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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Rynat Akhmetov meets the press and the public



AP/Efrem Lukatsky

Rynat Akhmetov (foreground) with Viktor Yanukovich.

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV Deciding that he could no longer remain tucked away in the shadows of the Donbas, Ukraine's wealthiest man has stepped onto Ukraine's political stage, quickly emerging as one of the most popular leaders of the Party of the Regions.

In the past three months, Rynat Akhmetov made two rare public appearances in the first of what will be many more as the billionaire industrial magnate prepares to work in Ukraine's Parliament.

Up until this year's elections, the 40-year-old Mr. Akhmetov has remained largely an enigma to most Ukrainians, rarely speaking in public and preferring to work backstage in Ukrainian politics.

Little was known about him, and a dense fog continues to hang over his life and background.

Though he has never admitted it, Mr. Akhmetov is widely believed to be the key financial contributor to the Party of the Regions ever since the party emerged as a Donbas political force in early 2001.

Following the Orange Revolution, Viktor Yanukovich's failed presidential candidacy and the subsequent arrest of his close business associate, Borys Kolesnykov, Mr. Akhmetov rolled up his sleeves and got involved hands-on in the political arena.

Immediately, he noticed Russian political technologists and consultants were no longer reliable for providing the knowledge and techniques necessary to win Ukrainian elections.

Instead, he hired Davis Manafort, a leading Washington political public relations firm.

Paul Manafort managed the campaigns of Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr., while Richard Davis led John McCain's 2000 presidential campaign.

Davis Manafort helped perform an image makeover not only for Mr. Akhmetov, but for the Party of the Regions as well, and the businessman's decision proved an astonishing success.

Once associated with crime and corruption, the Party of the Regions is now the leading political force in Ukraine, and Mr. Yanukovich is widely viewed as a strong, competent leader despite his academic and ethical shortcomings.

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Airlift to mark 20th anniversary of Chornobyl disaster

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON On April 20 an American plane will touch down at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport loaded with \$1.8 million in cargo of vital medicine and medical equipment to help Ukraine deal with the lingering effects of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, the 20th anniversary of which will be marked April 26.

The Chornobyl 20 Commemorative Airlift is sponsored by the U.S. State Department in partnership with the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) and in cooperation with the Cuban American community's Children's Health Initiative and other organizations and corporations. Its launch was announced on April 5 during a CCRDF-organized press conference at the Embassy of Ukraine.

As pointed out by one of the conference principals, Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, this commemorative airlift is part of an ongoing process of providing post-Chornobyl medical and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine conducted by private groups and the U.S. government.

Since 1989, she said, CCRDF has organized 31 air and 16 sea shipments of medical aid valued at more than \$53 million. And, since 1992, the U.S. government



Yaro Bihun

Vasyl Kavatsiuk, a recovered Chornobyl "liquidator," and his daughter Maria (left), meet with Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch after a press conference at the Ukrainian Embassy.

has provided Ukraine with humanitarian commodities and Freedom Support Act funds with a combined value of more than \$1 billion.

This partnership between the public and private sectors, Dr. Dobriansky said, represents "the best of America's initiative and generosity."

Deputy Secretary Dobriansky noted that the involvement of the Cuban American community in the Chornobyl assistance efforts was initiated in December at the request of Ukraine's first lady, Kateryna Yushchenko, who will be on hand to greet the plane when it arrives in Kyiv.

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Yushchenko optimistic about Ukraine's next government

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV Ukraine is in the unique position of being on the verge of three and a half years of stability, throughout which a parliamentary coalition may hold together, President Viktor Yushchenko told an April 12 press conference his first after the parliamentary elections.

The Ukrainian president expressed unusual optimism about the next government, in spite of the fact that it will be led by his opponents from the elections who garnered far more votes than his Our Ukraine bloc.

"I gained an exceptionally positive impression that Ukraine today is close to forming a constructive majority and a constructive opposition," Mr. Yushchenko said.

For the first time, the Ukrainian Parliament may have a situation in which the ruling parliamentary coalition and opposition are all engaging in constructive dialogue to work for Ukraine's best interests, Mr. Yushchenko commented.

"May the opposition not work against the state, but against the government. If this opposition builds itself on constructive principles, I am convinced the opposition will be able to unite with the majority in very many instances."

As for who will join the parliamentary coalition, the president said it's too early to make statements on the matter because leaders of the Our Ukraine bloc are in talks to determine which partners support the presidential agenda.

The Our Ukraine team, led by Roman Bezsmertnyi and Yonkers, N.Y., native Roman Zvarych, had been meeting with Yulia Tymoshenko and Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party this week, taking the first critical steps toward re-uniting the Orange coalition.

Mr. Yushchenko gave a strong hint that an Orange coalition will re-emerge.

"I congratulate those forces who yesterday declared their support for the president's program as a basis for forming a coalition," Mr. Yushchenko said, referring to Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Moroz. "That's a good first step. Now the second step is a political agreement."

Mr. Yushchenko made clear he doesn't want to form any coalition until a very detailed agreement is written and signed by its partners, in order to make clear what the coalition's positions will be on virtually every political and economic matter.

That way, if a coalition fails, the reason will become apparent, he said.

"We need to discuss dozens of issues," he told reporters. "Not just discuss, but to exactly specify them so that it doesn't cause disappointment for you, for the nation and for the voters."

The agreement will declare the coalition's positions on the World Trade Organization, the European Union, the Single Economic Space, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, privatization and re-privatization, and dozens of other questions, Mr. Yushchenko explained.

By specifying positions, the agreement will enable its participants to hash out any issues that may cause future potential splits, the president said.

He specifically stated that he wants a coalition to last at least three and a half years, not just one year.

"We need to sit at the table, roll up our sleeves, and write one, then 10, then 20 pages, and discuss which positions the

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ANALYSIS

Measuring the success of protests in Belarus in steps, not strides

by Valentinas Mite

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Belarusian opposition leader Alyaksandr Milinkevich believes that the week of street protests that followed the country's March 19 presidential vote made "cracks in the fortress" of the ruling regime. However, President Lukashenka who won a third term in office following his landslide victory appears unmoved. The opposition has the West's backing as it continues to press for a repeat election, but success largely depends on the real impact the vote and ensuing protests had toward effecting change in Belarus.

The opposition's hopes for a revolution in Belarus were not realized, and President Alyaksandr Lukashenka remains at the helm of the state.

Regardless, the main opposition candidate, Mr. Milinkevich on March 28 found room for optimism. He said Belarus is on the right path and that the opposition movement will continue to facilitate change.

"We were also discussing what to do next," Mr. Milinkevich said. "This is very important. And we discussed also how to avoid pessimism. I think we have made the first and very serious step toward victory."

Many agree that the election and ensuing protests, while failing to unseat President Lukashenka, did succeed in leaving a positive mark on the country.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on March 28 praised the Belarusian opposition. Although she described it as "nascent" and "incipient," Dr. Rice noted that the opposition's strength has increased over the past year and said she believes its presence is an achievement.

Stuart Hensel of the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit said the

achievements should not be overestimated. The demonstrations in Miensk were not large enough to force the regime to change course and thus cannot be compared to the success of Ukraine's Orange Revolution. However, Mr. Hensel said he believes things may be looking up for the Belarusian opposition.

"It could be that the opposition has managed at this point to carve out a bit more room for itself within the Belarusian domestic political scene and this could be interesting to watch going forward," Mr. Hensel said. "I think Mr. Lukashenka is now faced with an opposition leader in Mr. Milinkevich who is quite different than anything he has faced in the past."

Mr. Hensel said that Mr. Milinkevich, who was little known just a year ago, found more success in reaching out to voters than observers expected before the vote. The opposition leader is already creating a new political movement and cannot be waved aside easily.

However, Mr. Hensel said this does not mean that the opposition will be able to push President Lukashenka from power in the future.

"It doesn't look like the opposition has sufficient strength in order to seriously challenge Mr. Lukashenka certainly in the next couple of months and potentially throughout the course of this [third] term, but what we've seen potentially is what we've seen in Ukraine four or five years ago is the growing size of the opposition's ability to mobilize and make its voice heard despite extremely constrained political surroundings," Mr. Hensel said.

It would be an oversimplification to blame only Lukashenka for the state of affairs in Belarus. Mr. Hensel said the biggest problem is overcoming the lack of unity among the politicians in the Belarusian opposition. During the March election the opposition again failed to

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FOR THE RECORD: Wrzesnewskyj speaks at rally in support of democracy in Belarus

Following is the text of remarks by Canadian Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj at a rally in support of democracy in Belarus that was held at Toronto City Hall on March 26.

It was the Irish-born British statesman Edmund Burke who uttered the powerful words: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing."

During the last few days, thousands of young citizens of the Belarus nation embraced, arms interlocked, in a small corner of October Square in protest of a rigged presidential election and in defiance of the autocratic grip of Europe's last dictator Alyaksandr Lukashenka. They did not fear the bloody security apparatus that still retains the dreaded name KGB.

During this last week, these young men and women of Belarus placed everything on the line, including their very lives, in order to break free of the shackles of fear and terror that have gripped their country for 12 long years.

Yesterday marked the 88th anniversary of the short-lived Republic of Belarus, and instead of celebrating hope and opti-

mism that accompanies such occasions, the people of Belarus are left fighting feelings of despair.

We call upon Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper to clearly and publicly condemn Mr. Lukashenka as have the EU and the U.S., and to institute travel bans on Mr. Lukashenka and the cabal of his inner circle. We further call upon our prime minister to publicly condemn Mr. [Vladimir] Putin for supporting the Lukashenka dictatorship. Without Mr. Putin's support of Lukashenka, today Belarus' 10 million people would most likely be traveling down the path of democracy and freedom.

While Lukashenka, Putin and those who would destroy freedom, truth and justice think they have won, the actions of those in October Square show that there are fearless people in Miensk who are prepared to stand up to evil to prevent its triumph. They are struggling against immense odds in order to secure a better future for the people of Belarus a future among the circle of free and democratic states of the world.

Long live an independent and democratic Belarus.

