percent and a plurality in only three oblasts (Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattia and Lviv). The vote represented a resounding rebuke to the president from a disenchanted electorate.

An even bigger loser, of course was the Communist Party, which managed to get only 3.66 percent of the vote, finishing last in the running among the parties/blocs that passed the 3 percent support required for representation in the Verkhovna Rada.

So, what's next? Doing the math and building a majority coalition in the new Rada.

According to Ukrayinska Pravda, the breakdown of seats in the new Rada is as follows: Party of the Regions, 186 seats; Tymoshenko Bloc, 129; Our Ukraine, 89; Socialists, 33; and Communists, 21. The only realistic possibilities for a majority coalition (226 votes out of 450) are by uniting two of the top three powers.

Mr. Yanukovich's party can be in the majority coalition only if it unites with Our Ukraine, as a Yanukovich-Tymoshenko alliance is out of the question. Likewise, the Tymoshenko bloc can only be in the majority if it unites with Our Ukraine plus the Socialists. However, Our Ukraine can be in the majority if it unites with either Regions or the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialists. Both the Socialists and the Tymoshenko Bloc, it must be noted, have declared their readiness to recreate the Orange coalition.

And yet, there is a hold-up. Mr. Yushchenko has stalled on announcing the re-establishment of Orange unity, despite the fact that key players in his bloc have spoken in favor of the move. Furthermore, he knows that an alliance with Regions, whose principles he does not share, is – to use his own words – “unacceptable and not understandable to me.” The president need only recall the ill-advised and ill-fated memorandum of understanding he signed with that party in September 2005 only to discard it in January.

According to the latest information from Kyiv, Our Ukraine's decision on a coalition has been postponed to April 7 when its political council will meet. We say it's time for Mr. Yushchenko, obviously wounded in the match-up against Ms. Tymoshenko, to swallow his pride and quickly announce a coalition with his Orange colleagues. Any other move, as has been noted by various political analysts, would be political suicide for both Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine. And the mantle of the heir to the Orange Revolution will pass to Ms. Tymoshenko, who will then lead a most vociferous opposition.

April
8
2001

Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, our issue dated April 8, 2001, carried an article that revealed the Kuchma regime's fear of Vice Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. She was seen as an agitator disrupting the status quo and was made a target by the regime's tactics of political repression. Charges of bribery, smuggling and forgery were brought against Ms. Tymoshenko. She denied all charges, claiming they were politically motivated.

The Kyiv District Court on March 27 annulled a warrant issued in December 2000 by the Procurator General's Office for Ms. Tymoshenko's arrest. The court ruling made by Judge Mykola Zamkovenko said, “there was not sufficient reason to believe Ms. Tymoshenko would hide from investigators since she attended all required interrogations.”

Upon this decision, the Procurator General's Office appealed the ruling, and the Kyiv City Court complied on March 31 to place Ms. Tymoshenko under arrest once more. At that time, she was reportedly recovering from a stomach ulcer at a Kyiv clinic after being jailed since February 13. There, guards appeared outside her hospital room to arrest her. Ms. Tymoshenko's lawyers filed an appeal to the Supreme Court, which on April 2 ordered a suspension of the arrest until it considered the appeal.

Oleksander Turchynov, head of the parliamentary caucus of Ms. Tymoshenko's Fatherland Party, cited “informed sources” and told Interfax that the order to rearrest Ms. Tymoshenko came personally from President Leonid Kuchma. Looking at the speed at which these rulings were made and overturned, many saw the invisible hand of corruption and power at work.

After Mr. Turchynov spoke with the president about Ms. Tymoshenko's husband, who was in jail on charges of bribery, Mr. Kuchma said that Ms. Tymoshenko's fate depended on her “behavior.” President Kuchma's term “behavior” referred to the release by Ms. Tymoshenko to Western experts of Maj. Mykola Melnychenko's recordings of conversations in the president's office which implicated Mr. Kuchma in the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze.

Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko commented on the rearrest, saying it was “a demonstration of force – unfavorable for overcoming the crisis and arranging a normal political dialogue.”

Source: “Is Kuchma afraid of Tymoshenko or of dialogue?” by Jan Maksymiuk, RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report, The Ukrainian Weekly, April 8, 2001, Vol. LXIX, No. 14.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The Ukrainian language speaks film

by Christina Kotlar

Film speaks all languages, and one of the best ways for the world to understand what the Ukrainian state of mind is all about – the language, culture, history and present day – is to create a new state of independence: independent film.

While Hollywood manages to hold onto its image (and money) for commercial film dominance, always looking for the next box office bonanza, the independent film industry is chipping away at this proverbial Berlin Wall of big budgets, blockbusters and remakes. Great stories, low budgets and alternative distributions have made inroads for independent filmmakers to show films without having to sell their soul or sign away their first-born.

Film festivals have taken on the role of vehicle and venue, with certain festivals becoming the place for a film's world premiere and generating enough buzz to take an unknown to the Academy Awards within a year's strategy on the festival circuit.

There are over 2,200 film festivals going on all over the world this year, providing a venue for just about any genre you can think of.

I found one festival in Ukraine – the Kyiv Molodist Film Festival scheduled in October. It's been going on for a number of years, but there isn't a lot of buzz about it in the news (but that can always change). What's needed is an independent film industry that allows old and new filmmakers to produce and screen films in venues available for the public to see and hear in Ukrainian.

Recently, a new film, “Orange Sky” (Pomarancheve Nebo), was released in public theaters. I'm not sure what the marketing and distribution plans were for

Christina Kotlar has a master's degree in producing for film and video from American University in Washington. She has co-produced an independent feature film, written a short film and is working on a documentary about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). Currently, she is managing editor for Film Festival Reporter, a publication devoted to covering the Film Festival circuit worldwide and promoting independent film and the filmmaker.

this film, but I do know it was a bold move on the producer's part, to make the decision to circumvent the independent film festivals and markets and plunge headfirst into an unforgiving spotlight. On the other hand, it could be a great financial and critical success.

The film business is fickle and extremely tough, especially on a fledgling industry such as in Ukraine right now. It needs all the support it can get and, like any other enterprise, the first springboard to success is the support of its core constituency. Perhaps that's why I hesitate to do a critique on this film, or film reviews in general. It's a lot of blood, sweat and heartache to make a film, and usually you don't make a profit of any kind.

I read about “Orange Sky” in The Ukrainian Weekly of March 19. While it certainly can be argued that this was only an opinion, the writer is an editor for the publication and, therefore, to me the opinion counts for something. I was surprised and dismayed that the interpretations were both personal and subjective, inferring a rather negative impression. I usually don't pay attention to bad critics and try not to be negative about someone's hard work; nevertheless, it planted a seed in my mind that the film is not very good. Once that happens, well, then it's time for a panakhyda (requiem service).

My views, too, can be critical if I don't like a highly promoted marketing effort fronted by millions of dollars in P&A (promotion and advertising), but this may not be the case in Ukraine. This is the first “Ukrainian-financed-written-produced and-directed film for national commercial release” (The Ukrainian Weekly, March 12, front page). If Ukrainian film and filmmakers are going to succeed, they need support from the Ukrainian community worldwide and not be panned because it doesn't suit someone's “perhaps I'm a bit prudish” taste.

Just as the Orange Revolution changed the country's political situation, it's time to plant the seeds that will take root and grow into a viable film culture. And, while “Orange Sky” may not be the film that changes the world, it's a step in the right direction.

I haven't seen “Orange Sky” and don't know when I will have the opportunity to do so, but I will see it for sure.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
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Financial News You Can Use

Capital preservation

by Walter Prochorenko

As we saw in our previous article, there are many ways in which we can accumulate capital and ensure that it grows. However, as many millionaires have found, one of the hardest tasks facing people with capital is actually its preservation. In a world where many companies and individuals know your personal financial situation, there are a great many covetous and enterprising ones that want a piece of it. Size and celebrity of financial institutions does not always ensure security. As New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's crusade recently proved, even the largest institutions are not immune to manipulative and cunning strategies to enhance their own bottom lines. Also who remembers the savings and loan scandals of the 1980s which could have ended far worse than they did, but still cost the U.S. government some \$1.4 trillion in bailouts?

So, how should an average individual go about protecting his or her hard-earned capital and ensure that it will be there when he/she needs it? Experts have a great number of advice and solutions, but the main ones center around two: diversification and asset allocation.

Diversification can mean different things to different advisers and experts, but in this case it does not mean investing in 10 different stocks in 10 different companies. By diversification, we mean protection of assets through suitable and meaningful insurance policies, proper investments in diversified groups of financial instruments, tax and estate planning, and regularly reviewed wills and trusts.

As we have seen in our first article, insurance can be one of the most valuable tools an individual has for capital preservation. One's lifetime earnings are generally the biggest asset that one possesses. Unfortunately, most people, and for some reason the new immigration of Ukrainians and Eastern Europeans in particular, underinsure themselves. This is most likely due to the cultural and social aspects of life under the former Soviet regime. Insuring oneself with a small policy will not protect one's assets (including lifetime earnings) nor will it provide security for one's family. This can be a devastating error in judgment. Likewise, over-insuring oneself can be a waste of money that should be used for living.

There are presently dozens of various types of insurance policies and hundreds, if not thousands, of variations and riders that can modify them. The major groups and their major subcategories include:

- Life Insurance
 - Term Life insurance
 - Level and decreasing term life
 - Whole life insurance
 - Single premium Life
 - Universal life (Option A and Option B)
 - Variable Universal life
 - Variable life
 - Health insurance
 - Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
 - Preferred Provider Option (PPO)
 - Fee for service insurance
 - Long-term care (LTC) insurance – although not strictly health insurance, it is placed in this category because it provides for care when the person is no

longer able to care for himself or herself.

- Auto insurance
- Liability
- Comprehensive and collision
- Homeowner insurance
- Basic homeowner policies
- Liability insurance
- Condominium or renter policies
- Flood or other disaster coverage (these are important riders or additional insurances now since many companies exclude these from basic policies).

Note: Many of the life insurance products can be obtained through your UNA insurance professional.

As complicated as choosing between various insurance policies can be, diversification into different financial instruments can be even more so. We have already seen that worldwide there are more than 55,000 mutual funds. Plus, the Dow Jones organization indicates that, "Although the exact number of stocks in the U.S. is not recorded, some sources estimate it could be as many as 15,000."

If we add to this the thousands of government, corporate, and municipal bonds; the many newly established hedge funds; thousands of commodity and financial futures instruments; and a conglomeration of warrants, options, etc, the choices can be literally mind-boggling. Thus, investing in any or all of these financial instruments can be daunting at best. However, diversification is almost always recommended by experts, and proper diversification should enhance any portfolio.

Diversification and capital preservation can also mean protecting your assets through proper tax and estate planning and properly documenting your wishes and a lifetime of planning through wills and/or trusts. Unfortunately, for this type of planning there are no sets of rules to follow. Each and every case and situation is unique unto itself and should be treated as such. Your lawyer, your accountant, your financial planner and your insurance professional should be consulted when establishing such documents, since each can suggest the most effective and currently applicable regulations that can enhance them.

Once you have established the proper diversification strategies, you should review them at least on a yearly basis, unless the assets are too small to warrant such expenses.

However, the one area that will need your constant attention is your financial portfolio. Here, proper asset allocation, depending on your financial situation, age, risk tolerance, earnings status and years to objective, can make significant differences in how your portfolio is managed. According to Modern Portfolio Management theory, asset allocation has been found to be one of the most effective forms of portfolio maintenance. Although the uses of previous studies on asset allocation have been disputed by such authors as John Nutall in his article: "The Importance of Asset Allocation," other authors such as Jonathan Clements of the Wall Street Journal indicate that "asset allocation has a major influence on your portfolio's performance." Thus we believe that proper diversification with relevant asset allocation can be a most important tool to help preserve capital.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Happier than Zimbabweans?

According to a recent study, people in Ukraine are happier than people in Zimbabwe, but not much happier.

Everyone, of course, wants to lead a happy life, but few of us have found the magic formula. Having money helps, but it's no guarantee as certain winners of the lottery over the years have discovered to their dismay.

What do we know about the nature of happiness? According to a recent National Review article by Kevin A. Hassett, "Dutch sociologist Ruut Veenhoven has made a career out of happiness. His official title is 'professor of social conditions for human happiness,' and he directs the World Database of Happiness, an exhaustive compilation of over 1,500 high-quality surveys about self-reported happiness around the world. Using sophisticated statistical techniques, Veenhoven has converted the results of the various surveys into a standard measure – how much people enjoy their life as a whole, on a scale from 0 to 10 [with 10 being the best] – and reported the average happiness in 90 countries from 1995 to 2005."

Among other variables, Prof. Veenhoven's happiness index compared level of happiness with per capita GDP. Not surprisingly, the score for people in the United States, where the per capita income is around \$34,344, is 7.4. In Ukraine, where GDP reportedly hovers around \$3,000, the happiness index is around 3.8, slightly above that of Zimbabwe.

Countries such as Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, writes Mr. Hassett, "are far happier than we might expect, given their income. Others – such as Ukraine and Zimbabwe – are far unhappier than their circumstances suggest they should be."

"What do the places that are unusually unhappy have in common?" asks Mr. Hassett. "One key factor appears to be that they have very weak rule of law. And the unusually happy places? They tend to be countries with a high degree of religiosity. The five countries with the most surprising happiness, given their income, are predominantly Catholic."

So what's Ukraine's problem? Is it lawlessness? Perhaps. Some progress has been made. The decision of Ukraine's Supreme Court to nullify the Yanukovich presidential victory in 2004 heralded a new commitment to rule of law and, say what you want about President Viktor Yushchenko, he's no crook. Unfortunately, he appears to be the exception among Ukraine's ruling elite.

Is Ukraine's problem a lack of religious faith? I think not. Churches have been cropping up all over Ukraine following communism's collapse. Our people have managed to retain their faith in God despite years of Communist oppression, especially in western Ukraine.

I believe the clue to present unhappiness in Ukraine has to do with unrealistic expectations. In his book "Happiness is a Serious Business: A Human Repair Manual," radio talk-show host Dennis Prager writes: "People expect too much whether from a spouse, a friend or an employee. They set themselves up for disappointment. Better to expect less and appreciate more."

In the euphoria surrounding the Orange Revolution, many Ukrainians, there and here, believed that at long last our time had come. After centuries of foreign oppression, the Ukrainian people had finally triumphed. We were champions.

Later, when the Orange bubble deflated, there was disappointment and anger.

So what now? Will Ukrainians be better off following the last election? Probably not. Voter turnout was down and despite what you've read, the new parliamentary system in Ukraine is a step backwards. Under the new political order, Ukraine's people have less power. The new system allows them to vote for president with significantly limited powers once every five years. They can no longer vote directly for members of Parliament. Instead, they get to vote for political parties once every five years. Party leaders and oligarchies then decide who will be in Parliament. People who need parliamentary immunity from prosecution will now be selected more easily.

According to an analysis by E. Morgan Williams, the new political arrangement effectively disenfranchises "thousands of small towns and villages in Ukraine ... Rural Ukraine will be lost and left behind," he concludes. You think Ukrainians are unhappy now? Wait!

So what happens next? Ukrainians, it seems, have two choices. One is to continue to complain and carp. This form of response has been honed to an art form by Ukrainians over there. Rarely does one meet a Ukrainian who appears happy and who admits that he or she is well off. If you believe what you hear, everyone in Ukraine today is suffering, mired in poverty, helplessness and hopelessness.

A second choice is a tough one. It requires a certain personal and political maturity. It involves taking responsibility; it involves organizational capability, working together at the grassroots level to improve local conditions; it involves understanding that there is no "they" who will come and magically make things better. There is only you. Don't moan and groan, develop solutions.

Ukrainians there and here have always found many reasons for gloom and doom. Some suggest that it's part of our national character. Unhappiness is contagious and debilitating. Have you ever worked with chronically unhappy people? They're like vampires; they suck the life out of everyone and everything around them. Some revel in their misery, wearing it as a badge of honor, a sign of their "martyrdom," their "victimhood."

Do Ukrainians have anything to be happy about? Absolutely! The best reason for joy is the fact that, contrary to predictions, the last parliamentary elections demonstrated that the Orange Revolution is still alive and kicking. A new Orange coalition is in the works. Another reason for exultation is 16 years of Ukrainian independence, recognized by everyone except Russia. There's the Ukrainian language, recognized by everyone but Russia. Ukraine has more religious and press freedoms than ever before. Then there's Ukraine's economy, still sputtering but improving. Today we can freely visit our families in Ukraine and help them directly. Finally, there is financial and political support from the United States. I could go on, but you get the picture.