NEWSBRIEFS

What kind of coalition for Ukraine?

KYIV President Viktor Yushchenko met on April 11 with leaders of the five political forces that won parliamentary mandates in the March 26 elections to discuss the formation of a governing coalition, Ukrainian media reported. "We are standing at the starting line. We have time, several weeks, to walk this road with dignity," Mr. Yushchenko said at the meeting. Yulia Tymoshenko, head of the eponymous political bloc, told journalists after the meeting that a coalition agreement between her bloc and two other allies in the 2004 Orange Revolution, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party, may be ready by April 13. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov from Our Ukraine refused on April 11 to rule out a deal with the Party of the Regions led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. He also did not reject the idea of a possible "grand" coalition incorporating the Orange Revolution allies and the Party of the Regions. But the Tymoshenko Bloc's press service ruled out the latter option, affirming in a press release later the same day: "Our position is clear: the cooperation of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Party of the Regions within a single parliamentary coalition is impossible." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Orange allies continue negotiations

KYIV Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous political bloc, met with Roman Bezsmertnyi, head of the Our Ukraine People's Union, and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz on April 10 to discuss the formation of a democratic coalition in the newly elected Verkhovna Rada, Ukrainian media reported. "Our decision is firm. All three sides have declared that a coalition will consist of three political forces the Our Ukraine bloc, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party. Any other political forces will not be allowed to join it," Ms. Tymoshenko told journalists after the meeting. The three allies from the 2004 Orange Revolution reportedly decided to draft a coalition

agreement within the following two days. "We believe the road we have taken is the right one. We see no threats so far," Mr. Bezsmertnyi commented on the coalition talks. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Official election results announced

KYIV The Central Election Commission on April 10 made public the final results of the March 26 parliamentary poll, Ukrainian media reported. The Party of the Regions won 32.14 percent of the vote; the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, 22.29 percent; Our Ukraine, 13.95 percent; Socialist Party, 5.69 percent; and Communist Party, 3.66 percent. In the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada, the Party of the Regions will have 186 seats, the Tymoshenko Bloc 129, Our Ukraine 81, the Socialists 33 and the Communists 21. Of the remaining 40 parties and blocs, the closest to overcoming the 3 percent voting hurdle were the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc (2.93 percent) and the Lytvyn People's Bloc (2.44 percent). Election turnout was 67.7 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Court bans publication of election results

KYIV The Supreme Administrative Court has prohibited publication in the newspapers Holos Ukrayiny and Uriadovi Kurier of the results of the March 26 parliamentary elections released by the Central Election Commission earlier this week, reported Ukrainian news agencies, quoting CEC member Serhii Dubovyk. The election results acquire legal force only after publication. The court decision follows an appeal by the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc, which charged that the CEC violated the procedure for publicizing the election results. According to the CEC, the Vitrenko Bloc obtained 2.93 percent of the vote, thus narrowly failing to overcome the 3 percent barrier for parliamentary representation. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Regions proposes coalition agreement

KYIV The chief of the Party of the Regions election campaign, Yevhen Kushnariov, said that a draft coalition

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Lviv conference focuses on new relationship between Ukraine and diaspora

by **Zenon Zawada**
Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV The Ukrainian diaspora has a new role to play in post-Orange Ukraine, according to intellectuals attending the first academic conference hosted by the diaspora institute at Lviv Polytechnic University on March 8 - 10.



Iryna Kliuchkovska, director of the International Institute of Education, Cultural and Diaspora Ties at Lviv Polytechnic University.

Much of the discussion at the conference, "Diaspora as a Factor in Strengthening the Ukrainian State in the International Community," centered on the idea that the diaspora's new focus is helping Ukraine and Ukrainians within their own countries, rather than directing efforts toward Ukraine.

"The work has gone in the direction of strengthening the nation beyond its geographical borders," said Iryna Kliuchkovska, director of the International Institute of Education, Cultural and Diaspora Ties, Ukraine's largest academic diaspora institution, which has existed for five years.

"Up until now, Ukraine had a negative image in the world. That's one of the tasks strengthening its positive image. The actual function of those who live beyond Ukraine is changing."

More than 240 academics representing more than 20 countries attended the Lviv conference, including Mykhailo Horyn, chair of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs Hennadii

Udovenko. The perfect example of a diaspora community acting within its own borders to help Ukraine was the Ukrainian American drive to successfully repeal the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, Mr. Kliuchkovska said.

The American diaspora's volunteer activities to support the Orange



Royal Military College of Canada professor Lubomyr Luciuk spoke on the history of Ukrainians in Canada at the first diaspora conference held at Lviv Polytechnic University.

Revolution helped build the U.S. government's support and improved Ukraine's image.

Cultural deeds also are valuable, such as the monument erected in Sandarmokh, Russia, to commemorate the Ukrainian intelligentsia deported to the Karelia region.

The Orange Revolution forged an unprecedented relationship involving a Ukrainian government that is genuinely interested in helping its citizens living abroad, Ms. Kliuchkovska said. They number about 10 million, according to the Ukrainian government's latest statistics.

"Up until now, we had been taking," Ms. Kliuchkovska said. "We have been accepting what was saved. We accepted large material help from the diaspora in the beginning of establishing our country. The list is enormous. But a reverse process has to begin Ukraine for the diaspora."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has now created a Department of Relations with Ukrainians Abroad, which hadn't

existed before, she said.

The institute has also helped perform surveys as part of the Ukrainian government's "Program to Support the Overseas Ukraine through 2010," an effort to determine the needs of Ukrainians in foreign countries.

During the conference there were serious discussions on defending the legal rights of these Ukrainians, she said.

"I am convinced that if our democratic forces hold together, the relations between Ukraine and its diaspora will reach a new level," she said.

The Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigrants has created a new wave in academic study and research that was evident at the conference.

Maria Shved, chair of the teaching department at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, discussed how Italy's 400,000 Ukrainians work and live. Thousands of educated Ukrainian women take cleaning and baby-sitting jobs because the Italian government doesn't recognize Ukrainian-earned academic degrees, she said.

In spite of their hard lives, in which they work two or three jobs to support themselves and their families in Ukraine, these women are able to learn the Italian language and fit into society.

They also have established and teach in Ukrainian Sunday schools, she said.

Establishing Ukrainian schools abroad has become a major activity in serving the Ukrainian diaspora.

Vasyl Babenko, whose grandparents left Ukraine a century ago and settled in the Bashkortostan capital of Ufa in the Russian Federation, discussed rampant Ukrainophobia seen on Russian television.

"Ukrainians face a hostile environment in Russia," Mr. Babenko said, where they are stereotyped and ridiculed as thieves, drunkards and uneducated villagers.

Young Ukrainians are opting to assimilate and identify themselves as Russian because the Ukrainian identity is less prestigious and institutions such as Ukrainian Churches are discouraged, if not forbidden, in Russia.

About 55,000 Ukrainians live in Ufa and 701 students study Ukrainian language and literature in the republic's municipal schools, Mr. Babenko noted.

"If Ukrainians had a Church in Russia, Ukrainian consciousness would be better preserved," Mr. Babenko said. "The Orthodox Church is a tool of assimilation that actively works in Russia."

The diaspora in the Russian Federation, which has been estimated anywhere between 4 million and 10 million, is just starting to build the first

Saturday and Sunday schools there.

Liudmyla Naidenko established a Sunday school in the Tatarstan Republic on her own.

With the Ukrainian diaspora currently undergoing trials in the Russian Federation, Lubomyr Luciuk gave a presentation that shed light on the difficult Ukrainian experience in Canada.

He recalled his childhood growing up in the largely English town of Kingston, Ontario, where he was beaten in his elementary school for crossing himself right-to-left instead of left-to-right.

His teachers insisted that Ukraine didn't exist, and his professors insisted there was no Holodomor and the Banderites were fascists.

During World War I, when the British Empire fought against the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Canadian government interned more than 5,000 Ukrainians in Alberta because their passports indicated they were immigrants from Austria-Hungary.

These Ukrainians performed hard labor without pay, and remained imprisoned until 1920 because they were also accused of being Communists.

Nobody wanted to examine Canada's discriminatory treatment of Ukrainians, including the government, historians and the prisoners themselves.

"The problem was, and always will be, that they didn't know about us, or didn't want to know," Dr. Luciuk said. "And I recognized that our work had to change the world view of others and convince the world about Ukraine, because Ukraine was forgotten."

Six months ago, former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin agreed to recognize and compensate the Ukrainian Canadian community \$2.5 million to establish memorial plaques for the World War I internees and a possible \$10 million to create a foundation.

Dr. Luciuk led the effort to remember Filip Konowal, a corporal with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in the First World War who was one of only 85 Canadians to ever earn the Victoria Cross, the highest decoration issued by the British Empire.

Four memorial plaques throughout Canada and one in France, where Mr. Konowal fought, were established in his honor.

Mr. Luciuk also spearheaded an effort to send more than 25,000 postcards to President Viktor Yushchenko demanding that the Ukrainian government create a commission to investigate Soviet war crimes. "There hasn't been a response to

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Ukraine's Embassy seeks help for 10-year-old burn victim

Embassy of Ukraine

WASHINGTON A 10-year-old Ukrainian boy needs your help.

Aleksey Skrynnyk was treated at the Shriners' Burn Hospital for Children in Boston in 2005 after high-voltage electric burn injuries. Aleksey's treatment lasted for three months during that initial visit. He will be hospitalized for further treatment in May that will take five months. Thereafter, Aleksey will need to return for treatment annually.

Aleksey suffered serious injury in Ukraine on June 20, 2004. He had high-voltage electrical shock and a fourth degree high voltage electric burn injury over 25 percent of his body.

Because of the extent of his injuries,

and the Shriners' specialization in treating such patients, it is extremely important for Aleksey to be able to come to the hospital for treatment as required.

The hospital does not charge for the medical services that it provides to Aleksey, but additional costs, including transportation, living expenses and lost wages are borne by the patient's family.

Ukrainian diplomats at the Embassy of Ukraine are urging all Ukrainians in the United States to open their hearts and provide adequate financial assistance to this Ukrainian boy. Donations may be sent to: Harvard University Employees Credit Union, 16 Dunster St., Cambridge, MA 02138; please note the account number for Aleksey Skrynnyk, 97826-40.

Quotable notes

"... by going to St. Petersburg, President [George W.] Bush, Prime Minister Tony Blair, President Jacques Chirac, and the leaders of Italy, Germany, Canada and Japan will in effect place their stamp of approval on the removal of political rights, the harassment of independent groups, the renationalization of energy and the censorship of media that [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has imposed on his country since he took over from [Boris] Yeltsin six years ago. They will also give their blessing to Putin's use of gas pipelines to threaten Ukraine, and to his ambiguous role in Iranian nuclear and Middle East peace negotiations. And after Bush goes home, the denizens of the Kremlin along with Venezuelans, Iranians, Arab leaders and others around the world will sit back, laugh and agree that the leaders of the so-called West merely pay lip service to the ideals of freedom and democracy; they don't really believe in them. If you have enough oil, they'll let you into their clubs anyway. The long-term result: The American president's ability to speak credibly about democracy and political freedom will be irreparably damaged. ..."

Columnist Anne Applebaum, in her column headlined "Skip St. Petersburg, Mr. Bush," published in The Washington Post on March 8. Ms. Applebaum was writing about the Group of Eight summit in St. Petersburg, the hometown of Vladimir Putin, where the organization will meet in July under the leadership of the Russian president.

Dr. Boris Lushniak promoted to assistant surgeon general and rear admiral

WASHINGTON Dr. Boris D. Lushniak, M.D., M.P.H., assistant commissioner at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and captain in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (PHS), on April 3 was promoted to the rank of assistant surgeon general and rear admiral by direction of the surgeon general, Vice Admiral Richard Carmona.

"I am delighted at this recognition of Dr. Lushniak's unique combination of professionalism, training, leadership and experience," said Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, the acting commissioner of food and drugs. "His continued service as FDA's assistant commissioner, counterterrorism policy, and as a flag officer of the PHS, is an important asset for our agency and the public health."

Rear Adm. Lushniak joined the FDA in March 2004 as the chief medical officer, office of Counterterrorism Policy and Planning in the Office of the FDA Commissioner, and was promoted to assistant commissioner in May 2005.

He came to the FDA after a 16-year career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), where he served as a senior medical officer with the Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations and Field Studies in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rear Adm. Lushniak began his PHS career as a lieutenant in CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service, and has developed expertise in counterterrorism activities, disaster response, medical epidemiology and occupational skin diseases.

He has worked on assignments in Russia, Kosovo and Bangladesh; was part of the CDC/NIOSH team at Ground Zero in New York City; served as part of the CDC anthrax team in Washington, and was a PHS team leader in the Hurricane Katrina response.

Dr. Lushniak has been awarded numerous PHS awards, including the



Dr. Boris Lushniak

Outstanding Service Medal, the Commendation Medal, two Achievement Medals, two Outstanding Unit Citations and eight Unit Commendations.

Dr. Lushniak earned his medical degree at Northwestern University, and he has a master's degree in public health (MPH) from Harvard University. He is board certified by the American Board of Family Practice, the American Board of Preventive Medicine (Occupational) and the American Board of Dermatology.

The official promotion ceremony for Dr. Lushniak is slated to take place within six to eight weeks.

Roots in Chicago's Ukrainian community

A native of Chicago and the son of post-war immigrants from Ukraine, Dr. Lushniak resides in Rockville, Md., with his wife, Patricia Cusumano, M.D., and two daughters, Larissa, 8, and Stephanie, 6.

Dr. Lushniak, son of Mykola and Olha Lushniak, is a graduate of St. Nicholas

Ukrainian Catholic School in Chicago, as well as of St. Nicholas Ukrainian School (the local school of Ukrainian studies), both affiliated with St. Nicholas Cathedral, where he was a parishioner.

He is an active member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization who served as a counselor at numerous camps in Wisconsin and New York, and he is a member of the Orden Khrestonostiv Plast fraternity.

Dr. Lushniak was a member of the Cincinnati-Kharkiv Sister City Project's medical committee in 1993-2004 and traveled to Kharkiv as part of the official Cincinnati delegation in 1995.

During the summers of 1992 and 1993 both Dr. Lushniak and Dr. Cusumano were volunteer physicians with the

Medical Clinic on Wheels in Ternopil, Ukraine.

Dr. Lushniak is a member of The Washington Group and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

The PHS Commissioned Corps

The PHS Commissioned Corps, one of the seven uniformed services of the United States (the others being Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and officers in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), is a specialized service of health professionals who may be assigned to federal, state or local agencies or international organizations to accomplish its mission.

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Summit of medical professionals held under Hospital to Hospital program

KYIV First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko on March 17 hosted an unprecedented international summit of medical professionals in this city as part of the Hospital to Hospital program of the Ukraine 3000 Foundation. Ukraine 3000 is an organization headed by the first lady whose goal is to establish a tradition of charitable giving and care.

senting the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations, explained the various resources and programs that organization has to offer.

Dr. Volodymyr Wrotecky, the head of the genetics department at the University of Southern Alabama, made a gripping presentation on the rampant occurrence of spina bifida and its preventability with



Dr. Zenia Chernyk, chairwoman of the Ukrainian Federation of America, makes her presentation during a Kyiv conference on the Hospital to Hospital program.

Program Director Vera Pavlyuk explained that the goal of Hospital to Hospital is to establish long-term partnerships between health care providers in Western Europe and the United States with those in Ukraine to improve the health-care system for children.

Among the presenters was Dr. Zenia Chernyk, chairwoman of the Ukrainian Federation of America, who touched on several subjects ranging from the need to change Ukraine's tax system to benefit non-profit organizations and encourage charitable giving, to Project Life Line, a multi-tiered medical care commitment that has already garnered the support of the first lady and the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Chernyk introduced Stephen Robinson, who heads the World Hemophilia Foundation in Zurich, Switzerland. Mr. Robinson explained that his organization is prepared to help with finances and resources to create a bridge to blood disease awareness.

Other participants in the conference included representatives from the University of Miami who spoke about medical administration in addition to health care delivery. Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj, repre-

proper prenatal care and education.

Other presenters included medical professionals from Austria, Italy and Canada, and ambulance operators and paramedics from England.

One of the most compelling presentations was by Dr. Irakly Sasania of Tbilisi, Georgia. Dr. Sasania is the director of a Western-style pediatric hospital that was established with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the American International Health Alliance. Dr. Sasania spoke of the success of his hospital as it moved from the Soviet medical tradition to a more effective Western style. He credited much of the hospital's success with its twinning and partnership with Emory University the same relationship Hospital to Hospital is trying to establish in Ukrainian hospitals.

Many of the conference participants followed up their experience the next day with independent meetings at which interests and resources crossed.

After the conference and between impromptu meetings, Dr. Chernyk met with members of the print and electronic media to further promote and explain the idea of East-West medical cooperation.

Plaque honoring journalist Gareth Jones will be unveiled at University of Wales

TORONTO A historical plaque honoring the Welsh journalist Gareth R.V. Jones will be unveiled on May 2 at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Mr. Jones was one of the first Western journalists to travel to the Soviet Union and report truthfully on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine, the Holodomor. For that he was denounced by the Soviet authorities and by their

sympathizers in the West, including the notorious New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty, who would go on to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on events in the Soviet Union. Mr. Jones was murdered by Chinese bandits in Manchukuo in August 1935. (For more on Jones go to <http://colley.co.uk/garethjones>.)

Following a memorial service in the university chapel, with remarks by Elystan Morgan, president of the university, the trilingual (Welsh, English, Ukrainian) plaque will be unveiled in the Quadrangle of the Old College by Dr. Margaret Colley and Nigel Linsan Colley, relatives of the late Mr. Jones.

Organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association with the support of the Ukrainian Orthodox churches of Great Britain and Canada, the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, the Ukrainian American Civil Liberties Association and other donors, the bronze plaque is adorned with a bas relief of Mr. Jones, prepared by Toronto sculptor Oleh Lesiuk. This is the first-ever historical marker including not only the English and Welsh languages but Ukrainian as well.



The plaque honoring Gareth Jones that will be unveiled in Wales.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Branch 287 holds pre-convention meeting



During the annual meeting of UNA Branch 287 (from left) are: Neonila Sochan, meeting chairman; Walter Honcharyk, branch president; and Dana Szymczyk, branch secretary.

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. Members of Ukrainian National Association Branch 287, "Sons of Ukraine," met for their annual meeting on Monday, March 20, here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters building.

The meeting was called to order by the branch president, Walter Honcharyk. Neonila Sochan was elected to chair the meeting and the minutes were recorded by Dana Szymczyk.

At the outset, Mrs. Sochan noted that 2006 marks the 70th anniversary of Branch 287, which was founded on December 31, 1936. She then presented the minutes of the branch's previous elections meeting.

Mrs. Sochan then proceeded to report that Branch 287 had united for the purposes of electing a convention delegate and an alternate with Branch 340. In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, Branch 287, as the larger branch, elects the delegate and Branch 340 the alternate (Branch 340 had already elected its alternate delegate).

Roma Hadzewycz was elected as the delegate from Branches 287-340.

Also on the agenda was the election of a new slate of officers for the branch. The following were unanimously elected: Mr. Honcharyk, president; Ms. Szymczyk, secretary; Markian Hadzewycz, vice-president; Taras Sochan, treasurer; and Marko Derzko, auditor.

Branch members devoted much attention to the upcoming 36th Convention of the UNA, which convenes in May. In addition, branch members discussed proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws about which they had heard from fellow UNA'ers.

The members agreed that the downsizing of the UNA Executive Committee from its current composition of six members should not be supported as the current structure provides a balance between three in-house executives and three who are not full-time paid employees. It was felt that this six-member Executive Committee better represents the UNA membership. The branch proposed a change to the UNA By-Laws whereby, in the case of a tie vote at Executive Committee meetings, the chairman of the UNA Auditing Committee (or his designee) who is in attendance at the meeting casts the tie-breaking vote.