Focusing on the positive by appreciating what we have defuses the power of negativism. It can also lead to happiness, and happiness produces good things.

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Tired of searching and surfing?

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

International observers...

(Continued from page 1)

process as timely and democratic," said Vladyslav Kaskiv, leader of the Pora Civic Party who announced his resignation after the elections.

"We are not asking to repeat the elections in any way. The issue is the lawful, timely and transparent procedure of recounting the votes to determine the election's results," he said.

Meanwhile, local elections suffered numerous problems throughout the country.

Anatolii Symonenko, the winner of the mayor's race in the village of Myrne in Crimea, was attacked the day before Election Day. His injuries were so severe that he died on March 28.

He belonged to the Ukrainian Republican Party, which joined with the Ne Tak! Bloc. Police offered no information about who his attackers might have been.

Another violent scandal erupted in Zhytomyr. Mayoral candidate Viktor Rozvadovskyi of Lytvyn's People's Bloc was widely known to give out presents while campaigning, in violation of election laws.

On March 18, Our Ukraine activist Volodymyr Zubrytskyi attended a meeting with Mr. Rozvadovskyi, during which he videotaped the candidate giving out gifts, the Oglyadach Information Agency reported. (<http://www.oglyadach.com>)

When Mr. Rozvadovskyi found out about the video, he had two guards attack Mr. Zubrytskyi. They shoved him into a jeep, seized his video camera and then savagely beat him as they drove to a building, where he was beaten again, according to Mr. Zubrytskyi.

Soon afterwards, the security chief of Lytvyn's People's Bloc, Valerii Nonyk, drove Mr. Zubrytskyi to a hospital, the

victim said. Along the way, Mr. Nonyk advised Mr. Zubrytskyi to tell doctors he suffered his injuries as a result of a fall.

Mr. Zubrytskyi suffered trauma to his skull and brain, a broken nose and broken ribs, a doctor told the Oglyadach Information Agency.

Sevastopol nullified the results of its mayoral election after a judge ruled on election day that another court had improperly denied Oleksander Gress his candidacy.

When Sevastopol voters received their election ballots, they saw Mr. Gress' name crossed out with a pen, which prohibited them from voting for the eligible candidate.

In Khmelnytsky, voting for the city council didn't even take place because numerous city election commission members suddenly became ill in the four days leading to elections.

Central Election Commission (CEC) Chair Yaroslav Davydovych called it a planned sabotage. Days earlier, a court had disallowed the candidacy of the city's incumbent mayor.

Expect more mayoral election results to get canceled, said Oleksander Chernenko, the press secretary of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), particularly in Cherkasy, Lutsk and Kirovohrad, where a judge decided to remove a candidate on election day.

Some Kirovohrad voters cast their ballots for that candidate, so it's likely the elections will have to be held there again, Mr. Chernenko explained.

After weeks of warning the Ukrainian government and political blocs that district election commissions were inadequately prepared, the CVU criticized their performance in a March 27 statement.

Preparation for the elections were carried out at a low standard, for which both government authorities and political leaders

were responsible the CVU statement said.

The poor preparations included last-minute changes to the election law, simultaneous voting in five different elections, a lack of voting ballots, violations of election privacy and poorly organized voter lists.

More than 28,000 voters and commission members called the CVU's election hotline to make reports, the CVU reported.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) observers gathered in Kyiv on March 29 to report on their election monitoring missions.

More than 200 observers from the U.S. and France had joined the UCCA mission.

Most reported very positive experiences, and few reported any cases of fraud, violence or intimidation.

The Dnipropetrovsk Oblast election monitoring team appeared to have had the most problems.

During voting, Dnipropetrovsk local police told Stefan Kira of St. Augustine, Fla., that he had to register with them. Though Ukraine's election monitoring laws didn't require Mr. Kira to register, he said he complied with police to avoid possible conflicts.

While seated in the room with the police officer, Mr. Kira said he also noticed two empty ballot boxes, an election violation since all the boxes had to be within view of observers and voters.

"Given that I was in a closed room with a police officer, I wasn't going to say anything," Mr. Kira said.

A far more serious incident occurred when Andrew Hadzewycz of Morristown, N.J., told a police officer in one of the nearly 20 polling stations he and his colleagues visited in the area of Dnipropetrovsk that he was violating procedures by standing in the voting area.

The officer refused to leave, and a large, intimidating police chief insisted to Mr. Hadzewycz that his officers had a right to be anywhere. Mr. Hadzewycz held his ground and, ultimately, the police chief told the officer to leave the voting area.

A team of nine observers led by Jaroslaw Zawadiwsky of Cleveland had among the roughest experiences in the Kharkiv Oblast, where locals were intimidating the observers, demanding to know who they were and what they were doing.

"The number of leather jackets milling about increased into the evening," he said.

The line at one polling station was 45 minutes long, and numerous voters left without bothering to wait, Mr. Zawadiwsky noted.

Most experiences were positive.

Taking part in his second observation mission to Ukraine, Reno Domenico, a high school principal from Pine Hill, N.J., said he was impressed with Ukraine's uniform national voting system and use of paper ballots, "which makes it difficult to cheat because you can't lose them."

"I've seen a lot dirtier elections in Philadelphia and Camden, N.J.," Mr. Domenico said.

Zenon Halkowycz of Teaneck, N.J., led a team to Cherkasy, where he noticed only "small technical violations that would not have any effect on the outcome of the elections."

Missing seals on the ballot boxes was a typical problem reported by many observers. Each ballot box requires two seals, and often only one was applied.

Mr. Hadzewycz reported that in one polling station he visited the ballot boxes were not sealed on both sides as required. He brought this to the attention of the local election commission, which at first said it had not received enough fasteners to secure the boxes, but within minutes found the fasteners and sealed the clear containers.

In Sevastopol, a district election com-

mission neglected to send out notifications for voters to register, said Osyph Rozhka of Philadelphia. As a result, several hundred citizens were excluded from voting lists and couldn't vote.

Many observers reported polling stations opening more than an hour late. Dr. Vassyl Lonchyna of Hinsdale, Ill., reported a Donetsk polling station that delayed opening for two and a half hours because of internal fighting and politicking.

Then, the commission intentionally delayed the vote-counting process during the night, Dr. Lonchyna said. Tallying votes dragged into the next evening when, finally, at 5 p.m., an elections enforcer took over the district commission and restored order.

In fact, many monitoring teams pulled all-nighters, observing commission members counting votes all night and into the next afternoon. One team in Ivano-Frankivsk was still in its observation mission three days after Election Day.

Olena Chebnyiak of Stamford, Conn., said a few commission members at one district in Zhytomyr began fainting for lack of breaks, food and sleep.

"The Central Election Commission needs to pay attention to how people work during elections," Ms. Chebnyiak said. "They won't have anyone working on these elections anymore."

The UCCA observers sang the praises of Ukraine's women, whose polling stations and district commissions were far more organized and efficient than those managed by their male counterparts.

"Every district chaired by a woman was working perfectly," Mr. Halkowycz said. "They were disciplined and on time."

This year's observer mission was just as necessary as during the Orange Revolution to demonstrate that true democracy has been instilled in Ukraine, said Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the UCCA.

"These elections were held in a free, fair and transparent manner," Mr. Sawkiw Jr. said. "We helped the citizens of Ukraine achieve true democracy."

The Ukrainian World Congress sponsored 221 observers to Ukraine, mostly from the Russian Federation, while the Ukrainian Canadian Congress fielded a mission of more than 150 observers.

The UCC leadership reported a dramatic improvement in the election process compared to the presidential race in 2004. UCC observers reported this year's elections were conducted freely and fairly, in accordance with domestic and international election laws.

"Generally, we have received superb cooperation from Ukraine's central and local election commissions and from all parties across the country," said Paul Grod, the UCC's mission chief.

Both the UCC and the International Republican Institute (IRI), whose observers visited more than 100 polls, reported that the multiple elections taking place on a single day made lines longer.

The IRI recommended that the Ukrainian government hold parliamentary and local elections separately, and provide larger polling stations.

Additionally, "despite the good-faith efforts on the CEC, the voter lists do contain some inaccuracies, some as a result of the transliteration of names," the IRI reported in a press release, recommending that the CEC establish a national, computerized database of voters.

Mr. Halkowycz of the UCCA mission recalled what one woman said on his visit to a Cherkasy village that seemed to sum up this year's election.

"For the first time in my life, no one is telling me how to cast my vote," he remembered her telling him.

For more on international observers' assessments of the parliamentary election see page 5.



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Voters examine the multiple ballots, some as long as three feet, that they received at one of the polling stations in Dniprodzerzhynsk. Andrew Hadzewycz

Party of the Regions...

(Continued from page 1)

Regions proved itself as the dominant force in contemporary Ukrainian politics, earning 32 percent of the vote, according to the CEC's final tally.

More than 8.1 million Ukrainians believed that the Party of the Regions has the best political outlook for their nation.

Almost exclusively a Donetsk party in the 2002 elections, the Party of the Regions has evolved into a national powerhouse representing the interests of Ukrainians who want their government to have stronger political, economic and cultural relations with the Russian Federation.

In 2002 it joined the Za Yedynu Ukrayinu (For a United Ukraine) bloc that had supported the policies of former President Kuchma.

For a United Ukraine won 12 percent, or about 3 million votes, largely due to the Party of the Regions' ability to deliver the Donetsk Oblast, where it secured the support of more than 400,000 voters.

This time around, the Party of the Regions took all the oblasts that had belonged to the Communist Party of Ukraine in the 2002 vote, with the exception of Kirovohrad.

The party won the most votes in eight eastern and southern oblasts, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, all of which gave Mr. Yanukovich their votes in the 2004 presidential elections.

In the late hours on election day, Mr. Yanukovich declared his party's interest in forming a parliamentary coalition with the other victors, especially hinting of an agreement with the Our Ukraine bloc in order to "remove tensions and unite eastern and western Ukraine."

In the days following the elections, the Party of the Regions sent mixed messages about its foreign policy orientation, first indicating support for European Union integration, but then calling for Ukraine's membership in the Single Economic Space led by Russia.

Mr. Yanukovich also congratulated Belarusian autocrat Alyaksandr Lukashenka on his victory in the presidential election that was resoundingly criticized by the U.S. government and deemed undemocratic by international observers.

If Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich were the election's winners, Mr. Yushchenko led the losers.

While his Our Ukraine bloc won 24 percent of the vote in the 2002 parliamentary elections, it managed to convince only 14 percent of the electorate to support them this time around.

Mr. Yushchenko's bloc won only three oblasts: Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia. It won 13 oblasts in 2002.

Our Ukraine lost much of its votes to

the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, proving her to be the winner of the conflict that drove the Orange forces apart.

After winning 6.1 million votes in the 2002 election, Our Ukraine won 3.5 million votes this time around – a decline of 43 percent.

Ms. Tymoshenko was not the only factor among the Orange forces that hurt the Our Ukraine bloc.

The Kostenko-Pliusch and Pora-Reforms and Order blocs, both of which helped lead the Orange Revolution and shared very similar political positions with Our Ukraine, fell short of the 3 percent barrier.

More than 470,000 Ukrainians gave their votes to the national-democratic Kostenko-Pliusch Bloc, while 370,000 voted for the Pora-Reforms and Order Bloc.

As a result, neither political veterans and Ukrainian patriots such as Yurii Kostenko, Ivan Drach and Stepan Khmara will be in the Rada, nor will Pora leaders Vladyslav Kaskiv and Yevhen Zolotariov.

Mr. Khmara left the Tymoshenko Bloc last September, accusing Ms. Tymoshenko of being an "unpardonable liar" who was ruining Ukraine. He said at the time that he was convinced that she would never become prime minister again.

The other big losers in the 2006 elections were the Communists, who saw their share of the electorate plunge from 20 percent in 2002 to 3.7 percent in this year's election.

Still, the Communists managed to be the fifth and final political force to qualify for the Verkhovna Rada, earning the support of more than 920,000 Ukrainians. More than 5 million Ukrainians had voted for the Communists in 2002.

Perhaps the election's biggest loser was Volodymyr Lytvyn, the Verkhovna Rada chairman who created his own political bloc to compete for the Parliament.

Mr. Lytvyn spent a multi-million-dollar war chest on a nationwide advertising campaign to convince Ukrainian voters that he was the voice of reason that would bring understanding between the Orange and pro-Russian forces.

Instead, Ukrainian voters demonstrated that they weren't interested in a middle-of-the-road, moderate political force, said Serhii Taran, director of the Kyiv-based International Democracy Institute, which is financed by mid-level Ukrainian businesses and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

The vast majority of Ukrainians are either firmly in the Orange camp, or firmly support the Party of the Regions, he said.

Mr. Lytvyn's bloc earned only 2.4 percent of the vote, despite widespread expectations that it would easily surpass the 3 percent barrier.

As a result, Mr. Lytvyn is shut out of the next Parliament, as are other cronies of former President Kuchma who joined his bloc, including energy magnate Ihor Yermeyev, former first assistant to President Kuchma Serhii Liovochkin and former customs chief Mykola Kalenskyi.

Among the election's biggest surprises was the strong performance of Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc, which finished just shy of the 3 percent barrier necessary for representation in Parliament.

Her radical pro-Russian campaign platform drew the votes of more than 740,000 Ukrainian citizens, or 2.93 percent of the electorate.

Voters in the Donetsk and Zaporizhia oblasts gave her the most support. Ms. Vitrenko has already announced her plans to stage mass demonstrations to

demand a recount.

Also shut out of the Parliament is the notorious Kyiv oligarch clan known as the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine – United, which formed the Ne Tak! bloc for the elections.

Belonging to this clan are former President Leonid Kravchuk, billionaire oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk, Dynamo Kyiv owner Hryhorii Surkis, Soviet soccer star Oleh Blokhin and political apparatchik Nestor Shufrych.

Though they blanketed the nation's billboards and radio airwaves with advertising ridiculing the Orange forces, the "Ne Tak!" (Not So!) bloc only earned 1.0 percent of the vote.

No one political party or bloc earned enough votes to form a majority in the Verkhovna Rada.

(Continued on page 23)



A view of the registration and voting process in one of Dniprodzerzhynsk's crowded polling places.

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Carpathian Ski Club holds 52nd ski races in upstate New York

WINDHAM, N.Y. – The Carpathian Ski Club held its 52nd ski races here at Ski Windham on Saturday, March 4, with racing in age groups ranging from boys age 4 and under to men 65 and over, and, on the female side, from girls age 5-6 to women over age 50.

The annual ski races organized by KKK (the Ukrainian-based acronym of the club's name) are a family event that attracts parents and their children. This year's largest groups were boys/men age 17-20, a group that drew 12 competitors; and boys age 7-8 with seven competitors.

Ninety-eight competitors signed up for the races – the vast majority of them skiers, although there was a sprinkling of snowboarders among the participants, marking the fifth year that boarders com-

peted in separate categories.

The races at Windham took place on a NASTAR-sanctioned course, especially reserved that morning for the Ukrainian skiers. (NASTAR is the acronym for the National Standard Race, the largest public recreational grassroots ski program in the world.)

That evening, athletes of all ages, their families and friends, as well as supporters of KKK attended the awards banquet held at the nearby Hunter Mountain Ski Lodge. KKK President Erko Palydowycz welcomed all to the dinner; masters of ceremonies were Vira Popel and Orest Fedash.

A special guest at the dinner was Karl

(Continued on page 13)



Roma Hadzewycz

The youngest ski champions: girls age 5-6, (from left) Diana Blyznak (with her proud mom behind her), Juliana Paslawsky and Deanna Zawadiwsky.



The largest group of competitors in the 2006 races: boys/men age 17-20 with KKK officer Christine Klufas.



Former World Downhill Champion Karl Plattner (right) shows his award from the Austrian Ski Federation to Erko Palydowycz, president of the Carpathian Ski Club.

Carpathian Ski Club...

(Continued from page 12)

Plattner, former world downhill champion from Austria, who resides in the town of Hunter. Mr. Plattner, it should be noted, was among six men nominated by the Austrian Ski Federation to be honored in recent ceremonies marking 100 years of Austrian ski racing. Mr. Plattner received a Swarovski crystal award from the president of Austria for his achievements.

Mr. Plattner, who is a longtime friend of the

Carpathian Ski Club, recalled his 35 years working at Hunter Mountain. Today he is affiliated with Windham Mountain, carrying a business card that identifies him as “ski ambassador.”

Also present at the KLK dinner was Roman Pyndus, who delivered greetings from the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), an umbrella group for Ukrainian sports clubs, among them KLK.