The branch members also voted to suggest several other amendments to the UNA By-Laws:

- The minutes of UNA Conventions must be published within six months of the convention's conclusion. These should be available online within six months and in printed form within one year. Any member who

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Northern New Jersey District Committee meets



Members of the Northern New Jersey District Committee of the UNA after their 2006 annual meeting.

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. The 2006 annual meeting of the Northern New Jersey District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association was held here at the UNA Corporate Headquarters building on Friday, March 31.

The meeting was called to order by Stephan Welhasch, district chairman, with a moment of silence in memory of deceased members of the district. He then greeted all present, including representatives of the UNA Branches 25, 27, 42, 133, 171, 172, 214, 234, 269 and 287, and UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak, who represented the UNA Executive Committee.

Stefko Woch was elected to chair the annual meeting, and Roma Hadzewycz to record the minutes. Also elected was a Nominating Committee comprising Julian Kotlar, Michael Bohdan, Irene Jarosewich and Roman Pyndus.

The minutes of the 2005 annual meeting were read by Ms. Hadzewycz and unanimously accepted without any alterations.

Reports were then delivered by the outgoing district officers. Mr. Welhasch recognized three district members, Christine Brodyn, Mr. Woch and Oksana Trytjak, for their organizing achievements. He explained that the Northern New Jersey District had \$2.9 million of new insurance business in 2005 and earned first place among all districts in terms of both the number of members organized as well as the face amount of insurance coverage written. Nonetheless, the district succeeded in meeting only 47 percent of its membership quota for the year.

Mr. Welhasch then offered thanks to all who had worked on representing the UNA at information tables and booths at various festivals held in the tri-state area of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, as well as in Maryland. He especially pointed to the efforts of Michael and Nancy Bohdan who organized and manned a table at the Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, N.J.

Treasurer Walter Honcharyk reported that the district now has \$1,842.81 on its books and that expenses exceeded income during the report period (April 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006) by \$203.73.

During the discussion of reports, Christina Kotlar pointed out that members of the Northern New Jersey District were involved in putting together the highly successful exhibit about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) that was shown at Soyuzivka and the UNA Corporate Headquarters. Ms. Kotlar's film about the experiences of her father, an UPA member, was screened at both venues. The film is a work in progress.

Ms. Brodyn reported that she and Lydia Ciapka of the Auditing Committee had found that all the district's books were in order and proposed a vote of confidence to the outgoing officers. (The committee's chairman, Eugene Oscislowski, was unable to be present.) They offered a special commendation to the district treasurer, Mr. Honcharyk.

The Nominating Committee then presented its pro-

posed slate of officers for the coming year: Mr. Welhasch, chairman; Mr. Woch, vice-chairman; Neonila Sochan, secretary; Mr. Honcharyk, treasurer; Ms. Jarosewich, Ukrainian-language press liaison; Ms. Hadzewycz, English-language press liaison; Mr. Bohdan, organizational director; Ms. Kotlar and Lon Staruch, members at large; Mr. Oscislowski (chairman), Ms. Brodyn and Ms. Ciapka, Auditing Committee. The slate was unanimously elected.

Discussion then turned to other district activities, as well as the upcoming 36th Convention of the UNA. Mr. Welhasch reported that since the late Eugene Iwanciw, the UNA's second vice-president, had been a member of the Northern New Jersey District, the district's officers had approved a donation of \$100 to the Eugene Iwanciw Heritage Scholarship Fund established by the UNA.

Mrs. Sochan then proposed that the district also take out a page in the UNA convention book in honor of Mr. Iwanciw. The district agreed to fund the \$100 cost of the memorial ad. In addition, the district is placing its usual full-page advertisement in the convention book.

A discussion ensued about the minutes of the 2002 UNA convention, which have not yet been published. In response to Mrs. Sochan's question about when the minutes will be published, National Secretary Kozak said they would be available at the convention, as was the case with the previous convention's minutes. Mrs. Sochan then asked whether those who were delegates in 2002 and will not be at the 2006 convention would receive copies.

Meanwhile Daria Semegen, secretary of the 34th convention, explained that, in fact, the minutes of the 1998 convention were ready for publication in November of 2000 and copies were mailed to all convention delegates in January 2001. Copies were available to all who requested the minutes from the Home Office.

Ms. Hadzewycz noted that the minutes of a convention should be available before the next convention so that all can read them and make comments if corrections are needed.

Ms. Kozak replied to the above remarks by saying that perhaps the Home Office will be able to get the 2002 minutes out earlier than planned, before the 36th Convention is convened at the end of May.

The national secretary then went over the district's organizing achievements for 2005, noting that the district had enrolled 47 new members, thus meeting 47 percent of its quota of 100 members. She noted that the top organizers were: Ms. Brodyn, Ms. Trytjak and Mr. Woch, with Messrs. Welhasch and Oscislowski also making the top five.

She asked all branch secretaries to pitch in and enroll members. Furthermore, she noted that if a secretary is not able to do this, then he or she should prepare younger people to take over their roles.

She went on to note that UNA'ers who may not be able to enroll members themselves can give prospective mem-

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our broken immigration system

The U.S. immigration system is broken. There's no one out there who will dispute that statement. The big question is what to do about it.

The House of Representatives came up with one answer back in December, when it passed a bill that would erect hundreds of miles of fencing along the country's southern border and make illegal immigrants felons, without giving them a chance at legalization or eventual citizenship. That draconian measure there's just no other way to describe it is a disgrace for our country of immigrants.

The Senate, meanwhile, was working on a different solution: one that would have allowed undocumented workers in the United States to become legally employed and offered them a chance to become permanent residents and, ultimately, citizens. The Senate proposal would have established a guest worker system and would have enabled those illegal immigrants who have been in the U.S. for five years or longer to embark on the road to legal status. Those here two to four years would have to apply for legal status after returning to a border crossing to have their documents processed; others would be subject to deportation.

It appeared that a bipartisan deal had been reached among the senators, but then it all fell apart. There's enough bipartisan blame to go around for that failure...

In the wake of the Senate's inaction, immigrants around the country a fraction of the more than 11 million illegal immigrants now in the United States came out to publicly make their case. As one demonstrator told The Washington Post, "We decided not to be invisible anymore."

Americans had seen these illegal immigrants in their local communities. We saw them, but we didn't really see them. That's because they exist in the shadows, where they work in landscaping, construction, restaurants, as domestics and cleaning people. Many of them are exploited by greedy employers who are happy to get cheap labor and, we might add, workers who are afraid to stand up for their basic rights because of their uncertain legal status in this country. We've all heard and read stories about the day laborers picked up by landscapers in our neighborhoods who put in a tremendous day's work only to be shortchanged, or about the home care aides who are practically slaves, working seven days a week and on duty 24 hours.

Many of the latter are our fellow Ukrainians who arrive on a temporary basis to earn some money to send back home to their financially strapped families. There is no doubt their services are needed, but there is also no doubt they deserve to be protected from unscrupulous employers. They deserve to be treated as we all would like to be treated.

And then there are the cases like that of the Karnaoukh family which recently made headlines here in New Jersey. They were a hard-working family that lived in the U.S. for 15 years, bought a home, sent their sons to college all the while thinking they were on the road to legal status in this country. Thanks to the work of incompetent and unprincipled lawyers, they were deported in February.

We've heard over and over again about lawyers who "guarantee" a green card for \$10,000. These are the criminals who deserve to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law not the poor immigrants who believe their empty guarantees.

Clearly, our immigration system has to be fixed. And the sooner Congress stops playing politics and gets down to serious business, the better. It's time our political parties stopped worrying about losing support in the upcoming congressional elections and started worrying about the well-being of our country. In short, they must do the right thing not the politically expedient thing.

April
15
2006

Turning the pages back...

In an article carried five years ago on April 15, 2001, The Ukrainian Weekly reported that Ukraine's Parliament approved a new Criminal Code to replace the Soviet laws still on the books. Legislation was also moved to a final vote to revamp criminal

procedures and the relations between law enforcement officials and the court system.

These legislative actions coincided with the decision by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on April 5, 2001, to recommend the ejection of Ukraine from its membership for failing to fulfill obligations it undertook when Ukraine joined in 1995, related to its criminal, civil and associated procedural codes.

The new Criminal Code, which passed by a vote of 379-3, formalized a February 2000 decision by the Verkhovna Rada to ban the death penalty, replacing it with life imprisonment. It also changed the Soviet practice of appropriating the property of a person convicted of a serious criminal offense, established the juridical recognition that an accused is to be considered innocent until proven guilty by a court of law, introduced community service as a form of criminal punishment, and moved the charge of slander from a criminal to a civil offense. Most significant for the oligarchs was that the new legislation made it illegal for government employees to hold a second job.

In addition, to combat corrupt practices, another bill was in final draft that would take all authorizations for search and seizures from the hands of law enforcement bodies and put them within the authority of the courts. As a building block of a democratic society, the bill would also define the rights of the arrested.

With speculation among politicians that President Leonid Kuchma would veto the bill, Ukraine's Chief Justice Vitalii Boiko said on April 11, 2001, that such a dangerous move would leave the court system outside of the Constitution.

"We must be careful that the judicial system in place does not become illegal," said Judge Boiko.

This legislation took considerable time in moving toward criminal, tort and procedural reform, and most political experts in Ukraine believed the decision taken by PACE was simply a pressure tactic in response to complaints about the delays and problems associated with the investigation of the Gongadze affair and the related tape scandal.

Source: "Verkhovna Rada OKs new Criminal Code" by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 15, 2001, Vol. LXIX, No. 15.

EASTER PASTORALS

Redemption comes to each of us

2006 Pascha pastoral letter of the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs in the United States.

To the Reverend Clergy, Venerable Religious, Seminarians and the People dearly Beloved by God:

Peace in the Risen Lord and Hierarchical Blessings!

"To all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God." (John 1:12)

Dearly Beloved in Christ!

Christ is Risen! Khrystos Voskres!