Trophies were awarded for first place in each age group; while second- and third-place finish-

ers received medals.

Special traveling trophies, which are passed on from year to year to each successive winner (no repeat winners are allowed), were presented for the fastest time posted among male and female competitors. This year’s winners of the highly coveted trophies were Askold Sandursky, 33, who turned in a race time of 25.99, and Katia Kozak, 11, who came in with 30.03.

A record-breaking 70 percent of

the KLK skiers also received gold, silver and bronze medals awarded by NASTAR based on the course time posted by pacesetters, as well as the gender and age of each racer.

The Carpathian Ski Club held its first races in the United States in 1954 at Whiteface, near Lake Placid, N.Y. KLK was founded in Ukraine in 1924 and then transported to Europe and the United States, where it grew and flourished. It was re-established in Ukraine in 1989.



Special trophies are presented for the fastest race time among females and males. In the photo on the left: Katia Kozak (right) with 2005 winner Tania Hryhorowych and Karl Plattner; in the photo on the right: Askold Sandursky (right) with last year’s winner George Sharan (left) and Erko Palydowycz.



Competitors in the groups of boys age 9-10 (from left): Stefko Maksymowych, Nicholas Paslawsky, Paul Temnycky, Mark Zawadiwsky and Alexander Gorloff.

Chornomortsi fraternity members, friends participate in 30th annual ski clinic



HUNTER, N.Y. – The senior Plast fraternity of Chornomortsi in early February held its 30th annual ski clinic at Hunter Mountain in preparation for the 52nd annual Carpathian Ski Club (KLK) races at nearby Windham Mountain. Orest Fedash and Erko Palydowycz, both KLK stalwarts and members of the Chornomortsi, hosted and housed the participants of the clinic. Seen above are the ski clinic participants (some of whom also provided music).

KLK 2006 race results

| | |
|--|--|
| Boys age 4 and under Pavlo Pencak | Men age 55-59 Andrew Hadzewycz, 33.35 Bohdan Chomut, |
| Boys age 5-6 Stephen Stasiuk, 1:06.67 | Men age 60-64 Orest Fedash, 34.33 |
| Boys age 7-8 Damian Kozak, 31.01 Adrian Temnkcky, 35.59 Peter D. Lenchur, 35.62 Andrew Stasiuk, 39.61 Matthew Gorloff, 40.85 Taras Korost, 43.66 Stefan Palylyk, 46.23 | Men age 65-69 John Shmerykowsky, 37.67 |
| Boys age 9-10 Alexander Gorloff, 41.54 Mark Zawadiwsky, 42.54 Paul Temnycky, 43.06 Nicholas Paslawsky, 44.81 Stefko Maksymowych | Girls age 5-6 Diana Blyznak, 45.16 Deanna Zawadiwsky, 46.06 Andreya Pencak, 47.34 Juliana Paslawsky, 1:01:33 |
| Boys age 11-12 Adrian Iwaskiw, 34.74 | Girls age 7-8 Natalie Blyznak, 41.62 |
| Boys age 13-14 Severin Palydowycz, 31.38 Nicholas S. Siokalo, 34.56 Mark Kochan, 35.63 Paul Hadzewycz 36.19 Michael Kozicky, 36.26 | Girls age 9-10 Katherine Lenchur, 36.31 Christine Lenchur, 36.53 Larysa Iwaskiw, 39.33 Kalyna Iwasykiw, 42.58 Uliana Bilash, 59.82 Adriana Wojcickij, 2:02.75 |
| Boys age 15-16 Roman Palylyk, 32.52 Erik Andersen, 47.93 | Girls age 11-12 Katia Kozak, 30.03 Katya Palydowycz, 31.28 Natalia Hryhorowych, 31.95 Ivanka Temnycky, 37.90 Olesia Bilash, 49.34 |
| Boys/men age 17-20 Ben Abrams, 27.99 Adrian Kochan, 27.93 Adrian Rybak, 29.05 Dan Paslawsky, 29.44 John P. Fenker, 31.54 Adrian Chernyk, 31.66 Tim Matijcio, 31.91 Markian Kuzmowycz, 32.03 Mark Dubas, 37.94 Gregory Homick, 41.16 Timothy Andersen, 42.17 Petro Nikitin | Girls age 15-16 Tania Hryhorowych, 31.13 Larissa Kobziar, 34.90 Melanie C. Siokalo, 35.99 Victoria Graudins, 45.50 |
| Men age 21-29 Mark Hadzewycz, 31.57 Darian Fedah, 32.14 Stephen Dubas, 37.20 | Girls/women age 17-20 Roxanna B. Kobziar, 31.17 Laryssa Rybak, 32.95 Lydia Doll, 34.96 |
| Men age 30-39 Askold Sandursky, 25.99 Terence Filewych, 28.18 Taras Ferencevych, 35.48 Andrew Liteplo, 43.70 | Women age 21-34 Marta Dubyk, 37.99 |
| Men age 35-39 Michael Zawadiwsky, 29.73 Marco Shmerykowsky, 34.30 Victor Gorloff, 38.41 | Women age 35-39 Natalie Trojan, 46.79 Alexandria Zawadiwsky, 48.47 Christine Stasiuk, 56.1 |
| Men age 40-44 George Sharan, 25.95 Peter B. Strutynsky, 26.32 Eri Palydowycz, 27.84 Stefan Wojcickij, 34.52 Orest Temnycky, 37.35 Stepan Pidzyraylo, 44.61 | Women age 40-44 Christa Kozak, 32.87 Natalia Fedun-Wojcickij, 34.73 Alexandra Palylyk, 1:11.92 |
| Men age 45-49 Andy Kozak, 28.28 Peter M. Lenchur, 29.98 Vlodko Temnycky, 33.9 Nestor Maksymowych, 39.44 Nestor Blyznak, 39.77 Jaroslav Palylyk, 48.68 | Women age 45 and over Alesia Kozicky, 36.52 Zoriana E. Siokalo, 36.69 Petrusia Paslawsky, 37.62 Ruth Lenchur, 37.71 |
| Men age 50-54 Yuri B. Kobziar, 25.49 Peter S. Siokalo, 33.47 | Women age 50-54 Irka Doll, |
| | SNOWBOARD |
| | Boys age 12-16 Erik Andersen, 47.93 |
| | Boys/men age 17-20 Mark Dubas, 37.94 Gregory Homick, 41.16 Timothy Andersen, 42.17 |
| | Men age 21-29 Stephen Dubas, 37.20 |
| | Men age 30 and over Andrew Liteplo, 43.70 |

Ukrainian Catholic University celebrates licensing of theology

by Petro Didula
and Matthew Matuszak

LVIV – Though it was the first week of Lent according to the Julian calendar, Lviv's Ukrainian Catholic University

of bishops and religious of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and representatives of the government and educational institutions.

Dr. Volodymyr Turchynovskyi, director of UCU's Planning and Development



A student of the Ukrainian Catholic University presents flowers to Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, at the university's celebration of the licensing of theology.

(UCU) let itself celebrate a little on March 9. The occasion was the licensing of theology as an academic subject by Ukraine's Ministry of Education, a task that has taken long years of the university's persistent efforts. The ministry announced its decision on March 2.

Among those joining students and staff for the celebration were a number

Office, was asked to explain the significance of the March 2 decision of Ukraine's Ministry of Education. "According to the existing procedure in Ukraine, after receiving a license to offer a certain educational program a university should also go through the process of accreditation of this program," said Dr. Turchynovskyi. "Usually accreditation

happens before the first students graduate, and, if [accreditation] is successful, the university receives the right to award diplomas recognized by the government to the graduates of this program."

"The uniqueness of our situation," continued Dr. Turchynovskyi, "is that UCU, after receiving a license, not waiting for four years, immediately started the process of accreditation of its theology program, planning to award its graduates in June 2006 with diplomas in theology recognized by the government. Ukraine's Ministry of Education has supported this initiative, recognizing that, in fact, the theology program has already functioned at UCU for more than 10 years. It already has had seven graduating classes and achieved international recognition."

In 1998 the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education accredited UCU's bachelor's program in theology, thus allowing graduates to pursue further studies in all Catholic universities worldwide.

"Among other things," noted Dr. Turchynovskyi, "from now on the students of UCU's Faculty of Philosophy and Theology can take advantage of all the special rates and reduced fees which the government guarantees to Ukrainian students. In parallel with the accreditation process, UCU is also preparing documents for licensing its master's degree program in theology at Ukraine's Ministry of Education. We're counting on receiving the license at the end of the spring 2006 semester."

The UCU is also working on the issue of gaining official government accreditation for the hundreds of students to whom it has already awarded bachelor's degrees in theology. At present their

degrees are not recognized in Ukraine, though dozens of them are pursuing graduates studies in Catholic and other institutions throughout the world.

According to the rector of the UCU, the Rev. Borys Gudziak, though, the UCU was at the forefront of this effort, "with every step there were more and more people and institutions that supported the accreditation of theology in Ukraine."

"Those were the Orthodox hierarchs of different denominations, the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches, seminary administrations, the Lviv Council of Rectors, the journal Krytyka, foreign ambassadors, and politicians and foreign scholarly centers like Harvard University, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Petro Jacyk Center, and other international universities and foundations," he explained.

Ukraine remained the only country in Central and Eastern Europe, including Belarus and Russia, where theology did not have "civil rights," as the Rev. Gudziak put it. During his visit to Ukraine in 2001, Pope John Paul II brought up the recognition of theology in his conversation with former President Leonid Kuchma. Though the UCU has played the leading role in getting theology licensed, there are already dozens of theological institutions of various religious denominations that will be able to take advantage of this achievement.

"From the start of our history to such an epochal event as the Orange Revolution, the Church and Christian principles have been the source of Ukraine's original genius," said the Rev. Gudziak. "We are witnesses today of a

(Continued on page 18)



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Pysanky herald spring at The Ukrainian Museum

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – The quintessential representatives of Ukrainian folk culture – pysanky, or Ukrainian Easter eggs – are once again making an appearance at The Ukrainian Museum. Presented in an exhibition are a large number of exquisitely decorated eggs, harbingers of spring that delight the eye with a welcome medley of color in contrast to the still lingering grays of winter. The museum's pysanky exhibition will be on view from March 25 through July 2.

Ukrainian pysanky have a legacy that dates back to prehistoric times, when ancient people attempted to understand and explain their greater and immediate environment. The universe, the sun, the changing seasons, birth, death – these were among the mysteries that taxed the comprehension of people as they struggled to find answers to the natural phenomena that governed their daily lives. They developed myths to mollify their fears of the unknown and appease the forces over which they had no control.

As an example of the mystery of life itself, the egg was considered enormously powerful. Ancient people decorated the egg with symbols and colors that held a special meaning and used it for numerous social events and religious occasions, specifically in the spring. Thus, the egg became a precious talisman, believed to have protective, magical properties. Prominent examples of such potent symbolism can also be seen in the pysanky on display as part of the museum's exhibition "The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art," which runs through October 15.

The designs on pysanky are, for the most part, geometric, with some plant and animal forms. The most prevalent and rec-

ognized motif is the stylized symbol of the sun, which appears as a triangle, a broken cross, an eight-pointed rosette or a star. Endless lines symbolize eternity, while images of animal and bird figures, such as a stag or a rooster, represent fertility and strength. The introduction of Christianity to Ukraine brought with it such elements as the cross, the fish and images of churches.

The art of creating Ukrainian pysanky (from the word "pysaty" – to write) has been handed down from generation to generation. Although most of the relevance of the intricate designs and patterns, as well as the use of specific colors, has been lost over time, decorating pysanky and adhering to some of the customs associated with this craft have remained a strong tradition among the Ukrainian people to this day.

Pysanky are decorated using the wax-resist or dye technique. The tool used to draw the design on the egg is known as a "kistka" or "ryltse." While the dyes now used are chemical-based, not too long ago they were made from natural sources, such as vegetables or the bark of a tree. The colors used in pysanky have symbolic meaning as well. For example, red is the color of life, joy or the sun, while yellow stands for fertility and wealth.

Although present-day Ukrainians decorate pysanky and exchange them in the traditional manner at Eastertime, the eggs are considered works of art and are treasured for their uniqueness and beauty. While no longer revered or considered to be a talisman, Ukrainian pysanky remain a magnificent example of the ingenuity and artistry of Ukrainian folk culture.

Related activities

Pysanky-decorating workshops at the museum are open to adults and children



A selection of Ukrainian Easter eggs in The Ukrainian Museum's collection.

over age 12. These workshops will be held on April 8 and 9 at 2-4 p.m. The fee for each session is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students over age 16 and seniors, and \$5 for children age 12-16. Members receive a 15 percent discount. Reservations are required.

A demonstration of the making of pysanky will be held on Saturday, April 15, (the day before Easter) at 1-5 p.m. Accomplished artists will create beautiful pysanky, demonstrating the techniques used to decorate the eggs. Director Slavko Nowytski's award-winning film "Pysanka" will be screened at half-hour intervals. The fee is \$10 for adults and \$8 for students over age 12 and seniors. Children 12 and under are admitted free, and members receive a 15

percent discount. The fee includes admission to the museum's other exhibitions "The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art" and "Chornobyl + 20: This Is Our Land ... We Still Live Here."

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

"Pysanka – Rite of Spring" on exhibit in L.A.

LOS ANGELES – The Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) heralds a new season with "Pysanka – Rite of Spring," an exhibit that celebrates the ancient Ukrainian tradition of writing the "story of life" on hen's eggs in the spring.

Featured in the exhibit curated by Natalie Orlins Gebet will be dozens of beautifully decorated, traditional and contemporary pysanky representing various regions of Ukraine. Guests will be led on a symbolic trip through the historical development of this rich cultural art form.

The exhibition runs through May 7, and will include two pysanka-making workshops open to the public on April 8 and 15 at 1:30-3:30 p.m. (registration required). An opening reception for members and guests will be held on April 1 at 6-8 p.m.

The egg has been an object of faith in virtually every culture, symbolizing new life and the promise of spring. In pagan times, magical and mystical powers were ascribed to the egg; in Christian times, it has remained a powerful symbol at Easter representing rebirth.

Derived from the Ukrainian verb "pysaty," meaning to write, the pysanka is an egg on which the story of life is written. This ancient art form is steeped in symbolism, from the egg itself to the ancient motifs and the colors used in its design. Pysanky are made using one to seven colors, ranging in design from the simple beauty of a single ancient motif to the intricate repetition of multiple motifs and colors around the ovoid surface. Pysanky are created for protection, to celebrate new life, to be blessed at Easter and to deliver special wishes to the recipient of the gift.

"This is a very exciting exhibition for me," explained CAFAM's executive



Some of the pysanky that will be on display at the Craft and Folk Art Museum.

director, Maryna Hrushetska, who is of Ukrainian descent. "As a child I eagerly awaited the promise of spring each year and cherished watching my grandmother sit for hours making pysanky. I was awed by their magic and am thrilled to share this tradition with Angelenos."

The Craft and Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is a Los Angeles non-profit cultural arts organization dedicated to the public presentation and preservation of folk arts and contemporary craft. Founded in 1965, originally as "The Egg and The Eye" by the late Edith Wyle, who passionately promoted traditional artisans and the virtue of hand-made art, the museum opened in 1973.

As a local museum with global reach, CAFAM seeks to promote international goodwill and global understanding among its citizens. The museum works to preserve and strengthen the folk culture of its community based on the belief that the quality of urban life is directly related to the vitality and diversity of viewpoints and traditions.

The Craft and Folk Art Museum is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90036. For information call 323-937-4230 or log on to www.cafam.org. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Museum admission is \$5; students and seniors, \$3; members and children under age 12, free.

Kozak battle to be re-enacted at Texas fair

TYLER, Texas – Re-enactors from across America are converging on the Four Winds Renaissance Faire in Tyler, Texas, on April 8 and 9 to fight out a battle from the 1648 Ukrainian War of Liberation against Poland, led by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky complete with cannons, winged hussars and Kozaks!

In what may be the largest re-creation of this period in America, participants from living history groups and re-enactors from California to Virginia have been planning this event for over a year. To add to the realism, up to six cannons will be used, along with 50 fighting men and women, period firearms such as matchlock muskets, farm tools like three-pronged forks and, of course, the epitome of the Kozak arsenal – the saber.

To maintain the authenticity of the re-enactment, the saber fighting will be in what is known as a "live blade" battle, where combatants will be fighting with real steel weapons and not with theatrical replicas in unchoreographed duels.

The scheduled battles will take place twice daily. In addition to the battles, a living history presentation on Kozak living, a war-game demonstration and other exhibits will entertain and educate attendees.

For more information regarding this event, readers may contact: Adam Roberts at maks_zobi@msn.com or (501) 655-2161; or visit the Four Winds Renaissance Faire website at www.fourwindsfaire.com or the Ukrainian American Society of Texas website at www.uast.org.

NEWS AND VIEWS: Chicago community honors Shevchenko

by Marta Farion

CHICAGO – Chicago's annual concert, organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, on Sunday, March 12, signaled an unexpectedly inspiring rebirth of the Ukrainian diaspora's cultural life in this city. More than its extraordinary tribute to Ukraine's most celebrated poet, the occasion marked a pivotal turning point in the Ukrainian diaspora's cultural succession from one generation to the next.

Positive change has arrived in the Ukrainian American community, and this Shevchenko concert proved it with a dazzling display of professionally performed creative talent.

Remembering the past

I've been a critic of these ritual occasions for many years, and my reluctance was driven by a trained sense of duty, loyalty and personal sacrifice – the predictable sympathy of first-generation Ukrainian immigrants who understood their family's need to continually memorialize Ukrainian history, culture and language.

The annual Shevchenko concerts, in particular, are remembered as endlessly long programs that inevitably included a

Marta Farion is an attorney and chair of the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Committee.

fiery speech by a community leader who emphasized the need for patriotism and active engagement in the fight for Ukraine's freedom as advocated by the prophet Shevchenko, poetry readings by children who had no understanding of either their words' meaning or delivery, and the inevitable performance of a well-meaning choir and soloist. And as a result, young people used the occasion to socialize and ignore the well-meaning performers and speakers. As times passed, attendance became more limited at these events.

Although memories of the past continued to be part of my emotional schema, I dutifully decided to attend this year's Shevchenko concert, hoping that it would not last too long and spoil the entire Sunday. My a priori negativity was programmed by my membership as the "child" of the so-called Third Wave of Ukrainian immigration. As the children of parents and grandparents forced to leave Ukraine during the second world war, we became war refugees (the contemporary term), at the time officially tagged as Displaced Persons.

And displaced we indeed were – first, when our parents were housed in camps run by the United Nations managed by the Allies, and later when they were assigned to live in various countries around the world, countries that were intended to become temporary settle-

ments, but became permanent new homes for people of my generation.

Displaced or not, we attended American schools and universities, established ourselves in various careers and professions, and eventually more or less assimilated into the American mainstream – although we still lived a dual existence, leading double lives with one foot in the American world and the other foot in what we understood to be the Ukrainian world.

But that Ukrainian world was not inside Ukraine. It was located in America, inside the churches, civic organizations, Saturday schools and summer grounds built by our parents and grandparents to ensure the survival of Ukrainian patriotism, nationalism and culture.

Welcoming the future

With the Soviet Union's dissolution and Ukraine's independence, the diaspora was unexpectedly enlarged by an influx of a new wave of Ukrainian immigrants, the so-called Fourth Wave. Their arrival here was sometimes welcomed, and sometimes not, by the prior generations of Ukrainian immigrants.

The new immigrants were persons born and raised in a different country than the one our parents and grandparents left 50 years ago. And although these new immigrants also had suffered and

worked and survived difficult circumstances, they were different – younger and eager to seize economic and professional opportunities, in frequent contact with their families in Ukraine.

Unlike our parents' generation, they were free to travel to Ukraine and visit. They spoke and wrote a Ukrainian language that was current and alive with a new vocabulary and idioms, some sprinkled with Russisms or Americanisms, and they were informed about current events in Ukraine as well as sure of themselves without apology or fear about their futures. Our new friends "unpacked their suitcases" because they did not feel displaced. They know who they are, why they are here and where they are going.

It was sometimes difficult for us older immigrants to appreciate that these new arrivals came from a changed Ukraine, a country that had undergone a structural and cultural metamorphosis in recent decades. We, on the other hand, had been living in a changing and developing American world, while clinging to a static Ukraine, unchanged for 50 years. The Ukrainian language we used was and is a language spoken by our parents and grandparents when they were young; it was and is not a contemporary language, but a sacred relic from the past.

The Third and Fourth Wave sisters and

(Continued on page 20)

Philadelphia center celebrates Shevchenko, bard of Ukraine

by Andrea Porytko-Zharovsky

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) and the Philadelphia Ukrainian community on Sunday, March 12, celebrated two important dates in Ukrainian history: the 192nd birthday of Taras Shevchenko, the great poet, prophet and teacher of the Ukrainian nation, and the 145th anniversary of Shevchenko's death.

Ivan Prasko, master of ceremonies, welcomed Philadelphia's Ukrainian community to the UECC's annual Shevchenko concert, and introduced the talented performers. A portrait of Taras Shevchenko, adorned with an elaborate embroidered ritual cloth, provided the backdrop for the performers.

The Akkolada chamber choir, under the leadership of Bohdan Gengalo, began the concert in the center's great hall with a moving rendition of "Zapovit" (Testament).

Two pupils from the Ukrainian Heritage School recited examples of Shevchenko's descriptive and expressive poetry. Natalie Midzak recited "Rozryta Mohyla" (The Plundered Grave) and Alexander Zharovsky recited "Selo" (The Village).

Leonid Rudnytsky, Ph.D., professor of comparative lit-

Andrea Porytko-Zharovsky is a member of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center's Press Committee.

erature at La Salle University and the University of Pennsylvania, delivered the keynote address to an appreciative audience that listened attentively to his analysis of the universally acknowledged literary interpretation of Shevchenko's works. His many references illustrated the ecumenism of Shevchenko's themes – they could apply to any culture at any time. Dr. Rudnytsky reminded us that Shevchenko must be read word by word. Shevchenko himself explains to us how he wants to be read.

Especially noteworthy was Dr. Rudnytsky's reference to the "Kobzar" and its importance. He remarked, "as long as there is a 'Kobzar' in one Ukrainian household, there will be a Ukraine."

A group of young bandura players from the Ukrainian Heritage School, Yuliya Stupen, Natalie Midzak and Katryna Midzak, and their instructor, Halyna Bodnar, performed the song "Kobzari" in honor of the great poet. Mr. Prasko entertained the audience with an artistic reading of "Hamaliya," while Vera Pavlishyn recited "Topolia" (The Poplar).

The accomplished bandura player Alla Kutsevych and singer Svitlana Karpiy, of the Chetverta Khvyliya Ensemble (Fourth Wave Ensemble) of New York, along with the Pavlishyn Sisters, Nadiya and Nataliya, sang familiar lyrical Ukrainian songs, at one point inviting the audience to join them. Their beautiful selections showcased their talented voices and Ms. Kutsevych's skill and



Petro Hewka

Keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky delivers an address on "The Irrevocable Sacred Truth of the Kobzar."

mastery of the bandura.

Akkolada performed "Nasha Duma" (Our Duma), "Chy My Sche Ziydemosia Znovu" (Will We Meet Again), with solo performances by Marichka Hopka and Mr. Gengalo, and piano accompaniment by Lesia Nestor, and concluded the concert with "Reve Ta Stohne Dnihr Shyrokyi" (The Mighty Dnihr). Mr. Gengalo stated that it was an honor for the choir to take part in honoring and celebrating the remarkable Shevchenko.

Mr. Prasko thanked Dr. Rudnytsky for the keynote address on the theme "The Irrevocable Sacred Truth of the Kobzar," the performers for a wonderful performance, the audience for attending, and all those responsible in organizing the annual concert.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of the Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and may be reached via phone, 215-663-1166, or e-mail, contact@ukrainiancenterphila.org. Readers may log on to www.ukrainiancenterphila.org for photographs and video of the Shevchenko concert.



The Akkolada chamber choir performs at the annual Taras Shevchenko concert at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center.

Scholarly societies join forces to hold annual Shevchenko conference

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (HICU) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), hosted the 26th annual scholarly conference dedicated to Taras Shevchenko at the NTSh headquarters on March 11.

The proceedings were chaired by Prof. Vasyl Makhno, resident poet at NTSh, who introduced the speakers and enriched the program with his insightful commentary as a literary expert.

Opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Oleksa Bilaniuk, the immediate past president of UVAN. Whether or not Ukraine ever becomes a truly Ukrainian state, said Dr. Bilaniuk, may depend on the extent to which Shevchenko's poetry is promulgated in the Russian-speaking regions of Ukraine, because many of the admonitions the great bard had directed at his countrymen still apply to the Ukrainian Russophones of today.

"Poetry as Conversation" was the title of the talk by Dr. Bohdan Rubchak (UVAN), poet, prose writer and literary critic, a retired professor of literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Taras Shevchenko is so familiar to Ukrainians that we take him for granted, while failing to recognize the fact that, as a master of literature, he is not just great, but unique, began Dr. Rubchak.

Shevchenko's uniqueness makes it impossible to compare him with poets in the English-speaking world, particularly since he is not translatable into English. Those translations that do exist make Shevchenko appear to be a mediocre

poet, continued the lecturer.

Dr. Rubchak delved deeply into analysis of both the style and structure of Shevchenko's poetry, quoting many excerpts to illustrate the techniques the poet employed to create the complex structure of his poems. Shevchenko resorted to circular rhymes, a masterful use of alliteration and assonance, purposeful variations of the meter within a verse to effect a change in the atmosphere, sometimes varying the language used by his characters – among the vernacular, Old Slavonic and Church Slavonic – so as to contrast different speakers.

Shevchenko openly defied the literary canons of his day, which to him were inimical both esthetically and politically. In his poems, he had a predilection for debating with himself, with authority figures, and indeed with God, Dr. Rubchak noted.

Next on the program was a guest speaker from Kyiv, Dr. Nina Polishchuk, who holds the position of senior research fellow in the department of the history of Ukrainian philosophy at the Hryhorii Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Currently she is in the U.S. as a Fulbright visiting researcher in the department of philosophy at Stanford University.

Dr. Polishchuk spoke on "The Poetry of Shevchenko in Modern Philosophical Context." In her opinion, the task of a philosopher is not to impose a way of thinking upon others, or to pretend to be able to solve some universal truths, but to teach a person to think independently. She claimed to find reinforcement for these ideas in Shevchenko's poetry.

The history of philosophy, continued Dr. Polishchuk, represents a contest between

traditionalism and innovation. Democratic societies possess the ability to make radical changes, to innovate. So far, the intellectual elite in Ukraine has not participated sufficiently in innovative movements, as a result of which the country has been experiencing

Dictionary (Kyiv: Lybid, 1996).

"Ukrainian-Russian Relations: The Post-Colonial Aspect" was the topic addressed by Prof. Mykola Riabchuk (HICU). The existential challenge to Ukraine lies in the fact that Russian cul-



Seen at the Shevchenko Scientific Society during the conference on Taras Shevchenko (from left) are: Vasyl Makhno, Roman Andrushkiw, Nina Polishchuk, Bohdan Rubchak and Mykola Riabchuk.

a brain drain, concluded the speaker.

Toward the end of the program, Dr. Polishchuk presented to the NTSh a copy of her book "Ukraine in the 17th Century: Philosophy, Society, Culture" (Kyiv: Krytyka, 2005). Dr. Polishchuk's impressive publication record includes such standouts as the "Philosophical Encyclopedic Dictionary" (Kyiv, Abrys, 2002), of which she is the chief editor, and the English-Ukrainian Philosophical

ture remains not only dominant, but also serves as Ukraine's bridge to Western culture, said Prof. Riabchuk. He feels that Russia has retained its dominant position vs. Ukraine due to several factors: 1) Russian culture is one of the important world cultures; 2) the Russian language is the lingua franca in that area; 3) Russia has a great armed potential; 4) Russia has

(Continued on page 27)

Paul Magocsi delivers Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture at University of Ottawa

by Halyna Mokrushyna

OTTAWA – The Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa invited Prof. Paul Magocsi, University of Toronto, to deliver the annual Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture that marks its 20th anniversary this year.

This public lecture by noted scholars from Canada and abroad has helped raise the profile of Ukrainian studies and awareness of Ukrainian issues in Canada's capital.

It was launched in 1986 by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA) of Ottawa and



Prof. Paul Magocsi (left), University of Toronto, speaks at the Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture hosted by Dominique Arel, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa.

Carleton University, on the initiative of Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw and Ivan Jaworsky, at that time a graduate student at Carleton University.

Later, in 1996, the UCPBA and the newly inaugurated Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa joined forces to continue the lecture series.

The Ivan Franko series has featured such well-known names in Ukrainian studies as Roman Szporluk, John-Paul Himka, Orest Subtelny, Frank Sysyn, Peter J. Potichnyj and Marta Dyczok.

Prof. Magocsi, an internationally known historian and expert on cultural minorities, delivered a lecture with the very intriguing title "Where Does Europe End? Ukraine? Turkey? Israel?" The lecture was well-attended and proved to be a great success.

Prof. Magocsi began his lecture by citing Liguria, a borderland stretching from Genoa in northern Italy to Nice in southern France, as an example of a natural reassertion of one's historical past. In the reality of today's European Union, with its common market and absence of national borders, the traditionally multicultural regions are returning to their initial status prior to the division of Europe by the great nation-states. For instance, Liguria, an Italian region annexed by France in 1860, is now reviving its Italian heritage. The two local dialects, Nicois and Monégasque, are taught in elementary and secondary schools, while the Italian language is spoken more and more on the streets and in churches.

This return of cultural regions to their ancestral past is occurring peacefully and gradually throughout the whole of Europe, from Alsace to Silesia, and, according to Prof. Magocsi, this is likely to happen also in Transylvania once Romania joins the European Union in 2007.

The same "natural" course of events should be followed in approaching the question: "Where Does Europe End?" For Prof. Magocsi, the answer to this question is quite obvious. Europe, as a geographical entity, includes a vast territory from the Atlantic coast of western France to the Ural Mountains in Russia. Thus, Ukraine, Belarus and

Russia should be offered membership in the European Union, while Turkey, from the geographical point of view, has never been part of Europe and, therefore, the debate over its eventual entrance into the European Union is pointless.

In his lecture Prof. Magocsi stressed that this question should be viewed rather from an economic perspective. Instead of debating endlessly whether to welcome Turkey as a new member, the European Union, in Prof. Magocsi's opinion, should be more creative in its approach to this question and should look for a geopolitical scenario that would be in the best interests of both Europe and Turkey, and especially of the geopolitical sphere in which Turkey is situated.

Such a scenario would be the creation of a Middle East Union, where Israel and Turkey would be the foundation, Dr. Magocsi said. This new framework should be based on economic and not on cultural or linguistic affinity. Just as at the end of World War II the United States favored the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community and then the common market as the first step toward European integration, the European Union and the United States should now favor the formation of a Middle East Union.

Turkey and Israel, which would be a cornerstone of this union, have a lot in common: economically, they are the two most successful countries in the region, both already are trading partners, and both were founded and function as secular states with a strong religious opposition (Orthodox Jews in Israel and fundamentalists in Turkey). Finally, for the past 50 years, both Turkey and Israel have been assisted by the United States.

Prof. Magocsi said he believes that the United States along with the European Union should continue to support the economic development of Turkey and Israel as a whole, i.e., the Middle-East Union, which would attract other countries in the region (Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, perhaps even the Mediterranean states of Northern Africa). Thus, the European Union would have a strong and stable partner at its southeastern flank.

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Ukrainian Catholic...

(Continued from page 14)

great breakthrough: Christian thought finds its proper place in the scholarly and social life of Ukraine, where the people were deeply wounded by the dramatic history of the 20th century. Like the air we breathe, our society needs to accept that potential which religious life gives. But, so that this potential is sufficiently utilized, it should constantly yield to critical interpretation. This is precisely where the task of the theologian lies."

"It is important now for us to develop further and strengthen the school of theological thought," continued the Rev. Gudziak. "The world is exceptionally complex. There are various conflicts against the background of religious questions. We are witnesses of the demographic decline and crisis of moral principles in the European community. It is not impossible that Ukraine, which, to a significant extent, thanks to the ecclesiastical opposition movement, managed to survive totalitarian regimes, could become a place where a proposition for a new world-view is formulated for 21st century Europe." "Theology can play an important role in this process," he said. "Ukraine should speak with a theological voice, subtle, critical, creative, with a smile and an awareness of the complexity of the global situation. The formation of such a school, which does not close its eyes to the pain of the modern person, in his or her deep spiritual longing and in social and economic injustices, is a key task of the UCU."