"This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined, O people. Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord. For from death to life and from earth to heaven Christ our God leads us, as we sing the song of victory" (Ode 1, Resurrectional Canon).

By his sin, man separated himself from God. He fell back onto a condition of existence marked by sin, and his sin marred the rest of creation. Sinful man was cut off from God and enslaved in a world of suffering, corruption and death. His slavery was the grip of sin and its effects on the whole of his existence. His world was a world in which the powers of darkness held sway.

God in His love decided to save mankind. The origin of the redemption is the utterly free love of God for His creatures. This love is a self-giving love, for the gift by which God saves is the gift of Himself. God's plan is to raise men to the divine level and communicate to them a share in His life and glory. This was the purpose of God from the beginning, but the gift now comes to fallen mankind as a gift of salvation.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1: 3-5).

God our Father carried out His divine plan by sending His Only-Begotten Son into this world. The Incarnation was the supreme self-gift of God. The act of divine love by which we were redeemed is the act which transformed the manhood of Christ, brought Him out of this world of sin and death, penetrated Him completely with the Spirit and exalted Him as Lord of the

whole of creation. This act has its source in the Holy Trinity. We were saved by the Father, through the Son and in the Holy Spirit. The Father glorified Christ by the Spirit and in doing so He glorifies us.

Redemption comes to each of us personally when the divine act, which reaches us through its embodiment in Christ and His work, effects the transition in us from death to life. We die with Christ and rise again with Him. But our passage from the world of sin and death to the order of resurrection and glory is not achieved at once. Our Christian life is a step-by-step advance toward its full perfection. Insertion into Christ and His mysteries is made possible by the Church and her sacraments (mysteries). Thus, the Mystery of Pascha opens up to us by way of the Apostolate and the Sacraments.

Our paschal joy is so great on the triumphant feast of the Resurrection of Christ, not just because God raised up Jesus Christ from the dead, but also God chose to include everyone of us in the Resurrection.

"Now all is filled with light: Heaven and Earth and the lower regions. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ. In Him we are established" (Ode 11, Resurrectional Canon).

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

On this radiant and glorious feast of Pascha, We, the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops in the U.S.A., embrace you all in Christian love.

Imparting our blessings to you, we wish you joy in the presence of the Risen Christ.

The Most Rev. Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S.A. Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians

The Most Rev. Robert M. Moskal
Eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma

The Most Rev. Richard Seminack
Eparch of St. Nicholas in Chicago

The Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM
Eparch of Stamford

The Most Rev. John Bura
Auxiliary Bishop

The "Feast of all Feasts"

Pascha (Easter) pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine.

To the Priests, Deacons, Monastics and Faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the borders of Ukraine, all entrusted to our archpastoral care:

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

We greet you, beloved brothers and sisters, on the occasion of the joyous and holy day, the luminous Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christ is risen! This solemn greeting can be heard throughout the world and we join in it wishing you all health, happiness and joy.

Pascha the Resurrection of our Lord is the crowning event in all divine care for the redemption of the humanity from sin, curse and death. It is the assurance of our own future resurrection the strong foundation of our faith. As Christ said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

The Feast of Pascha is the "Feast of all Feasts." It is especially during Pascha that

the firmness and the purity of our faith are revealed in us and our hearts open up to the unattainable love and charity and the greatness and holiness of the Christian faith are strengthened. The feast unites all of these qualities at the highest level. It is the feast of the highest solemnity in our faith, the highest morality, faith and love. On this day the earth and our hearts are filled with the incomprehensible joy by the radiance of the Resurrection of the Son of God.

Nature reflects the Resurrection in its spring awakening. Every spring foretells the future spring of the entire world. The warmth of life vanquishes the cold death of nature. The seed planted in the soil sprouts and presents to us the concept of our own resurrection. In the light of Christ's Resurrection our departed loved ones are alive to God and to us and we share with them our Paschal greeting as a certification of their future resurrection.

The Resurrection of Christ has enlightened the entire world with the glory of God: the Conqueror of Hades, sin and death is,

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View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

“Coming to America”

The flashing white “walk” sign illuminated, and as I began to cross Prospect Avenue in downtown Cleveland, I felt decidedly self-conscious. Walking with my parents toward Quicken Loans Arena (as Cleveland’s basketball facility is known), I found myself looking at the crowd around me, hoping not to be recognized. It was a “high school moment”

I was accompanying my parents to a Neil Diamond concert. And God forbid anyone I knew actually saw me. (Never mind the fact I’m almost 40 years old — it was Neil Diamond, for crying out loud, and even those of us entering middle age have our pride.)

But as the lights went down and the act started, my silly throwback to adolescence began to melt away. Neil was good — he still had “it,” whatever “it” is. The old traditional numbers were spectacular, and I couldn’t help but dig the scene. My embarrassment turned to pure enjoyment ... and then ... my favorite ...

The 1970s-era Moog synthesizer echoed through the auditorium, quieting the capacity crowd. Slowly, an image of the Statue of Liberty appeared above us. Then, a boat materialized as if from thin air, while her cargo — women who appeared older than they surely were, wearing babushkas and carrying infant children — disembarked over the Cleveland Cavaliers logo that adorned the nearby scoreboard. Black-and-white images of young men wearing tattered sportcoats and carrying sacks made their way across the arena screens. With this as background, Neil Diamond began his classic song, “Coming to America.”

Now, I admit that I am a sentimental guy. But “Coming to America” has always had a profound effect on me. Part ethnic, part patriotic, this song captures the essence of what America stands for. It is the musical accompaniment to Emma Lazarus’ verse that greeted so many of our ancestors: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free.” With his sappy song, Neil Diamond not only celebrates our past, but reminds us of what America aspires to be: a land of acceptance, of opportunity, of hope.

The catchy tune was still ringing in my ears as I lay down to bed that evening. And, as is my (bad) habit, I flipped on the TV to lull me to sleep. By doing so, I let CNN’s Lou Dobbs ruin my otherwise pleasant evening with Neil Diamond.

“On tonight’s edition of ‘Moneyline,’” Mr. Dobbs sputtered, “we examine our nation’s continuing problem with illegal immigration.” (It was the same topic Mr. Dobbs examined the day before, and the day before that. No one ever accused Mr. Dobbs of being creative.) Under his concerned face was written the caption “Our Broken Borders.” The gravitas with which he addressed this subject was palpable, and his theme clearly stated: immigration poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of America and all patriotic Americans.

Indeed, a majority of his hourlong program was dedicated to emphasizing the threat that immigration posed to our great nation. (Of course, Mr. Dobbs emphasizes that he is opposed only to

“illegal immigration,” but as he is also opposed to increasing the numbers of legal immigrants, that’s a distinction without a difference. In fact, today the United States accepts only one-tenth the number of legal immigrants, on a per capita basis, than when my grandparents were admitted to citizenship.)

Try as I might, I could not get the juxtaposition of that evening out of my head. On one hand, the worldly and well-spoken Mr. Dobbs set forth his case against immigration, suggesting that impoverished Mexicans streaming across our southern border are taking poor-paying jobs that would otherwise go to deserving Americans. On the other hand, Neil Diamond romanticized the experience of our ancestors, coming to this country in search of opportunity and a better life for their children. How do we reconcile these two starkly opposite views?

We can’t. For, if we are honest with ourselves, we cannot in good faith celebrate our ethnicity and the opportunity this country has provided to us, while at the same time seek to foreclose that same opportunity for others.

Many will try to rationalize this paradox by drawing distinctions between the immigrations. “Today’s immigrants are different from those of the past,” is a common refrain. Really? My grandparents ventured westward on creaky ships for one reason: economic opportunity. Today, Mexican immigrants cross the Rio Grande ... for economic opportunity. “But,” many would object, “the European immigrants of yesteryear were harder working. Today’s immigrants just want welfare.” Another myth. According to most objective studies, today’s immigrants contribute, or soon will contribute, more to America’s social and economic fabric than they take — just as they did in 1913 and 1953.

“But you’re forgetting all the jobs they take from us,” others would argue. If that’s the case, why is the economic situation in areas with high present-day immigration — such as Los Angeles, New York and Chicago — so much better than in areas with low immigration — such as Cleveland, Rochester and western Pennsylvania?

The answer is that, just as in previous decades, immigrants are attracted to opportunity. And they create economic vitality. High immigration is often a sign of economic health, while low immigration frequently suggests economic stagnation. And let’s be honest, the unemployed Flint autoworker is not being displaced by a Mexican immigrant on the production line. Nor is that autoworker moving to California to pick lettuce. The link between immigration and job loss in the United States is just not there.

To be sure, there are issues that need to be addressed. Immigration laws must be amended to significantly increase the number of legal immigrants we accept, thereby lowering the number of illegal residents who live in a “shadow economy” without paying taxes or participating in civic life. And certainly the extent to which we extend our social “safety net” to the newly arrived should be a subject for discussion — especially in those states which cannot afford the short-term cost of supporting a disproportionately large

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Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas

**Hispanics, “si”; Ukrainians, “ni”**

The ongoing American immigration brouhaha, focused on some 9 million to 11 million illegal immigrants, has created much hand-wringing, political posturing and misleading cant.

Much of the controversy swirls around Mexicans. President Vicente Fox is demanding amnesty so that his illegals can continue to send money back to family members in Mexico, ameliorating somewhat the growing dissatisfaction with Mexico’s corrupt leadership. Mr. Fox is no fool; the more Mexicans in the U.S., the less chance of “revolución!”

President George W. Bush is pushing for a guest worker program for illegal immigrants that will eventually lead to full citizenship. A grand idea. Unfortunately, most Americans seem to oppose it.

Personally, I have no issue with immigrants, legal or illegal. The issue is not immigrants seeking a better life. The problem lies with our porous borders and avaricious employers who exploit illegals. As a son of an immigrant who, despite his university degree, initially “took jobs no Americans were willing to take,” I can empathize with Mexican immigrants who are hardworking, family-oriented and willing to do what it takes to gain their citizenship.