Speaking at the March 9 celebration, Dr. Maria Zubrytska, pro-rector of Ivan Franko National University in Lviv, reminded those present of how important and necessary the role of theology is in the social renewal of post-Soviet Ukraine.

Among the supporters in government of the accreditation of theology were Lviv Oblast Administration Chair Petro Oliynyk, who was instrumental in getting the licensing approved, and Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko himself.

Further information about the UCU in English and Ukrainian is available on the university's website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone, 773-235-8462; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org; website, www.ucef.org. The phone number of the UCEF in Canada is 416-239-2495.

Svoboda Press...

(Continued from page 7)

one about two sleuths delving into Ukrainian history to uncover rumors surrounding the history of the Kozaks.

The conclusion of this almanac describes the process of the building of America's roads, from the Great Depression to the great feats undertaken by President Dwight D. Eisenhower's administration in the 1950s thanks to the rise of the automobile.

The price of the Ukrainian-language almanac is \$15. It may be ordered by calling 973-292-9800 ext. 3042, by sending an e-mail to ukrsubscr@att.net, or by mailing a check to: Svoboda, P.O. Box 280, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Subscribers to Svoboda have already received copies of the 2006 UNA Almanac in the mail.

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Has the Orange Revolution...

(Continued from page 2)

ready to sign it as soon as March 27. "I can say that at this moment, our party, the Socialist Party and the Our Ukraine party have fully agreed on the text of a coalition agreement," she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko said that under the agreement the political force finishing first among the three potential coalition partners would have the right to propose a candidate to form the next government. This, in effect, means that Ms. Tymoshenko will make a bid to regain the premiership she lost in September 2005.

A renewed Orange alliance would have to overcome the internal strife that proved to be its downfall when it led the government from January through August 2005.

The biggest obstacle would be finding a way for Ms. Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine officials to work together after she accused some prominent members of the pro-presidential party of corrupt practices last year. If Ms. Tymoshenko becomes prime minister, such Orange Revolution combatants as Petro Poroshenko, Oleksander Tretiakov and David Zhvania – all of whom were singled out by Mr. Tymoshenko – would likely be reluctant to cooperate fully with her either as cabinet members or as Our Ukraine representatives in a joint parliamentary coalition.

A second hurdle would be finding common ground with the Socialist Party, whose participation is seen as essential if an Orange coalition is to be restored. The Socialist Party is ideologically and programmatically incompatible with Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. This became evident in 2005, when Socialist lawmakers repeatedly voted

against World Trade Organization-oriented legislation proposed by the government in which their party had several ministers.

In addition, the Socialist Party's staunch opposition to Ukraine joining NATO and the privatization of land have undermined President Yushchenko's efforts to implement the reforms he promised during and after the Orange Revolution.

If the Orange coalition cannot be pieced back together, the possibility of Our Ukraine joining forces with the election-winning Party of the Regions is still open. In theory, such a coalition could form a government enjoying solid parliamentary support.

Immediately after the March 26 vote, Mr. Yanukovich indicated that such a development might be possible. "The Party of the Regions has gained a decisive victory, and we are ready to assume a huge responsibility on behalf of the Ukrainian people – for political, economic and social stability in the country," he said. "We are ready to take responsibility to form a government, and we call on everybody who holds Ukraine's fate dear to join us."

But if the official results confirm the exit polls' predictions, it would appear that a Tymoshenko-Yushchenko reunion would make a happier political marriage than one between the former rivals in the bitterly disputed presidential race in 2004.

This is because Ms. Tymoshenko campaigned on a ticket of returning to Orange Revolution ideals, and the support she received in this election would indicate that those who stood behind Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko during that political movement want to see the two revolutionary heroes working together once again.



With deep sorrow we announce that, on Friday, March 24, 2006, our beloved father and grandfather



GEORGE BOHACHEWSKY

entered into eternal rest

survived by:
daughter
son
grandchildren

Ania Lonkevych with her husband Mark Boris Bohachevsky
Alexander and Roma
and an extended family.

Viewing took place on Thursday, March 30, 2006, and Friday, March 31, 2006, from 6-9 p.m. at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home, 126 7th St., New York, N.Y.

A parastas was held on Thursday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home. A panakhyda was held on Friday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m. at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home.

The funeral services were held on Saturday, April 1, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City with interment at St. Andrew Cemetery.

Eternal Memory

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Trust Fund. Checks may be sent directly to account #33641 at the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003. Attn.: Paul Liteplo.



It is with great sorrow that we inform our friends and the Ukrainian community that on March 23, 2006, departed this earth and into the hands of God, our beloved sister and aunt

Maria Kupchynsky (neé Jurkiw)

Born on November 1, 1906, in the city of Stryj, Ukraine

Maria was the second of three sisters. She taught in the public schools of Stryj and Lviv. Maria and her husband Roman immigrated to America in 1947 and settled in Lorain, Ohio. There she fully participated in the life and events of the Ukrainian community. A life-long communicant of St. John the Baptist Church in Lorain, she taught in the Ukrainian school for many years, belonged to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and gave generously to her parish church and the churches in Stryj and Hoshiw in Ukraine.

The funeral took place on Monday, March 27, 2006, at St. John the Baptist Church, Lorain, Ohio. She was interred beside her beloved husband, Roman at the Calvary Cemetery in Lorain, Ohio.

She is survived by:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Sister | Cecilia Debaylo and her daughter Tyrsa with her husband John and son Ivan Volodymyr |
| Nephew | Yarema Kupchynsky and his wife Joan with his daughter Melanie Harrison and her husband Edward with their children Nicolas, Gregory and Laura |

Close and distant family members in Ukraine and America

May she rest in peace!



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 25 березня 2006 р. відійшов від нас у вічність на 82-му році життя наш дорогий і незабутній ЧОЛОВІК, ТАТО і ДЗЯДЗЬО

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| доньки | – ЛЕСЯ КАЧМАР з чоловіком БОГДАНOM і дітьми ЛЯРИСОЮ, АДРІАНОМ і ЛЕСИКОМ – ІРИНА БІГУН з чоловіком ЮРІЄМ і дітьми МИКОЛОЮ і УЛЯНОЮ – ХРИСТЯ ЛЕУШ з чоловіком АБАСОМ і донею НАДЕЮ – РОМА РАКОВСЬКА з чоловіком АНДРІЄМ і синами ПЕТРУСЕМ, МАРЧИКОМ і ОЛЕСЕМ |
| сваха та сестра і брат з родинami в Україні. | – НАДЯ БІГУН |

Вічна йому пам'ять!

Замість квітів можна складати пожертви на Український Католицький Університет у Львові через Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation 2247 West Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622 або на допомогу Дивізійникам в Україні через Суспільну Службу Комбатанатів, 700 Cedar Rd., Room 122A, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

Chicago community...

(Continued from page 16)

brothers had a lot to learn from each other. It became apparent that we wasted too much time on petty misunderstandings, often fanned by distrust or unrealistic demands on both sides, and different expectations of "entitlement" or "duty" toward each other and toward our mother country. The time had finally come to understand, respect and learn from one another.

The common spirit

Just as Taras Shevchenko's voice united countless Ukrainians of different generations and persuasions in the pursuit of liberty and love of their country, this year's commemoration in Chicago established a new order in the diasporan community, a new community where new immigrants of

the Fourth Wave were an integral part of the audience and dominated the ranks of its brilliant performers and keynote speakers.

Orest Baranyk, president of the Chicago branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, opened the event and referred to Shevchenko's prophetic words as they come alive in our own time, particularly at this time of Ukraine's current elections for Parliament. Mr. Baranyk introduced the new consul general of Ukraine to the Chicago community.

The concert was a most appropriate opportunity for the new consul general, Vasyl H. Korzachenko, to introduce himself with his own evocation of Shevchenko, aptly referring to the waves of the Dnipro as a symbol of the river of Ukrainian life and linking that symbolism to the waves of immigration of Ukrainians throughout the world.

The performing talent belonged on a

professional stage and concert venue. The riveting keynote speech by Oksana Verbovska spoke of Shevchenko's strength of spirit and prophetic words, and constituted a timely description of developments in contemporary Ukraine. It was a revelation as I listened admiringly to the soloists who performed: Myroslava Kuka, Halyna Herjavenko and Alla Kuryltsiv. Indeed, these are singers of such talent, voices and sophistication that they belong on professional stages.

As is traditional at such events, a group of children declaimed poetry by Shevchenko and sang popular tunes. But there was nothing traditional in this group of children. There were eight of them, all taught by their teacher, Nadia Ilkiw. What an exceptional teacher and what exceptional children! Two of them, Mariana Oharenko, 8, and Nastia Lototska, 9, performed as if they were mature experienced singers, with voices belonging in music careers.

The Chicago Surma Choir presented the Shevchenko music repertoire with the Shevchenko hymn "Reve Ta Stohne," "Dumy Moji" (in a soft, fluid and sensitive performance), "Zapovit" (the Shevchenko "Testament" carried in the soul of every Ukrainian) and the beautiful melodic "Vladyko Neba i Zemli" from the operetta "Zaporozhets za Dunajem," with J. Lemishko as soloist.

But the extraordinary surprise of the event was the performance of Leonida Mytnychuk, the master of ceremonies, who delivered verbal "collages" of Shevchenko poetry interspersed with the poetry of the contemporary giant of Ukrainian literature, Lina Kostenko. These pieces were not read, but were recited from Ms. Mytnychuk's extraordinary memory and, although the long passages were familiar, we had never heard them presented with such intelligence and conviction.

Ms. Mytnychuk's interpretations of Shevchenko's words masterfully struck a

cord of urgency in understanding contemporary Ukraine, and her gifted presentation showed her to be an exceptional and uniquely creative artist.

At the end of this exceptional tribute to Shevchenko, the audience spontaneously rose with a rousing bravo to demonstrate its awe and pride – and its long overdue sense of having finally "arrived" at a prominent place in the Ukrainian diaspora, and perhaps with hope that the Ukrainian diaspora is entering a new stage in its life.

These remarkably creative and unpretentious artists who performed for Shevchenko – and for the rest of us – should be noticed and appreciated because they are rare jewels in our own midst. We welcome them to our community.

Closing our diasporan circle

Leaving this annual Shevchenko concert in Chicago, I faced my internal struggle to reconcile prior understandings of Ukrainian immigrants, past and present. And I realized that the recited words of our cultural icon Shevchenko finally had come alive to me, provoking private thought about this event's integration of Shevchenko's prophetic wisdom with Ukraine's present circumstances.

This year's commemoration of Shevchenko gave me much more than I had expected. I realized that it had taken me far too long to arrive here to approach an appreciation of the emerging ethnic bridge that spans all our waves of immigration. I realized that so many of our new friends who recently immigrated from Ukraine really are our cultural brothers and sisters who also understand our grandparents' and parents' commitments to protect and preserve Ukrainian culture, and that they will eventually play a role in bringing a common understanding to the role and mission of what is called "the diaspora."

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Osnova Credit Union announces plans for a new building

PARMA, Ohio – The board of directors of Osnova Ukrainian Federal Credit Union has announced its plans to relocate to a new, larger state-of-the-art credit union facility under construction here at 5602 State Road.

The board of directors has commissioned the architectural firm of Kulchytsky Architects to design and assist in the construction administration of renovating the exterior and interior of an existing 1,500-square-foot building at the southwest corner of State Road and Pershing Avenue in Parma into an attractive and functional credit union facility.

This location is conveniently located near the Parma post office and many churches and stores frequented by Osnova members and potential future members.

The board of directors has contracted the services of S & E Contracting Inc. to be the general contractor for this

project. Comfort Resolutions Inc. will be the mechanical systems subcontractor.

"We are very pleased to be able to provide our members with a modern, customer service-focused facility," said Michael Polichuk, chairman of the board of directors. Among the many customer friendly features planned for the new building will be a large parking lot for members, a very convenient drive-up ATM and a bright interior.

"In addition, we will be announcing a number of new products and services once we move into our new facility," stated Maria Koshkalda, operations manager of Osnova.

Robert Effinger, president and site supervisor of S&E Contracting Inc., indicated that the project is on schedule for completion by early spring.

Osnova Ukrainian Federal Credit Union was originally established in 1964 and has been serving the financial



Reviewing details of Osnova's new building project (from left) are: Danylo Kulchytsky, president of Kulchytsky Architects; Scott McGurk, vice-president of S & E Contracting Inc; and Robert Effinger, president of S & E Contracting Inc.

needs of its members with innovative financial products and services since that

time. Readers may visit the Osnova website at www.osnovafcu.com.

An endgame...

(Continued from page 2)

the dismissal or resignation of the previous one.

Forty-five parties and blocs were vying for parliamentary seats in the March 26 elections, but pre-election day surveys indicated that only six or seven of them have realistic chances of overcoming the 3 percent threshold for representation.

The election was expected to be won by Yanukovych's Party of the Regions, which leads in opinion polls with backing of about 30 percent. The combined popular support for the two former Orange Revolution allies, the pro-Yushchenko Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, equalled or even slightly exceeded that for the Party of the Regions as per surveys conducted prior to the election.

Analysts say there are two likely options for a future governing coalition in Ukraine, depending on how the main contenders fare on March 26.

First, President Yushchenko may try to rebuild the Orange Revolution alliance with Ms. Tymoshenko, with whom he officially split in September 2005 by dismissing her from the post of prime minister. A Yushchenko-Tymoshenko reunion would mean that Ukraine would continue to stay on track in its efforts to integrate with the rest of Europe, the final objectives being membership in NATO and the European Union.

However, this scenario is fraught with some serious problems. Ms. Tymoshenko has not concealed that she wants back the prime minister's post. But this is the last thing that many influential politicians in Mr. Yushchenko's entourage would like to see happen. A Cabinet led by her could very likely stir up another conflict within the ruling camp. Besides, a Yushchenko-Tymoshenko coalition would at best have a slim majority in the Verkhovna Rada,

making it vulnerable to the national deputies' insubordinations or defections that have become characteristic of the Ukrainian Parliament.

A much more stable scenario would see Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine strike a coalition deal with Mr. Yanukovych's Party of the Regions. A cabinet supported by Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions would seemingly enjoy the safety net of parliamentary backing. Since Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions are essentially run by oligarchs representing the interests of big business in Ukraine, there would be few obstacles to them agreeing on a basic set of economic, financial or social reforms.

However, such a coalition might encounter difficulties defining Ukraine's foreign-policy priorities and goals. The parties "traditionally" have opposite geopolitical agendas, largely due to the fact that the Party of the Regions' electorate is primarily located in Russia-leaning eastern Ukraine, while that of Our Ukraine is principally based in the west of the country, which has closer affinities to Western Europe.

Finding the middle ground between the two in working out a joint foreign agenda would require much wisdom, responsibility and compromise from both sides. But a resulting alliance could be worth the pain – it could testify that the two major political forces in Ukraine see the country as an independent political player, rather than as a participant in a geopolitical tug-of-war.

One of the principal drawbacks of a potential President Yushchenko-Yanukovych alliance is that it would leave Yushchenko open to charges from Ms. Tymoshenko and her followers that he has "betrayed" the Orange Revolution by siding with the man who was his rival in the contentious 2004 presidential election. Mr. Yushchenko could see his support in western Ukraine erode even further, without

any guarantee that he will make up for such losses by gaining support in the east.

Our Ukraine's deputy campaign chief, Roman Zvarych, told RFE/RL before election day that, despite the rumors, there will be no coalition after the elections between Our Ukraine and the Party of the Regions.

Ms. Tymoshenko also firmly ruled out the possibility of a post-election coalition with Mr. Yanukovych. "Our positions are mutually exclusive," Ms. Tymoshenko said on March 21. "The political bloc that I head categorically stands for the complete separation of clans and criminals from the government. The core leadership of the Party of the Regions headed

by Mr. Yanukovych represents one of the most powerful of such clans, whose intention is to use the government for the purpose of maximizing its capital. Cooperation between the Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc and Party of the Regions is therefore impossible in principle."

Whatever option President Yushchenko chooses after the March 26 vote, he will have to keep in mind that the days when it was possible to run the country by decree and by bending the Parliament to the president's will via pressure, bribery or blackmail, which was the case under his predecessor, President Leonid Kuchma, are gone for good.

The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's

Wedding Announcements

will appear in the April 30, 2006 issue.

For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by April 20, 2006.

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

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

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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

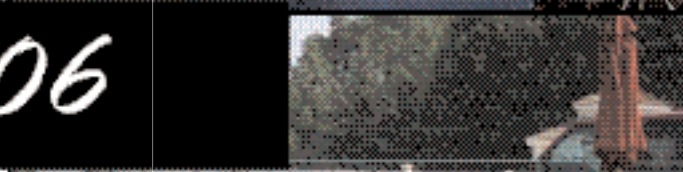
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Party of the Regions...

(Continued from page 11)

On March 28 Mr. Yushchenko began the coalition-building process by inviting the leaders of the three leading political blocs to meet with him for an hour in the Presidential Secretariat building on Bankova Street.

Mr. Yushchenko didn't invite Communist Party Chair Petro Symonenko because their political views are too divergent.

Arriving in a black Mercedes, Mr. Yanukovych met with the president and told reporters afterwards that he was satisfied with the talks, but the party won't start official discussions until after all the votes were counted and it became clear which blocs and parties qualified for the Parliament.

"The Regions informed (Mr. Yushchenko) that as the leaders of the election campaign, we will form a coalition," Mr. Yanukovych said.

The same day, the party's election campaign chief Yevhen Kushnariov said the Party of the Regions will concentrate coalition discussions on key principles regarding Ukraine's domestic and foreign politics, not assigning positions.

"The most complicated discussions won't be economics," Mr. Kushnariov said. "The main divergencies aren't there. More complicated are the foreign policy and humanitarian blocks. This is the subject of NATO. This means the subjects of Russia as a whole and the Single Economic Space, which, unfortunately, are conflicting."

Mr. Yanukovych is the party's only candidate for prime minister, Mr. Kushnariov said, and all discussions will take place on that basis.

Ms. Tymoshenko emerged from the Presidential Secretariat wearing a confident smile, though some reporters commented that she looked a bit weary.

She and the president discussed defining their goals and uniting around them, she said. Their meeting was the beginning of "detailed, technical discussions regarding nuances and the signing of documents," she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko repeated her conviction that Mr. Yushchenko would renew the Orange coalition.

When asked whether her appointment as prime minister was a stipulation she put to the president, Ms. Tymoshenko replied: "The people's choice is key to understanding who will occupy which positions. I won't comment any further on this subject."

Afterwards, she got into in a black BMW and sped away.

The prior day, Ms. Tymoshenko acknowledged the president's power to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada if a majority coalition isn't formed, but called that a "nuclear weapon."

"I believe that today, on the basis of the people's choice, everything is in place to find an understanding in Parliament between the three political forces and to sign an agreement forming a democratic coalition," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

"I absolutely don't share in the application of the right to fire Parliament, because that would lead to a destabilization of life in Ukraine and a new wave of ruining people's trust in politicians. That's why I wouldn't want such a weapon used," she added.

Mr. Moroz also greeted the president at the Secretariat building. The Socialist Party's political council voted on March 28 to support a memorandum that creates a coalition between the three Orange blocs, and Mr. Moroz repeated his wish to see an Orange coalition renewed.

About 5.7 percent of Ukraine's electorate or 1.4 million votes, cast their ballots for the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

In the 2002 elections, the Socialist Party

secured 6.9 percent or 1.8 million votes.

Rather than forming a coalition with the Party of the Regions, Mr. Moroz said he proposed appointing Regions leaders as oblast council chairs in those four or five oblasts where they have the most support in order to prevent increasing Ukraine's divide.

In an indication of which way Mr. Yushchenko's partners are leaning, Our Ukraine's political council met the same day and agreed to form a democratic coalition.

"The party supports the creation of a democratic coalition in the framework of Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Socialist Party, and demands the removal of deputies' immunity," said Volodymyr Stretovych, chair of the Christian-Democratic Union Party.

Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk echoed Mr. Stretovych's position, adding that the Party of the Regions must meet three conditions to begin discussions with Our Ukraine.

"First, rejection of the idea of federalism," Mr. Tarasyuk said. "Second, rejection of granting the Russian language gov-

ernment status. Third, acknowledgment of Ukraine's road to Euro-integration."

Our Ukraine won't make any decisions related to coalition building until its political council meets again on April 7, said spokeswoman Tetiana Mokridi.

Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Moroz both said they want to sign a coalition agreement as soon as possible.

Our Ukraine's delay in signing an agreement indicates that the bloc is considering uniting with the Party of the Regions, Ms. Tymoshenko commented. Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov met with Mr. Yanukovych on March 29, she said.

"This dragging out of the process indicates that quite weighty discussions are taking place between the Party of the Regions and Our Ukraine representatives, which I believe is unacceptable," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

Of the 37.2 million Ukrainians eligible to cast ballots in the 2006 parliamentary elections, 67 percent or 25 million voters, participated.

Four years ago, voter turnout was about 65 percent, as 24.3 million Ukrainians voted.

Ukraine's free elections...

(Continued from page 4)


corruption and "bandits" running Ukraine. Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov totally misunderstood this feeling, as seen by his invitation to Ukraine's oligarchs to a meeting in October 2005 at which he described them as "Ukraine's national bourgeoisie." The rule of law cannot move ahead in Ukraine without dealing with these issues from the past: election fraud in 2004, high-level corruption, the murder of Heorhii Gongadze and the attempted assassination of Mr. Yushchenko.

Ms. Tymoshenko will become either

prime minister or chair of the Verkhovna Rada. Much of what Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine have taken credit for economically was initiated under her government. Foreign investors' fears about property rights will have to be assuaged.

The free elections of 2006 and a resultant Orange coalition shows the consolidation of Ukraine's democratic progress after the Orange Revolution. It is doubtful though, that Ukraine's Parliament will last its full term of five years. The contradictions inherent inside the Party of the Regions between businessmen and pro-Russian, former Communist voters will lead it to implode, causing early elections.

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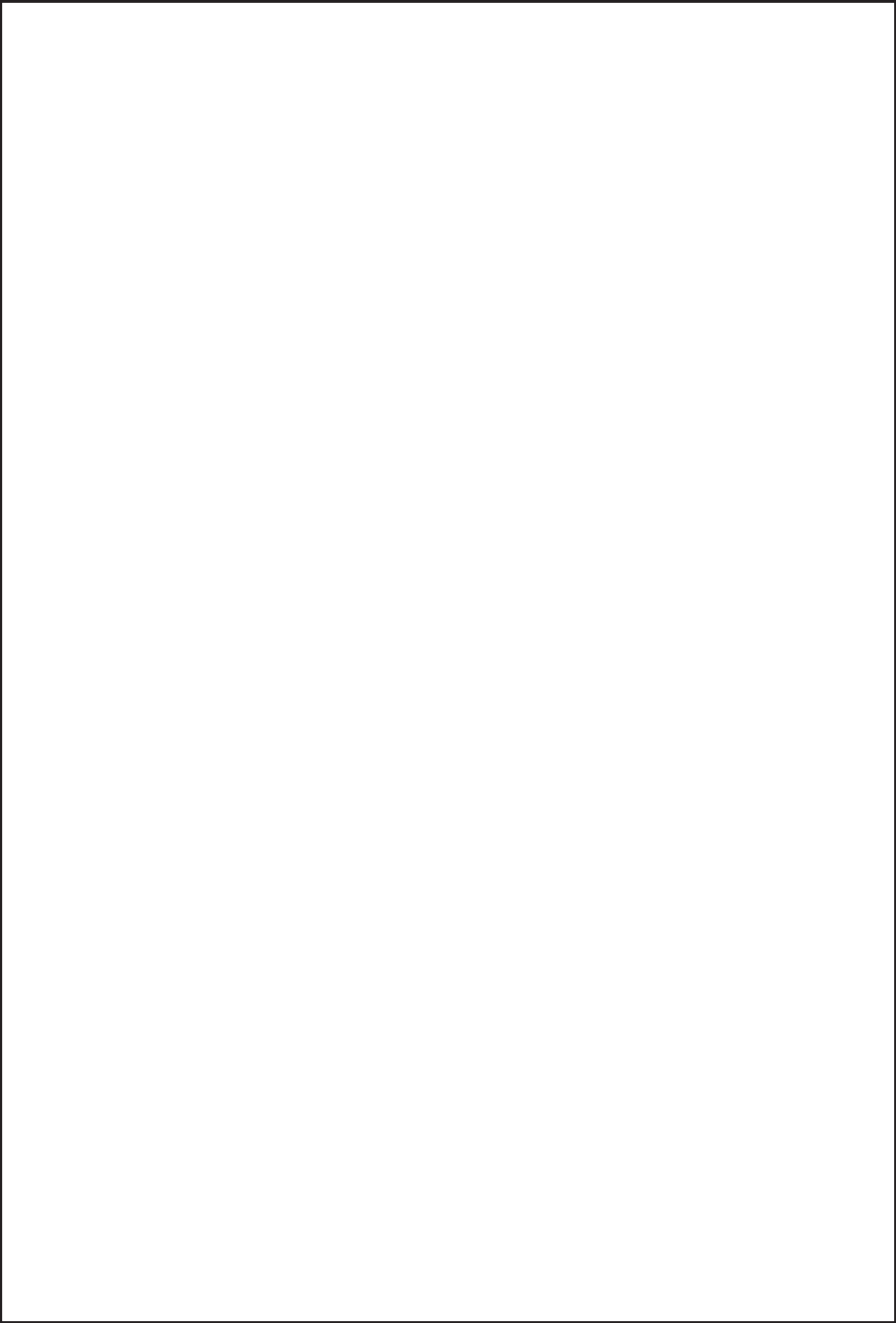
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Dnipropetrovsk hospital marks 20th anniversary of Ukraine's first neonatal ICU

by Alexander Kuzma

DNIPROPETROVSK – On February 17 doctors and former patients marked the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's first neonatal intensive care unit at Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital No. 3. The ICU inaugurated a new discipline in Ukrainian medicine, enabling doctors to treat premature babies and infants suffering from low birth weight, underdeveloped lungs and severe congenital defects at a time when other Ukrainian hospitals considered such cases hopeless.

"Prior to 1986 such children were not even counted as live births, as doctors had no way of stabilizing their condition or giving them a chance for survival," said Dr. Alexander Buyalsky, the director of the neonatal unit. Since that time, doctors at the children's hospital have made dramatic progress in saving the lives of thousands of children.

Dr. Buyalsky recalled many difficult trials and tribulations during the first 10 years his unit was in operation: "For the first 10 years we struggled without appropriate technology, and we only dreamed of the kind of equipment we have used more recently."

In 1997 the hospital received its first large humanitarian shipment from the New Jersey-based Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. The airlift was made possible by a major grant from the Monsanto Foundation, and it brought the first advanced pulse oximeters, ventilators, infant warmers and cardiac monitors. The hospital staff considered the aid so precious that it retained the services of a local Ukrainian army brigade to unload the cargo and to guard against any diversion.

Within the first year since the aid arrived, the Dnipropetrovsk hospital was able to reduce its infant mortality by 46 percent, while at the same time taking on children with lower birth weight and more complex pathologies.

CCRDF's first in-country director in Ukraine, Inya Bonacorsa Chehade, helped to build the partnership with Dr. Buyalsky and his staff, monitoring its utilization of donated items. Under the Monsanto grant, the fund brought three doctors from Dnipropetrovsk to the United States for an intensive training program at the acclaimed neonatal unit at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J.

Four years ago the Dnipropetrovsk hospital appointed a new medical director, Dr. Ihor Makedonsky, a gifted young surgeon who was trained at the Boston Children's Hospital as well as at a Swedish pediatric center. Dr. Makedonsky trained his staff in a number of unique procedures to correct severe birth defects affecting the urinary and gastro-intestinal tract. He also invited foreign doctors to come to the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital No. 3 to teach his colleagues how to perform minor transplants that could repair clubbed hands, retrofit missing organs and correct other disfigurements.

Dnipropetrovsk is known as one of the most industrialized and most polluted cities in Ukraine, and its location on the Dnipro River also draws contaminated water from Chernobyl, Cherkasy, Kyiv, Dniprodzerzhinsk and other pollution sources upstream. The city has earned the dubious distinction of having one of Ukraine's higher rates of birth defects, and many local women struggle with difficult pregnancies that often result in premature deliveries. Dr. Makedonsky and his staff pride themselves on combating these illnesses with growing confidence, and they are determined to fur-

ther improve their infant survival rates to achieve Western levels.

Until recently, most Ukrainian hospitals were allowed to discount newborn children weighing less than a kilogram, artificially inflating survival rates that were already unacceptable at 23 deaths per 1,000 live births. Ukraine's infant mortality rate is substantially better than the abysmal rates in Central Asia. Kazakh families suffer from mortality rates of 63 per 1,000. Armenia stands at 39 deaths per 1,000; Azerbaijan's stands at 75, and Tajikistan at 113, but Ukraine has a long way to go to reach the West European standards set by France and Finland at 5 per 1,000 live births and Denmark and Austria at 7 per 1,000.

Over the past year the Dnipropetrovsk hospital has received a new infusion of technology with the help of a major grant from the Ukrainian mobile telephone giant UMC. In October 2005 UMC donated over \$266,000 to the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund following a nationwide campaign and phone-athon celebrating the company's 10 millionth mobile customer. The fund used these donations to purchase a new ultrasound, cardiac monitors and other diagnostic instruments that are expected to greatly improve the hospital's ability to identify and treat birth defects and to improve survival and recovery rates.

With the UMC grant, the fund has also purchased a Canadian "urodynamic" diagnostic system to help Dr. Makedonsky and his chief of surgery, Dr. Alexander Hladky, to perform even more delicate operations on infants and small children who suffer from incontinence or from obstructions of the intestines, bowels and urinary tract.

"These operations can mean the difference between a life of self-denial, dehumanization and shameful seclusion from society, and a life full of joy and enrichment," said Dr. Makedonsky.

In the case of one of his proudest successes, a former invalid who underwent such an operation just received a full scholarship to study with the youth ensemble of a major East European ballet company. The Dnipropetrovsk hospital's reputation has grown to the point that patients from as far as St. Petersburg and Vladivostok have come to Dr. Makedonsky for treatment.

The neonatal unit has also benefited from a new state-of-the-art Viasys Bear Cub respirator that CCRDF installed with proceeds from a benefit concert last May featuring the Ukrainian Eurovision winner and popular recording artist Ruslana.

"We've invited Ruslana to come visit our neonatal unit in February or March so that she can see for herself the babies whose lives she has helped to save," said Dr. Makedonsky. "As of the end of January, we have used Ruslana's respirator to strengthen the tiny lungs of 21 newborns who could not breathe on their own." At the rate of six or seven babies per month, the respirator is expected to save nearly 500 babies in the next six years, and doctors believe the respirator will continue to operate well beyond that time.

Currently, the Dnipropetrovsk neonatal unit has 12 beds for its patients with the most acute needs. Many other Ukrainian hospitals suffer from a lack of basic equipment such as pulse oximeters and respirators, often forcing doctors to make painful choices as to which critically ill newborn will be placed on artificial ventilation, and which will have to survive without it. To spare doctors the anguish of such choices, and to save more lives, CCRDF has installed modern neonatal equipment in 10 of its partner hospitals, including those in Chernihiv, Rivne, Lutsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Odesa and Chernivtsi.

"We still need a great deal of additional equipment to manage our large patient load from across Dnipropetrovsk province



At the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital No. 3, medical director Dr. Ihor Makedonsky and assistant director Dr. Raisa Serdiuk rejoice over the progress of the 21st infant who has been saved with the help of a state-of-the-art Viasys neonatal respirator purchased with funds raised during a benefit concert last spring by award-winning recording artist Ruslana.

(oblast)," said Dr. Makedonsky. "Our most urgent need is to modernize our Newborn Pathology Department, which still uses incubators dating back to the 1960s." His other great dream is to renovate the Department of Rehabilitation, where young children and babies who suffered various injuries during delivery or early childhood can undergo specialized, long-term treatment. Under the direction of Dr. Natalia Krasovska, the rehabilitation unit is currently housed in a building that dates back to the early 1900s and is in desperate need for reconstruction.


To further improve his facility, Dr. Makedonsky and his staff have turned to local businesspeople and government officials for support. "Even with the lack of needed economic reforms in Ukraine, Dnipropetrovsk remains a very prosperous city with a lot of industry and pockets of great wealth," Dr. Makedonsky noted. "There is no reason for our children not to have the best medical services available. UMC and the Children of Chernobyl have set a good example for our local leaders to follow."

On January 10 the Dnipropetrovsk Philharmonic hosted a special benefit concert for the children's hospital and a local cosmetics company, Bon Jour, donated

\$5,000 to the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital No. 3 to help purchase new equipment for its surgical ward. The wives of two local business leaders have also volunteered to organize a women's charity auxiliary for the hospital.