I have even more empathy for Ukrainian illegals who work hard, take low-level jobs initially and send money back to relatives, most of whom rely on this largesse to survive in a Ukraine run by Soviet-trained, mid-level government crooks.

While Mexican illegals have advocates willing to take to the streets waving Mexican flags to make their point, Ukrainian illegals are not so fortunate. No advocates. No mass demonstrations. No Ukrainian flags. Camille Huk, a Ukrainian activist in New Jersey, has tracked the plight of Ukrainian illegals and calls them “low-hanging fruit,” easy to find, easy to pluck.

Ms. Huk is particularly upset by the case of the Vassili Karnaoukh family who were deported to Ukraine after living in the United States for 15 years. They had purchased a house, attended Ukrainian church, sent their sons to Ukrainian school and eventually to college. Jenny-Brooke Condon of the Seton Hall Law School has studied the case and prepared a detailed summary. What follows is based on that report.

“In the early morning hours of January 6 [Sviat Vechir!], 2006, armed Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents stormed [à la Elian Gonzalez!] the family’s house and took the parents and two sons into custody. The government detained them at the Elizabeth Detention Center until they were deported in February,” Ms. Condon wrote.

How did this outrage come to be? It began with the father’s, Vassili Karnaoukh’s, involvement with Rukh. A patriot, he participated in Rukh demonstrations in 1989 and was eventually arrested by the KGB which beat and interrogated him. His wages were subsequently reduced 40 percent for six months and his earned vacation time was canceled. Still active with Rukh, he was arrested a second time and beaten. With the help of a cousin who bribed a friend who worked in the passport office, Mr. Karnaoukh gained his passport, obtained a U.S. tourist visa and arrived in New Jersey on June 5, 1991.

Attorney Eric Copeland of the firm of Copeland and Brenner filed an asylum claim with the Newark asylum office on September 28, 1991. A similar claim was

filed for Mr. Karnaoukh’s wife, Maria, who returned to Ukraine six months later and remained there until 1995 when she returned with their two sons. Mr. Karnaoukh, meanwhile, attended an asylum interview in 1992.

On February 5, 1996, he was informed by Barbara C. Brenner of Copeland and Brenner that she had not received a decision regarding his 1992 asylum claim. On November 11, 1997, he was informed that his asylum interview had been rescheduled. On November 12, Ms. Brenner confirmed her conversation with Mr. Karnaoukh in writing and told him that since his wife had left the country in 1992, and because the sons were admitted in 1995, they were not included in his asylum case. She urged him to formally include his wife and sons at the asylum hearing and to hire a local attorney. She also gave him the name of an attorney.

Following the interview, the Immigration Service ruled that Mr. Karnaoukh did not establish past persecution or a well-founded fear of further persecution. On November 25, 1997, his case was referred to Immigration Court for further adjudication. Ms. Brenner wrote to Mr. Karnaoukh on January 26, 1998, reminding him that his hearing was scheduled for February 13 and that he needed to get a local attorney since her firm was not representing him “in removal proceedings.”

“A merits hearing was then scheduled for June 9, 1998, to consolidate the family’s individual cases and then set down again for merits hearing before Judge [Annie S.] Garcy on February 5, 1999,” Ms. Condon noted. Three days later Judge Garcy denied Mr. Karnaoukh’s application for asylum and ordered him and his family deported. Mr. Karnaoukh appealed.

From here on, the story gets murky. Mr. Karnaoukh hired a lawyer who filed a motion to reopen the proceedings under NACRA (the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act) which on June 21, 1991, was expanded to include nationals of former Soviet bloc countries who applied for asylum on or before December 31, 1991, a date that applied to Mr. Karnaoukh. Among other things, applicants have to demonstrate that returning to their country would result in extreme hardship. Given their current problems in Ukraine, this seems to apply to Mr. Karnaoukh and his family.

What is not murky is the fact that, according to a review of some 223 asylum courts in the U.S. by DMR Associates, Judge Garcy rules one of the “strictest.”

Vassili Karnaoukh is not an illegal. He is a victim! He didn’t hide! He followed U.S. immigration procedures faithfully. He believed in our system and the American dream. He and his family are victims of a failed U.S. immigration bureaucracy, of incompetent attorneys who miss deadlines, of unscrupulous lawyers who prey on our people and promise the impossible.

Ukrainians are at risk. American journalists and attorneys have taken up the Karnaoukh case; other communities are demonstrating. Our “leadership” — save for the Ukrainian National Association, which is on record with a letter of protest — meanwhile, awaits their next opportunity to pose for pictures with Ukraine’s new “leadership.” Wow!

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

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

IN THE PRESS

Commentaries on Ukraine's 2006 parliamentary elections

Wall Street Journal, "Ukraine's Victors," op-ed by Michael McFaul, Hoover fellow and professor of political science at Stanford University and associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 29:

... The Orange Revolution marked a democratic breakthrough in Ukraine that has not only proved enduring but also been built upon.

The skeptics got a couple of important things wrong. First off, the volatile politics leading up to last weekend's vote were an expression of democratic politics, not their rejection. After criticizing Ms. Tymoshenko for her performance, President Yushchenko dismissed her and her government. That's the way it's supposed to work in democracies. Accusations of corruption against Mr. Yushchenko's administration, brought to light by an aggressive independent press, forced resignations of other officials from his staff. That's also democracy in action.

Then, most amazingly, both Ms. Tymoshenko and her detractors from within the Yushchenko inner circle had the chance to compete against each other for votes. No one was jailed, no one was removed from the ballot, no one was denied access to television, and no one was denied campaign financing from private donors. All that has become the norm in regimes further east of Ukraine.

Certainly, many Ukrainians may have been disappointed with the first results of the Orange Revolution. There is always a letdown after a revolution, as high expectations often aren't met. But Ukrainian citizens did not express their disappointment by checking out of the political process. On the contrary, the 70 percent turnout for a parliamentary election is truly remarkable. During the Orange Revolution, Ukrainians came out on the streets of Kiev [sic] to protect their vote. This week, they demonstrated yet again that they value their right to decide who rules Ukraine. ...

Los Angeles Times, "The Orange glow," editorial, March 28:

... Ukraine's firm step in the right direction is proof that even countries for which few had high hopes a decade ago are capable of demanding, and achieving, democratic self-governance. This is a backdrop of optimism to the otherwise depressing scene last weekend of Lukashenko's [Lukashenka's] brutal crackdown on peaceful demonstrators in Minsk [Miensk], the Belarusian capital. Police indiscriminately clubbed students, women and pensioners, locking up hundreds, including the former Polish ambassador to Belarus, at least one opposition leader, several international aid workers and some foreign journalists.

The good news is that the virus of democracy, especially in post-Communist Europe, has a proven track record of spreading and solidifying. It says something powerful that the Western country taking the lead role in pressuring Lukashenko is Poland and that the beleaguered protesters are consciously drawing on a tradition that runs from Solidarity to Czechoslovakia's Charter 77 to the various "color" revolutions belatedly percolating along Russia's borders. The protesters' bravery deserves our applause and support, and the 10 million other residents of Belarus

deserve the same opportunities finally being embraced in neighboring Ukraine.

Kyiv Post, "Yushchenko's choice will answer crucial questions," by Tammy Lynch, senior fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy, Boston University, April 6:

... A coalition with BYuT [the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc] would keep Ukraine enthusiastically on the road to Europe, with a possibly greater chance than last year to pass needed reforms. It would also mean a recommitment to promises made on maidan in particular, further investigation into who organized the murder of Georgy [Heorhii] Gongadze and other journalists and the possibility of undoing certain murky privatization deals, although it is notable that Tymoshenko has implied she may be willing to forgo re-privatizations if "her team" is allowed to ensure the completion of investigations, such as the Gongadze case.

Finally, a union between Our Ukraine and BYuT would accomplish something important in a democracy: It would respond to the apparent will of the people.

BYuT placed first in 13 of 24 regions, and accomplished the best ever showing in eastern Ukraine of any West-oriented party. These votes, when added to Our Ukraine and the partner Socialists, show that a plurality of Ukrainians support Ukraine's movement Westward and that support for the Party of Regions has decreased in the last year. ...

The blunt fact is that President Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko don't seem to like each other very much. Their personalities and work habits are worlds apart. Therefore, a coalition between Our Ukraine and the Party of Regions appears to be a real possibility. ...

The Guardian, "To criticize capitalism don't try to defend the dregs of Soviet socialism," by Timothy Garton Ash, April 6:

... James Harkin argued in a column last Saturday that many of the (unnamed) "Western commentators" who had been "curiously dewy-eyed" about Ukraine's Orange Revolution in 2004 are "lost for words" now that the party of the pro-Russian Viktor Yanukovich "has triumphed" in the recent parliamentary elections. Well, certainly not me. Why on earth should I, who rejoiced with the people in Kiev's [sic] independence square, be lost for words now? The Orange Revolution was not about giving power to any particular party. It was about using "people power" to give people the chance to choose their own government in a free and fair election. That's what Ukraine has just done. One British election monitor from the European Parliament said he thought the voting procedures used by the Ukrainians this time round were superior to those in Britain.

Roughly one in three Ukrainian voters, mainly in the more Russian-oriented east of the country, chose Yanukovich. That's about 10 percent less than he probably got in the rigged presidential election of 2004 that sparked the Orange Revolution. The so-called Orange vote was split between the now feuding lead-

(Continued on page 36)

NEWS AND VIEWS

An internment plaque is defaced and its message is questioned

by Lubomyr Luciuk

I feel soiled. I have never been robbed, but friends who have been tell me it takes a long time to get over the feeling of having your sanctum violated, of knowing strangers were where they had no right to be, of them taking away something intangible that can never be replaced.

In 1995, working with friends from across Canada, I helped unveil a trilingual bronze plaque, and a statue by the Kingston sculptor John Bostel, at the base of Castle Mountain in Banff National Park.

Even though the location is somewhat remote, the installation ceremony was an occasion. A few hundred people gathered to bear witness as priests from the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Canada blessed the site, hal- lowing the memory of those Ukrainians and other Europeans held there during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920.