Western aid has helped to forge some vital improvements at this hospital, and perhaps more importantly, it has stimulated a new awareness within the local community that even greater improvements are possible. As the Dnipropetrovsk hospital continues to achieve greater successes, it is hoped that local and national leaders will start taking greater responsibility for the quality of care and for the long-term well-being of Ukraine's children.

For more information on the UMC and CCRDF joint campaign to improve conditions at the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital No. 3, or to aid other hospitals in Ukraine, readers may call the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund at 973-376-5140 or send e-mail to info@childrenof-chernobyl.org. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to CCRDF at 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.



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Alexander Kuzma is executive director of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund. He is currently based in Kyiv.



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OUT AND ABOUT

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| April 7 New York | Film at the Institute screening of "Borderland: Ukraine and the Rebirth of Democracy," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 |
| April 7 North Port, FL | Ukrainian Easter Bazaar, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 941-426-2182 |
| April 8 New Britain, CT | Easter Festival, St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 860-828-5087 |
| April 9 Silver Spring, MD | Easter Bazaar and Pysanka Workshop, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-593-5316. |
| April 11 Toronto | Roundtable discussion on Ukraine's parliamentary elections, University of Toronto, 416-947-8113 |
| April 15 New York | Pysanka-making demonstration, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 |
| April 28-30 Kerhonkson, NY | Spa Weekend organized by UNWLA Branch 95 at Soyuzivka, 845-626-5641 |

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.

Scholarly societies...

(Continued from page 17)

inherited from the USSR some of the best material and human resources.

Furthermore, Russian culture has persisted in its imperial messages and remains strongly Ukrainophobic, continued the lecturer. In Ukraine, the national elites are strongly opposed to Russian cultural domination, while the other territorial elites are ambivalent about it.

Prof. Riabchuk said he believes the reason Ukraine's independence has not resulted in a revival of Ukrainian language and culture is that Ukrainians have internalized the negative self-image of being inferior to the dominant Russians, an

image that has been fostered for centuries. In Kyiv, for example, the "dominant discourse" suggests that it is not "normal" to speak Ukrainian; that very notion is ridiculed without even being discussed.

The speaker opined that the present language situation in Ukraine will persist for many years, but he did propose two objective arguments in favor of saving the Ukrainian language: 1) the ecological argument - that the language should be preserved in the interest of diversity; and 2) the legal argument - that language represents one of the human rights of the Ukrainian people.

The program ended with closing remarks by Dr. Roman Andrushkiw, first vice-president of NTSh.

An election day...

(Continued from page 1)

going through these trials, overcoming them and still wanting to help the people."

Olha Mytsyk, 49, said Ms. Tymoshenko was trying to change things around, but the Yushchenko government didn't allow her to realize her goals.

"I would like to see her back there again," she said.

Volodymyr Kovinia, 47, worked his whole life in the mines and factories of the Donbas, living in the city of Alchevsk. He visited Talne, his hometown, to vote for the Party of the Regions.

"I remember how we started to live better when [Viktor] Yanukovych became prime minister," Mr. Kovinia said. "Before him, [Viktor] Yushchenko was prime minister, and I remember how we lived. It was much worse. Mines started closing and there wasn't work."

Mr. Kovinia said he is already collecting his pension.

He believes Mr. Yushchenko falsified the 2004 elections instead of Mr. Yanukovych.

Considering how many more people live in the Donbas than western Ukraine, he said he couldn't imagine how Mr. Yanukovych could have possibly lost the presidential race.

At the polling station situated on the second floor of Talne's Boarding School, voters said they experienced no prob-

lems. Lines weren't very long, about five minutes on average and 15 minutes at most.

Three voting booths, constructed with a few strips of plywood and draped with blue and yellow curtains, were able to accommodate the 860 voters expected throughout the day.

No one complained of inaccurate voter lists, and no one said they had trouble with the five ballot lists for five different elections: mayoral, city council, district council, oblast council and the Verkhovna Rada.

In fact, the only complaint was that the voting room was a bit stuffy, a much preferable situation to the cold polling stations reported in other parts of Ukraine.

For a while, the district election commission had only 14 members, said Vera Chmyha, its director. During the last week however, the commission was able to bring membership up to 18 members, who worked as long as it took to tally the votes.

The stipend for working election day increased from \$3.40 during 2004 elections to \$10 this year, Ms. Chmyha noted.

The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc triumphed in the Cherkasy Oblast, winning the support of 38 percent of the oblast's electorate.

So why was Ms. Tymoshenko so popular among Cherkasy residents?

"Like a good housewife, she's ready to take on any task," said Ludmyla Knysh, 34.

A Ukrainian Summer

Appears May 7 in The Ukrainian Weekly

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Focus on Ukrainian studies, and earn college credit...*

*Or relax and enjoy the activities
at the ever-popular Soyuzivka...*

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Every great institution depends on a core of dedicated supporters who are willing to take their commitment beyond the occasional visit and become involved at a deeper level. For the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, that kind of commitment is essential—and can be exhibited in becoming the first members of the new Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

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Many of these descendants are experiencing a renewed interest in their ethnic roots. The Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation is an initiative to re-educate both young and old in an effort to maintain a proud heritage.

Members will be people who enjoy Soyuzivka enough to want to give something back – to make a personal investment in its exhibits and programs, and renovation and preservation initiatives— for themselves and for their community.

You can be sure that your membership commitment to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, at any level of support, WILL make a difference.

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All members who join prior to July 31, 2006, will receive a Soyuzivka logo tote bag.

There are other ways to donate as well...Every Donor \$ is appreciated...

The Bilous Foundation recently donated \$1500 for upgrading the PA system.

The Chornomorski Khvyli Plast Kurin is organizing a fund-raiser for new pool equipment.

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Your \$\$\$ will go to fund new 2006 projects and will create a strong financial foundation for Soyuzivka:

- New dual air conditioning/heating system for Veselka
- Additional new mattresses
- New curtains in Main House rooms

New Ukrainian courses and lectures announced at Stanford University

STANFORD, Calif. – The Program in Ukrainian Studies at Stanford continues to expand its activities and courses on campus. Recent visitors have included the poet Volodymyr Dibrova of Harvard University, historian John Paul Himka of the University of Alberta, historian Mark von Hagen of Columbia University and political scientist Prof. Marta Dyczok of University of Western Ontario.

Upcoming talks include: Prof. Catherine Wanner of Pennsylvania State University, who will address "Evangelical Movements in Late Soviet/Post-Soviet Ukraine" on Thursday, April 6, at 5 p.m.; and Prof. Lucan Way of Temple University, who will speak on "Failed Authoritarianism in Ukraine: The Sources of the Orange Revolution" on Thursday, April 27, at 5 p.m. (For complete location information, readers may log on to <http://ukrainianstudies.stanford.edu/UpcomingEventsUkr.htm>.)

The program is offering new courses this year – in Ukrainian language (supported by a gift from the Northern California Committee to Aid Ukraine) and in contemporary Ukrainian literature and politics (supported by the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union of

Rochester). Particularly interesting is the course "Politics of Identity in Eastern Europe," taught by Volodymyr Kulyk, a senior research fellow at the Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences, Kyiv. Prof. Kulyk spent last year at Stanford as a Fulbright Scholar. (For more about him, see <http://ukrainianstudies.stanford.edu/VisitingScholarsUkr.htm>.)

The Ukrainian Studies Program at Stanford also welcomed its second Chopivsky Fellow this winter, thanks to a generous gift from the Chopivsky Family Foundation. Economist Iryna Lukyanenko arrived from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA), where she is chief of the department of finance, and deputy dean of the department of economics.

Prof. Lukyanenko also serves on the faculty of the M.A. program in economics at NUKMA. Her research interests include econometric modeling and forecasting, budget systems and macroeconomic policy. Her recent projects on the Ukrainian economy include studies of budgeting systems in Ukraine and the relationship of regional policy stability with local budgets.

Voters' committee...

(Continued from page 5)

tions of election legislation during the voting and vote count processes.

However, as CVU continues to observe the process of calculating and summarizing the election day results, attempts to falsify election results or the chances of invalidating some local election races are still possible.

The preparatory work on organizing and preparing for the election was conducted at a low level, both from sides of the authorities and political parties (blocs). The conduction of both local and national elections simultaneously, the complicated procedures of voting and vote tabulation, the amendments to the election legislation made in the few days preceding the election and the poor quality of voter lists caused long queues at polling stations and other organizational problems. Approximately 1 million voters were not able to exercise their right to vote because of problems with voter lists and long queues. CVU believes, however, that these problems were not planned, existed in all regions of Ukraine and did not provide an advantage to any political force.

CVU registered some attempts to falsify the voting, specifically for the local elections. Examples of election day violations include the following: a) violations of voter secrecy, b) lack of ballots at polling stations, c) attempts at ballot stuffing, d) bringing ballots outside of a station with the purpose of selling them, e) distribution of false agitation materi-

als, and numerous procedural violations by voters and members of election commissions. Nevertheless, such situations were not numerous and members of election commissions and policemen reacted adequately and promptly.

Because of the small number of violations and the commission officials' appropriate efforts to remedy the situations, the revealed violations did not influence the results of the parliamentary elections, and not even the local elections. If it is proved that 10 percent or more of votes at a particular polling station are falsified or inaccurate, the elections at these polling sites can be declared invalid.

On election day there was discovered a planned action to produce and distribute blank forms for the purpose of including people on the voter lists through decision by the courts with reference to the Constitution of Ukraine. Such a procedure, authorized by some courts, contradicts the existing legislation and misled voters and election commission members. However, these inclusions were not numerous and do not provide sufficient reason to appeal election results, even for specific polling stations.

CVU expects that the vote tabulation in some polling stations will last until Monday evening, and the declaration of preliminary results will not be made until Tuesday morning. CVU advises all members of election commissions and representatives of political parties (blocs) to remain patient and calm.

CVU will release a more comprehensive report later in the week.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

and regional committees of the SPU, correspondingly.” (Ukrinform)

Election losers voice accusations

KYIV – People’s Opposition bloc leader Natalia Vitrenko on March 28 accused the incumbent authorities of election forgery. At that point, her bloc had 2.82 percent of the electorate’s votes. Ms. Vitrenko contended that the exit polls were deliberately meant to mislead voters by understating her bloc’s chances for clearing the 3 percent barrier. Ms. Vitrenko also accused the Central Electoral Commission of providing incorrect election returns on the CEC’s website. She said she does not rule out massive protest actions. Meanwhile, Viche party leaders Inna Bogoslovskaya and Vadim Karasev maintained that their the party’s votes were stolen in favor of the Party of the Regions, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine. They further contended that the authorities had applied Stalin’s principle, who once said that the way the people vote does not matter, what matters is the way the votes are counted. (Ukrinform)

Pora leader Kaskiv steps down

KYIV – Pora leader Vladyslav Kaskiv has decided to submit his resignation, in view of the party’s obvious failure to clear the 3 percent barrier in the March 26 parliamentary elections, it was reported on March 29. According to Ukrayinska Pravda, Mr. Kaskiv was to formally submit his resignation that day. Last week, speaking at a press conference, the Pora leader promised that he would resign the post if the bloc of Pora-Reforms and Order failed to get voted in to the new Parliament. According to the Central Election Commission, the bloc had collected 1.47 percent of the votes with 95.44 percent of protocols processed. (Ukrinform)

Medvedchuk resigns as SDPU leader

KYIV – The chairman of the Social Democratic Party – United, Viktor Medvedchuk, submitted his resignation on March 29 in view of the fact that the opposition bloc Ne Tak! was not elected on March 26. The SDPU was a member of the bloc. Led by ex-President Leonid Kravchuk, the Ne Tak! (Not So!) bloc collected 0.9 percent of the electorate’s votes. Mr. Medvedchuk was President Leonid Kuchma’s chief of staff. (Ukrinform)

Three Ukrainians jailed in Miensk

KYIV – Three Ukrainian citizens remain jailed by the Miensk police department, having being arrested during opposition protest actions, the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry’s spokesman said on March 28. The Ukrainian citizens were reported in satisfactory condition, having no complaints on improper treatment. Spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk said the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry keeps urging the Belarusian authorities to recognize Belarusian citizens’ right to peaceful assembly in accordance with generally accepted democratic rules, to be tolerant, to avoid repression and to free all those detained during the peaceful protest actions. The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry also called on Belarus to launch a dialogue with opposition forces and to consider the conclusions and commentaries by election observation missions of the international community. Mr. Filipchuk noted that Ukraine is worried about the groundless detention of Ukrainian citizens in Belarus and the denial of entry into Belarus of Ukrainian nationals. “These facts contradict the spirit of friendly and good neighborly relations between the Ukrainian and Belarusian peoples, and create obstacles to the development of contacts between the two states,” he stressed. (Ukrinform)

Belarusian courts jail 500 protesters

MIENSK – Some 500 of those arrested in Miensk on March 23, 24 and 25 stood trial in nine district courts in the Belarusian

capital on March 27 and 28 and were jailed for up to 15 days under an article punishing those who organized or participated in unsanctioned rallies, Belapan reported. Further trials were expected to take place. Human rights activist Uladzimir Labkovich claimed that the Belarusian authorities are violating the United Nations Convention Against Torture. “People were beaten up and threatened when they were arrested. They were not given food and even water for many hours, and not allowed to go to a lavatory,” Mr. Labkovich alleged. “Transporting people in paddy wagons, handcuffing them like dangerous criminals, forcing them to stand with their faces against the wall in courts, ordering them not to report their names – these are all torture. Torture is also being applied to their parents. They are denied information about their children’s whereabouts for several days.” Belarusian human right activists have reportedly drawn up a list of 53 judges all over Belarus who handed down jail sentences to pro-democratic activists during the country’s presidential campaign and ensuing protests. The rights activists are going to suggest that these judges be banned from traveling to countries of the European Union. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lukashenka: peace and order restored

MIENSK – President Alyaksandr Lukashenka was shown on Belarusian television on March 28 during a government conference devoted to improving the performance of the state administration. It was Mr. Lukashenka’s first public appearance since his news conference on March 20, when he briefed journalists on the March 19 presidential vote. “All political battles are over,” Mr. Lukashenka said on March 28. “There is peace and order in the country, as it was before, despite some outbursts [of unrest] with which the law enforcement bodies – they’re fine fellows – dealt very swiftly and neatly.” Mr. Lukashenka also said he does not like his portraits being displayed in all state-administration offices and ordered that they be removed. “There is no need for these portraits, [no need for] rebukes that we have a leader mania here and so on. And, in general, I can hardly stand it,” the president told his ministers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

UGCC leader at Papal Consistory

ROME – Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC), took part in the Papal Consistory in Rome on March 23-25. The occasion was the presentation of caps to 15 new cardinals. While in Rome, the patriarch also voted in Ukraine’s parliamentary elections at the local Ukrainian Embassy. Patriarch Lubomyr was to remain in Rome for a plenary session of the Pontifical Council for Culture, which is to start on March 27. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Belarus election results announced

MIENSK – The Central Election Commission announced on March 23 the final results of Belarus’s March 19 presidential election, Belapan reported. According to the commission, 5,501,249 people, or 83 percent of those who took part in the ballot, voted for incumbent President Alyaksandr Lukashenka; 405,486 people, or 6.1 percent, for united opposition candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich; 230,664 people, or 3.5 percent, for Syarhey Haydukevich, a member of the House of Representatives and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party; and 147,402 people, or 2.2 percent, for Alyaksandr Kazulin, leader of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Hramada). (RFE/RL Newsline)

Miensk reacts to Washington’s criticism

MIENSK – Andrey Papou, a spokesman for the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, said on March 23 that the United States “has no mandate to reject or recognize the results of elections in other independent countries,” Belapan reported. Mr. Papou was commenting on Washington’s statement earlier that week in support of the Belarusian opposition’s demands to hold a repeat presidential vote. “It’s not the White House that decides on Belarus’s president. It’s the people who elect the president in our country – and not in the street but at polling stations,” Mr. Papou said. “The Belarusian side cannot accept lectures from a country where there is no direct presidential election ... and where people who have gained fewer votes than their rivals become president,” Mr. Papou added, in an apparent reference to the U.S. presidential election. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Police break up Miensk protest

MIENSK – At 3 a.m. local time on March 24, riot police forcibly dismantled an opposition tent camp on Miensk’s October Square, seizing some 300 protesters who had kept vigil there since the evening of March 20 to protest alleged fraud during the March 19 presidential election, RFE/RL’s Belarus Service and Belapan reported. The arrested protesters were subsequently transported in trucks to a detention center on Akrestsina Street in Miensk. Col. Yury Padabed, who was in charge of the operation, said his troops did not resort to violence while making the arrests. “The authoritarian government has once again showed its true face, having failed to withstand the challenges of democracy. ... This is the beginning of its end. The government has become afraid of the action planned for March 25,” united opposition presidential candidate Alyaksandr Milinkevich told Belapan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko against isolating Belarus

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said in a television interview on March 23 that he is against isolating Belarus in the international arena or using economic sanctions against that country in the wake of the March 19 presidential vote, which the Belarusian opposition claims was rigged, Interfax-Ukraine reported. “I think it is not a rational policy to work [with Belarus] through a system of economic blockades [and] economic ultimatums, given our ties with this country,” Mr. Yushchenko said. At the same time, he said that Ukraine’s “political position” vis-a-vis Belarus is “clear”: “If these elections failed to meet the standards of transparency, ignored the freedom of assembly and denied equal possibilities to all candidates, etc., we will make the same political assessment as that voiced by observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,” President Yushchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

(Continued on page 31)



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 30)

Russia comments on Ukraine's elections...