The internees had been forced to do heavy labor for the profit of their jailers, everything from road construction and bridge-building to improving the Banff Springs Hotel's golf course. Nearby you can still find the remains of the far-less exclusive concentration camp where they were herded. There are relics, bits and pieces of the barbed wire and fence posts that once kept those men captive not because of anything they had done, but only because of where they had come from, who they were.

Of course, as they huddled in tents behind Canadian barbed wire, they had a remarkable view of the mountain's ramparts above. Yet could any of them have enjoyed that vista? These "enemy aliens" were inmates, unjustly deprived of their freedoms, transported far from their loved ones and communities. It is the rare prisoner who finds his jail attractive.

Two plaques were actually unveiled. The larger provides a basic statement about what happened. You can't squeeze much text onto a plaque when what you want to say must appear in three languages. So we hoped it would be the smaller plaque that would challenge passers-by to wonder.

It asks, simply "Why?" the very question the men at Castle Mountain, and later at Cave and Basin, must often have asked. Why were we rounded up when we did nothing wrong? Why are we forced to labor for others when prisoners of war do not have to work for their

Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph.D., is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

keepers? Why has this happened, when they invited us to come and help build up the Dominion? Why do they treat us as enemies when we are not, and never were?

As a scholar I have asked myself these questions for nearly two decades. To this day I do not have entirely satisfactory answers. We may never discern them, for the records of this dark chapter in our nation's history were erased from the national archives, deliberately, years ago.

But I do know that at least some of those who have driven along Highway 1A, on the old road from Banff to Lake Louise, a roadway these prisoners were forced to help build, have appreciated our efforts to recover this little-known episode in Canadian history. Flowers, and sometimes coins, have been left behind by stoppers-by. We have wondered who these anonymous well-wishers were. We have collected those coins, taking this bounty into Banff, leaving it in churches to help others, in memory of the internees.

But a few days ago or perhaps it was a few weeks ago some miscreant, or perhaps a gaggle of hooligans, went out to the Castle Mountain site. There they etched an obscenity onto one plaque and scratched the letters "BS," meaning bull- shit, onto the other.

A foul word can, of course, be dismissed as the effluence of an immature imbecile. But whoever did this went further, challenging the message of the plaques, disputing what makes the place where they stand so unique, as compared to any other place within the park.

In doing so, these still-at-large morons crossed a line. They defamed an entire community. That constitutes a hate crime.

That the perpetrators were yobs, night crawlers without conviction, drug and alcohol addled to boot, is probable. Perhaps they are too stupid to know that they are guilty of a hate crime and that, if caught and the Mounties claim they always get their man we will be insisting they be prosecuted for it. The Castle Mountain site was not sacred for them. Too bad for them, for it is for us.

Our statue and plaques recall an episode of state-sanctioned xenophobia and prejudice that many wanted us to forget, that some denied had even happened. So, just as no one would expect anyone to ignore the sort of scum who scrawl a swastika onto a synagogue, so too we will insist on the punishment of the Banff Park punks.

Of course the plaques themselves must be repaired, or replaced. That will take time and money. But what do we do about the bigots of Banff?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hamlet, Joan of Arc and two Viktors

Dear Editor:

Ukraine's leaders are definitely in a quandary. After the parliamentary elections in late March, President Viktor Yushchenko has a lot to think about. Even Hamlet would probably be asking: "to be or not to be?"

Mr. Yushchenko's old rival, former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, and his Party of the Regions gave the president and Our Ukraine a severe beating in this election. Mr. Yanukovich's bloc won the majority of seats (as expected) with 32.12 percent of the vote and a total of 186 seats in the new parliament. Is this Viktor really the true victor of these elections? This remains to be seen.

Yulia Tymoshenko, Mr. Yushchenko's old ally and another former prime minister, truly surprised everyone when her Bloc came in second with an unexpected 22.27 percent of the vote (clearly a protest vote against the Yushchenko bloc). Close to 5.6 million votes have now put 129 seats of the Tymoshenko bloc into parliament. "Joan" (Yulia) is in her glory for now. You may ask: What next? Will they unite forces again? Will they rekindle the Orange Revolution?

Meanwhile Our Ukraine, the pro-presidential bloc led by Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov, suffered a humiliating defeat, coming in third with only 13.9 percent of the vote, leaving Our Ukraine with 89 seats in the Verkhovna Rada. This is forcing Messrs. Yekhanurov and Yushchenko to form a

new coalition government in weeks to come. What bloc or blocs will Our Ukraine pick to go with is the \$64,000 question? Will it be Mr. Yanukovich's bloc or Ms. Tymoshenko's and Oleksander Moroz's? Who will be the new prime minister?

The other two parties to make it into the Verkhovna Rada are Mr. Moroz's Socialist Party, with 5.6 percent and 33 deputies, and the Communists, with 3.6 percent and 21 seats. The stage is now set. The question still remains, who will be the actors?

Chances are pretty good that Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions will be facing off against a combination of the Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialists, but only if the Orange coalition manages to come to a mutual understanding. What is clear is that the country is divided along ideological and regional lines, and will remain this way for quite some time. What is not clear is in which direction will Mr. Yushchenko go? Will he go with Moscow or with Europe?

Two weeks after Ukraine's election, the electorate is still captivated by this drama. The elections were a victory for the democratic process in Ukraine. What is very clear is that the Communists took the worst punishment in this election and that Mr. Yanukovich's bloc also lost more than 15 percent of its support since the last election.

The fact that only five parties remain in parliament is amazing. There were nearly 100 parties only a few years ago.

Now it's up to President Yushchenko and Our Ukraine to make the final decision before the next act. To be or not to be? Yulia or Yanukovich? Moscow or

Europe? Even the best political analysts are in a quandary. Whatever the outcome, Ukrainians have a free country and will do whatever it takes to keep it that way.

President Yushchenko, meanwhile, will have to be very careful. After all, it's the people who put him in power.

Stephan Welhasch
Berkeley Heights, N.J.

I think we should have party strategists consider teaming her up with Bagdad Bob, remember him? The former Iraqi information minister under Hussein ("I blame Al-Jazeera they are marketing for the Americans!" or "God will roast their stomachs in hell at the hands of Iraqis."). I understand he's looking for something to do. The two of them can provide some light counterpoint to a hell of a situation.

Alexander J. Balaban
Roselle Park, N.J.

GOP strategists and Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Paul Manafort and Rick Ahearn, former U.S. Republican Party strategists, represent the height of American free enterprise the very essence of the entrepreneurial spirit that catapulted our country to world supremacy. Where else could a couple of former U.S. government apparatchiks pounding the Washington pavement be brought into a foreign country (Ukraine) by its richest businessman (Rynat Akhmetov) who made his money deals so shady that he has to stay in the shade as much as possible, take up the cause of a former Russian-linked criminal-turned-politician (Viktor Yanukovich) who got booted out by an entire country sick of graft and corruption, and return the same back to the good graces of his people?

Ukrainians, c'mon! You gotta love it. How better to turn Ukrainian politics into its American equivalent. Think about it, the blue party is coming out with lines like "What happened was that [Mr Yanukovich] felt ill-used and very aggrieved by what happened last time [by his Russian handlers] and clearly went in the opposite direction." Man, it's like being inside the Beltway. A politically reincarnated Mr. Yanukovich has given up addressing supporters in prison slang, and now speaks in Ukrainian, as well as Russian. They scrubbed that baby clean.

A thank-you, and a correction

Dear Editor:

First of all, I want to thank Zenon Zawada for the excellent articles written about the recent elections in Ukraine. He was able to take a very large amount of information and, in a very short time, present the news in a factual and concise manner, in well-written articles.

I'm sure with the large amount of information, that minor a "oops" might occur and can be expected. Please note one correction to the "International observers say elections were free and fair" article in the April 2 issue of The Weekly. I was listed as the leader of the team of nine observers to Kharkiv. The actual team leader was Ihor Diaczun of Cleveland. I was the individual who reported about our group at the UCCA de-briefing session on Tuesday, March 28, as Mr. Diaczun was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

Mr. Diaczun coordinated and led our group very well, keeping in touch with all teams throughout the day, to make sure things were all right, ready to assist with any problems. As this was my first experience as an elections observer, I am thankful for his leadership.

I would appreciate if you could please make a correction as to the leader of the Kharkiv team in a future issue.

Keep up the great work!

Jaroslav G. Zawadiwsky
Hinckley, Ohio

NEWS AND VIEWS

Disabled and Vulnerable Orphans of Ukraine launches awareness campaign with wristbands

by Lillian Horodysky

The Disabled and Vulnerable Orphans of Ukraine (DVOU) non-profit foundation based in Philadelphia has launched the DVOU awareness wristband campaign. The purpose of this initiative is to promote greater awareness of impoverished conditions of Ukrainian orphanages serving special needs children with HIV/AIDS or severe physical and/or mental disabilities.

Funds raised will enable DVOU to continue to provide humanitarian aid and health care services to these orphanages, located in remote areas of Ukraine.

The lack of government funding and its proper allocation create dangerous living conditions, threatening orphans' lives. Throughout Ukraine, orphans in state care are seriously deprived of basic living necessities such as food, clothing, heating, plumbing and electricity. Death rates among orphaned children in Ukraine have increased over the past

Lillian Horodysky is executive director of Disabled and Vulnerable Orphans of Ukraine, a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization aimed at identifying and resolving critical issues and emerging areas of need in the lives of special-needs orphans suffering from HIV/AIDS, cerebral palsy, Downs Syndrome, tuberculosis and other diseases. Services offered include humanitarian aid, health care, advocacy, education and training.

decade, as a result of undernourishment and the rapid development of childhood diseases.

Orphans with special needs are commonly not provided the physical, intellectual or emotional stimulation essential for healthy development. Causes for this include understaffing, lack of training or staff disinterest. Though some children are resilient, most develop physical, language and behavioral problems, such as the inability to sit or walk, speech delays, attachment disorders and psychological disturbances.

One of the DVOU's goals is to relieve and prevent such aftereffects by providing assistance through programs supporting personnel and adding volunteers.