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on March 28 that “in seeking to build a system of interstate relations based on principles of equality, friendship, pragmatism and mutually beneficial cooperation, Russia looks forward to an intensive dialogue with the Ukrainian president, new Cabinet and new Verkhovna Rada,” RIA Novosti reported. The ministry noted that Russian and international observers monitored the March 26 vote and concluded that the election was valid, although they described the process as an “acute political struggle” and noted some unspecified violations. The statement added that Ukrainians have made a “conscious choice and shown a high level of political interest.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

...and slams Belarusian opposition

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on March 28 that the opposition in Belarus had deliberately provoked a violent reaction by the security forces three days earlier, news agencies reported. “It’s clear that the opposition provoked the government to take violent action and thereby created a wave of criticism in the West against the government in Minsk,” the statement added. The ministry considers the protests in Minsk to be “a failed attempt to repeat the opposition’s tactic during presidential elections in certain other countries [such as Ukraine and Georgia]. Again, instead of acknowledging one’s opponent’s victory in a civilized way, a gamble was made on [playing to] emotions on the street in an attempt to have one’s way, not by popular choice, not at the ballot box, but beyond the legal framework.” President Vladimir Putin congratulated Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on March 20 on his “re-election victory.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

New air routes begin in April

KYIV – New regular flights between Kyiv and Astana (Kazakhstan) and Symferopol and Astana will be launched in Ukraine on April 28-29, the UM Air company’s press service told Ukrinform. Moreover, a regular flight between Symferopol-Koln (Germany) is to be launched in April through May. UM Air, established in 1998, is third biggest airline in Ukraine. The company operates A-320, DC-9 and TU-134 VIP airliners for transportation. Charter and regular flights are provided by the UM Air to Germany, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Egypt, Turkey and other countries. (Ukrinform)

New Catholic bishop is ordained

LVIV – Father Bohdan Dziurakh, CSSR, was ordained a bishop on February 14 at St. George Cathedral in Lviv. Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, presided at the liturgy. Bishop Dziurakh will be auxiliary bishop of the Church’s Kyiv-Vyshhorod Archeparchy. Bishop Dziurakh was a professor at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Klitschko notes importance of sports

KYIV – Former boxing champion Vitalii Klitschko said he believes setting up numerous sports clubs in Ukraine would be helpful in distracting juveniles from the streets and drugs, and in instilling healthy lifestyles and preventing the further spread of HIV/AIDS. Mr. Klitschko said healthy lifestyles are a key to success in any kind of human activity, sports included. Regrettably, he noted, in

Ukraine healthy lifestyles are the prerogative only of affluent people. We would like to make sports clubs affordable and accessible to all citizens who wish to be healthy, he explained. Mr. Klitschko disclosed that the Brothers Klitschko Foundation has embarked on implementing a project to establish sports clubs that will provide services in no way inferior to those offered by most prestigious and expensive athletic clubs at minimal prices. The first such club will open in Kyiv in June and will be able to accommodate 4,000 athletes at a time. In addition, Mr. Klitschko said the foundation is implementing a project to restore existing and construct new outdoor sports facilities equipped with basic gymnastic apparatus. Last year 10 such sports grounds were restored in Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

New bishop for Sambir-Drohobych

LVIV – It was reported both in the Vatican and Ukraine that on March 2 Pope Benedict XVI blessed the decision of the bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) to appoint Redemptorist priest, Father Yaroslav Pryriz, archsincellus (archchancellor) of the Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy of the UGCC, as auxiliary bishop of Sambir and Drohobych. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

IKEA to invest in Ukraine

KYIV – The Swedish furniture giant IKEA plans to invest \$700 million to \$800 million in Ukraine’s economy. In Kyiv it has started construction of the regional trading center Mega, which is expected to be opened on December 1, 2006. Mega will occupy a total area of 160,000 square meters, and its rentable area amounts to 130,000 square meters. The center is to comprise 200 stores, cafes, restaurants, children’s playrooms and a movie theater, among other features. In the future the Swedish company will open trading centers in other major cities of Ukraine such as Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa and Kharkiv. IKEA also contemplates building sawmills in Zhytomyr, Lutsk and Rivne, as well as the subsequent construction of furniture factories nearby. (Ukrainian Times, Action Ukraine Report)

Over 9,500 new citizens in 2006?

KYIV – Over 9,500 persons may become Ukrainian citizens in 2006. In 2006 Ukrainian citizenship is predetermined for 676 scientists and cultural figures and 22 investors with a total contribution of \$100,000 (U.S.) into the Ukrainian economy. Moreover, as many as 3,258 relatives of Ukrainian citizens and 288 former Ukrainian citizens will have an opportunity to be granted Ukrainian citizenship. As many as 3,731 persons, who are next-of-kin of immigrants in Ukraine and have been staying in Ukraine for the last three years can also obtain Ukrainian citizenship. The immigration quota is established by the government annually in accordance with Ukraine’s law on immigration. In 2005 Ukraine granted citizenship to as many as 7,066 foreigners. (Ukrinform)

Former SBU chief sues for slander

KYIV – Oleksander Turchynov of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, who is a former head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), filed a slander lawsuit against Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko, Interfax-Ukraine reported on March 6. Mr. Lutsenko said in an interview with the March 4-10 issue of the Kyiv-based Zerkalo Nedeli weekly that the Procurator General’s Office has opened a criminal case over the bugging of official telephone calls, including “interstate negotiations between the leaderships of Ukraine and Russia,” by the SBU when Mr. Turchynov was its chief. Mr. Turchynov said Mr. Lutsenko’s allegations are “rubbish” and a “brazen lie.” “He added, “When I was in charge of the SBU, this

agency abided by the law and Constitution, and did not engage in bugging politicians and statesmen, or eavesdropping on interstate telephone conversations,” Mr. Turchynov told journalists. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Peacekeepers end mission in Lebanon

KYIV – The Defense Ministry press service reported on March 15 that a solemn ceremony was held at the 3rd Detached Engineers Battalion’s compound on the occasion of the completion of the Ukrainian peacekeeping mission in Lebanon. Maj. Gen. Alan Pellegrini (France), commander of the UNIFIL, praised the Ukrainian military personnel for their meritorious service in deactivating land mines and explosives, and in rendering humanitarian aid to local residents. Touching on the reasons that prompted the United Nations to decide on the Ukrainian contingent’s withdrawal from Lebanon, the UNIFIL commander said it had been misdeeds on the part of some officers from the previous rotation. “But today I wish to officially assure all of you that your selfless performance has 100 percent restituted the Ukrainian Armed Forces’ high image, and so you may proudly return home,” Maj. Gen. Pellegrini told the Ukrainian personnel. (Ukrinform)

Athens has Shevchenko monument

KYIV – A monument to Ukraine’s greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, was inaugurated in Athens, Greece, on March 13 with a ceremony dedicated to the 192nd anniversary of Shevchenko’s birth. The ceremony was attended by Ukrainian Ambassador to Greece Valerii Tsybukh; Valentyna Balabanova, People’s Artist of Ukraine; National Taras Shevchenko Prize laureate Volodymyr Hryshko; well-known sculptor Oleh Pinchuk and renowned gymnast Liliya Podkopayeva. (Ukrinform)

Kyiv wants to be “cultural capital city”

KYIV – An official presentation of Kyiv as a contender for the title “European Cultural Capital City 2010” was held in Brussels on March 15. A delegation of the Kyiv City Hall presented its vision of the

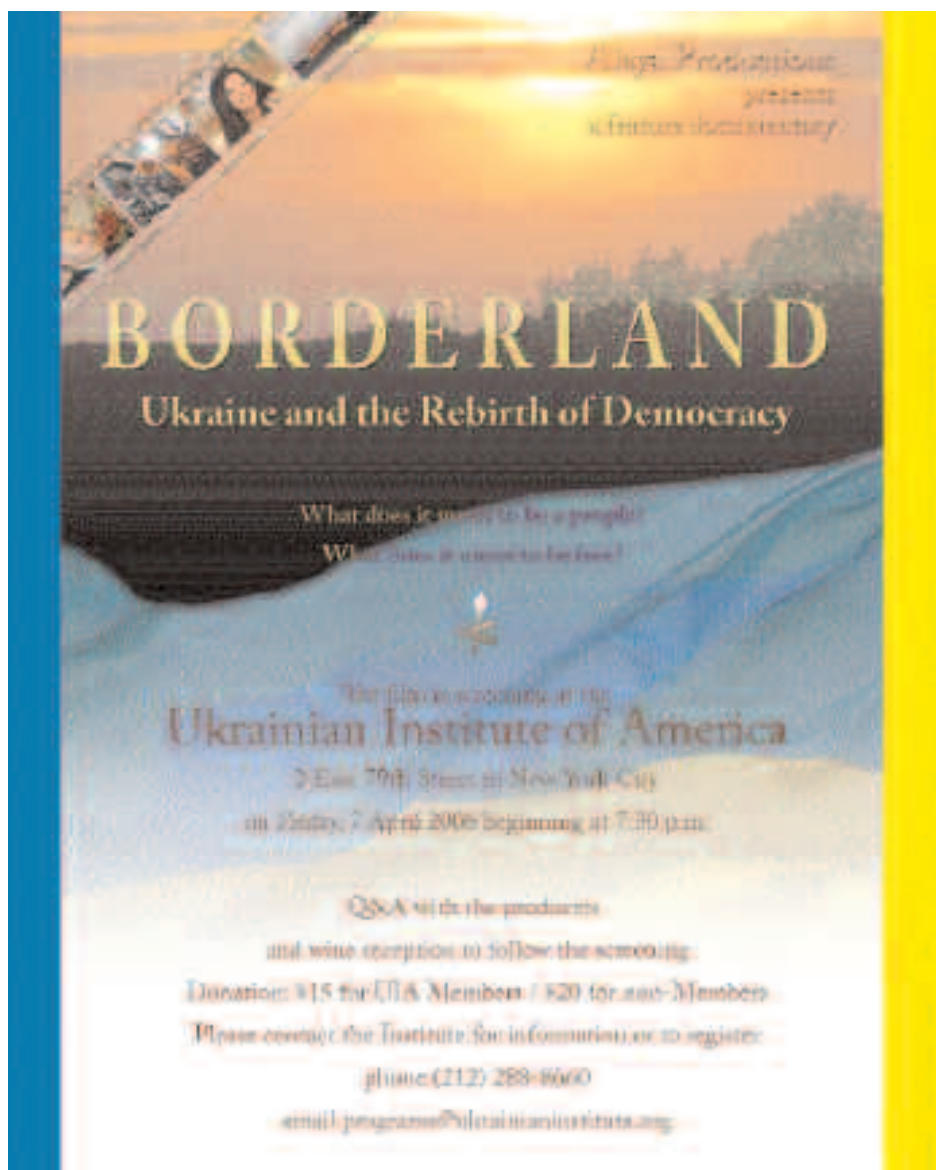
program of events in the sphere of culture and arts, and detailed the rich historical and spiritual heritage of the capital city of Ukraine to the jury, whose members were appointed by the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the European Committee of the Regions. In a fortnight the jury must resolve which of two contenders, Kyiv or Istanbul, can present the most interesting program. “We have much to be proud of. We are committed to provide Europeans with knowledge about our rich culture and history,” said Ukraine’s representative to the European Union, Roman Shpek, after the presentation. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine’s rep at Eurovision is announced

KYIV – Young Ukrainian singer Tina Karol will represent Ukraine at Eurovision 2006 in Athens, Greece. The choice was made, based on the jury’s decision and an SMS poll on national TV’s Channel 1. Tina Karol, 20, graduated from the Kyiv Gliere Musical School. She was a soloist with the Ukrainian Army Song and Dance Ensemble. Ukraine will participate in the Eurovision contest’s final for the fourth time. Two years ago Ukrainian singer Ruslana Lyzhychko won the Eurovision 2004 trophy in Istanbul, Turkey, with her colorful “Wild Dances” performance. Kyiv played host to Eurovision 2005, which was won by a Greek singer. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to use college admissions testing

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told UT-1 channel viewers on March 18, while mixing with Kharkiv college students during his working trip to Kharkiv, that those colleges which fail to introduce independent admissions testing will be deprived of state funds geared toward meeting the state order for young specialists. Mr. Yushchenko reminded the audience that four regions were chosen for this experiment whose purpose is to stop corruption at colleges and universities. During the next academic year this system will be applied Ukraine-wide, President Yushchenko said, adding that the government is ready to promptly and harshly respond to bribery in colleges. (Ukrinform)



Soyuzivka's Datebook

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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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, April 7

NEW YORK: The "Film at the Institute" series invites the public to a screening of "Borderland – Ukraine and the Rebirth of Democracy," a new feature-length documentary by Alaya Production. The film examines the history and current events of Ukraine as context for exploring the deeper question of democracy and what it means to be, or to become, an autonomous, free and self-governing people. The film addresses the questions: What does it mean to be a people? What does it mean to be free? Join us for the screening of the film and meet the producers, who will engage the audience in a post-screening discussion. A wine reception will follow. The event is co-sponsored by The Ukrainian Institute and Alaya Productions of Washington. Donation: \$15 for UIA members; \$20 for non-members. The film screening and wine reception will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., beginning at 7:30 p.m. For additional information or reservations call 212-288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

Sunday, April 9

SILVER SPRING, Md.: An Easter Bazaar will be held at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 15100 New Hampshire Ave., at noon-5 p.m. The event will feature video presentations and live demonstrations of Easter egg painting. Vendors will offer a wide variety of crafts, pysanky and delicious food, including paska bread. Guests are invited to visit the Gift Store and the International Food Store. For information call 301-593-5316 or log on to www.standrewuoc.org.

Monday, April 10

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group is honored to host Orest Deychakiwsky, U.S. Helsinki Commission, Ukraine OSCE election observer; Adrian Karatnycky, founder and president, Orange Circle; and Serhiy Kudelia, Ph.D. student, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with "The Recent Parliamentary Election in Ukraine: A Review." Time: 7 p.m.; venue: Johns Hopkins University SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Rome

Auditorium, first floor, Washington (near Dupont Metro station). Reception to follow. For more information contact Adrian Pidlusky at 240-381-0993 or visit www.TheWashingtonGroup.org.

Sunday, April 23

HILLSIDE, N.J.: Under the direction of Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, children will have an opportunity to learn basic "hahilky" (traditional Easter songs and dances). An Easter egg hunt and light lunch will also be held. All activities will be held immediately following the 10:45 a.m. Sunday divine liturgy at Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church located at the intersection of Liberty Avenue and Bloy Street. No prior experience of hahilky is required. Children are encouraged, but not required, to wear a Ukrainian shirt / blouse. If you would like to attend, contact either Maria, 973-599-9381, or Mike, 908-289-0127, by April 13. In the event of inclement weather, all activities will be held in the parish hall. Directions to the parish can be found on the parish website, www.byzantines.net/immaculateconception. All are invited.

Friday, April 28

WARREN, Mich.: A coalition of Ukrainian community organizations will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. An interfaith prayer service at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church on Ryan Road, south of 11 Mile Road, at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by a commemorative program in the adjoining Community Center. Participants will be: Dr. David Marples, professor of history and classics, and director of Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta in Edmonton; Mary Mycio, former journalist, currently director of IREX ProMedia Legal Defense and Education Program for Ukrainian Journalists in Kyiv, and author of recently published "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl"; and Dr. Zenon Lew Melnyk, University of Cincinnati professor emeritus, who will open an exhibit of photos of Chernobyl obtained from Ukraine. A short cultural program and refreshments will conclude the program. For additional information call 313-366-9764 or 586-757-5571.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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