Each silicone wristband bears the DVOU signature mark, embossed on a gray and red swirled design. The gray color in the wristband symbolizes children with physical and mental disabilities; the red color symbolizes HIV/AIDS awareness.

These DVOU wristbands make a very powerful statement in support of this important cause. They help build awareness to raise the necessary funds to aid orphanages for customized projects, which improve the quality of life of special needs children in Ukraine.

Readers may support the DVOU awareness wristband campaign by purchasing wristbands at \$3 each at www.DVOUa.org or by writing to: 841 Highland Ave., No. 263, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

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.
- All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- 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.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date the information is to be published.
- Persons who submit any materials must provide a daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

Mailing address: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

PLEASE NOTE: Materials may be sent to The Weekly also via e-mail to the address staff@ukrweekly.com. Please do include your mailing address and phone number so that we may contact you if needed to clarify any information.

Please call or send query via e-mail before electronically sending anything other than Word documents. This applies especially to photos, as they must be scanned according to our specifications in order to be properly reproduced in our newspaper.

Any questions? Call 973-292-9800.

Harvard hosts conference on aftermath of Ukraine-Russia gas crisis

by Irene Maksymjuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies on February 5-6 held a conference on "The Ukrainian-Russian Gas Crisis and its Aftermath: Economic, Political and International Ramifications."

The conference opened on an unusually mild Sunday afternoon to an overflow crowd of scholars, students, government and business practitioners, and community members. Many quietly jockeyed outside the doors of the Ukrainian Institute's packed Seminar Room, concentrating hard to be able to hear the first panel introduce principal players, economic and geographic factors and, of course, political and commercial considerations.

In publicly bringing together scholars and analysts most familiar with the politics and economic dynamics of the region so soon after the height of the crisis, conference organizers Margarita Balmaceda and Lubomyr Hajda were opening a window on the sort of expert reflection and dialogue that non-specialists usually only hear about much later, and then only in its broadest and already filtered outline. They are expanding this window by making audio of the conference available to

Irene Maksymjuk, Ph.D., is senior lecturer, Center for English Language and Orientation Programs at Boston University.

the public. But for the roughly 70 conference attendees, the mood was anticipatory and the curiosity high: would we witness controversy and dispute, or emerging consensus?

Featured speakers included several with whom readers of The Ukrainian Weekly are undoubtedly already familiar, like Taras Kuzio of George Washington University, Roman Kupchinsky of RFE/RL in Prague, Gene Fishel of the U.S. State Department and the eminent scholar Marshall Goldman. The panels also drew on recent research by younger academics such as Dr. Balmaceda, a professor at Seton Hall University and research associate at both HURI and the Davis Center who studies post-Soviet and East European energy policies; Paul D'Anieri, associate professor and associate dean at the University of Kansas, whose research and numerous publications focus on politics and foreign policy in Ukraine; and Oxana Shevel, a political scientist also focused on contemporary Ukraine and currently a Shklar Research Fellow at HURI, on leave from Purdue University.

Further background and perspective were provided by John Gillingham, a historian who writes on the European Union and the political economy of 20th century Europe; Ferdinand Pavel, an economist at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin and a member of the German Advisory Group with the Ukrainian government in Kyiv; and Carol Saivetz, a Davis Center associate who

has written widely on Russian foreign policy toward the Middle East and Soviet successor states.

The program was divided into three sessions. After the economic players, agendas and outcomes were detailed on Sunday afternoon, Monday's sessions addressed first the political fallout in Ukraine, and then the international dimensions of the gas crisis. The sessions followed a standard format: presentations by a panel of experts, followed by commentary from Serhii Teriokhin, former Ukrainian minister of the economy as well as HURI research fellow in the 1990s, and finally, wrap-up by rapporteur Oleh Havrylyshyn, an economist at the International Monetary Fund. Dr. Havrylyshyn, like Mr. Fishel of the State Department, who spoke about international as well as Ukrainian domestic politics, was at pains to note that he spoke not in an official capacity, but was expressing his individual views.

Session 1 on Sunday afternoon laid the factual foundation and sounded the main themes that would be developed throughout the conference: Ukraine has yet to tackle the Soviet legacy of energy dependence and monumental energy inefficiency. Significant structural and technical energy sector reforms are required but, because of who benefits from Ukraine's energy inefficiency and dependence, also present enormous political challenges. The January gas agreement with Russia neither met those challenges nor provided sustainable solu-

tions to Ukraine's energy problems. Politically, it compounded the difficulty of democratic and economic reform in Ukraine, and internationally it signaled Russia's energy fueled resurgence.

Ukraine is currently the most inefficient user of energy in Europe and has one of the highest energy intensities in the world, requiring three times as much energy to produce the same unit of income as most developed countries. Rising gas prices may finally force some improvement on this front. But Ukraine is the seventh largest gas consumer in the world, and imports 70 percent of its gas, which accounted for over 40 percent of its energy needs before 2005.

What is most noteworthy is that Ukrainian energy production and efficiency actually fell in the 1990s, with energy intensity doubling. Dr. Balmaceda, who in 2004 was a Fulbright fellow at the Energy Program of the Ukrainian (Razumkov) Center for Economic and Political Research in Kyiv, observed that its energy sector has become the center of corruption in Ukraine and is largely controlled by Russian interests. The conference consensus was that the January gas agreement reflects and perpetuates this state of affairs, ultimately constraining both economic and democratic development in Ukraine.

Its energy supplies are a source of power that Russia has wielded interna-

(Continued on page 26)

International Congress of Ukrainian Historians scheduled to be held in Lutsk

by Lubomyr Wynar

KENT, Ohio The past 15 years have witnessed the rebirth of Ukrainian national historiography in which the International Congress of Ukrainian Historians has played a significant role. Held in Ukraine every three years, these congresses provide an important forum for the various generations of historians from across the world to meet and discuss themes that are central to Ukrainian historiography, to identify existing needs and define priorities, and to steer the future direction of Ukrainian historical scholarship.

In recognizing the importance for interaction between historians and scholarly institutions on a continual basis, the Ukrainian Historical Association initiated and promoted the concept of organizing and sponsoring periodic international congresses to be held in Ukraine and co-sponsored by the Institute of History and other institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukrainian scholarly institution, as well as universities hosting these congresses.

The first International Congress of Ukrainian Historians was held in May of 2000 at the National University of Chernivtsi with an attendance of over 350 historians and resulted in the printing of a four-volume publication of conference proceedings.

The Second International Congress of Ukrainian Historians was held in 2003 with over 500 scholars participating. To date, the first volume of conference proceedings has been published, the second is presently being printed and soon to be released, and the third and fourth are being prepared for printing.

These two congresses have provided to many of Ukraine's younger scholars the opportunity to meet each other, to directly interact with leading historians from Ukraine

Prof. Lubomyr Wynar is co-chair of the third International Congress of Ukrainian Historians.

and the diaspora, and to present their own research at a prestigious international forum.

The third International Congress of Ukrainian Historians will take place in Lutsk on May 17-19 at the Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University. It is significant that 2006 is a commemorative year marking the 140th anniversary of the birth of Ukraine's greatest historian, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, and also the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Hrushevsky Studies by the Ukrainian Historical Association as a separate branch of scholarly inquiry.

Organizers of this third congress include: the Ukrainian Historical Association (U.S.A., Canada, Ukraine), the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Scholarship of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the World Scholarly Council, and the Historical Section of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.

The Organizing Committee has invited President Viktor Yushchenko to serve as honorary chair of the congress. Prof. Ihor Kochan, rector of the Volyn National University, and Prof. Lubomyr Wynar, president of the Ukrainian Historical Association and head of the World Scholarly Council, are co-chairs. Vice-chairmen are academician Valeryj Smolij, director of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv); academician Iaroslav Isajevych, director of the Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Lviv); and Prof. Sviatlana Havryliuk, vice-rector of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University and head of the Lutsk Ukrainian Historical Association.

The Organizing Committee includes 27 historians and the Program Committee has 14 members, all representing various Ukrainian universities and academic institutes from Ukraine and the western diaspora.

Important historical topics will be addressed within the many planned ses-

sions, which include the following: "Present State, Problems and Direction of Contemporary Historiography"; "Source Studies and Other Special Historical Disciplines"; "Hrushevsky Studies"; "Ukrainian State Building: History and Future Perspectives"; "Genocide of the Ukrainian People during the 20th Century, the Holodomor"; "The Resistance Movement in Ukraine during the Second World War"; "Ukrainian Ethnic Territories beyond Ukraine's Borders"; "History of the Ukrainian Diaspora"; "The Christian Church in the History of the Ukrainian Nation"; "Ukraine Within Contemporary World and European Geopolitics"; "Problems of Retaining a National Culture within Globalization"; "World History in the Research of Ukrainian Scholars: Modern Approaches and Interpretations"; and "Historical Theory and Methodology."

Special attention will also be placed on the Ukrainian historical process in the 20th century and the central issues within contemporary Ukrainian historiography. In the session on Ukraine during World War II, the genesis and development of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and the activities of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and other political movements will be analyzed. In the section on the Ukrainian diaspora, attention will also be given to the nature and extent of cooperation between historians and scholarly institutions from Ukraine and the diaspora.

Congress organizers are anticipating the participation of historians from Ukraine, Poland, Germany, France, the United States and Canada, as well as from other countries. All congress proceedings and papers will be printed in a three-volume publication. Special committees will examine the issue of archival materials in Ukraine and the diaspora, and the nature of further cooperation between historians and scholarly institutions. A special meeting is planned between the editorial committees of the Ukrainian Historian (published by the Ukrainian Historical

Association) and the Ukrainian Historical Journal (published by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine).

The Organizing Committee has extended an invitation to historians as well as to members of scholarly institutions to participate in this congress. Non-historians who are enthusiasts of Ukrainian history are also welcome to attend.

Detailed information on the Third International Congress of Ukrainian Historians is available via e-mail from: prorektor-study@univer.lutsk.ua, romir@lt.ukrtel.net, ukrhist@aol.com. Mailing addresses are as follows: Prof. Sviatlana Havryliuk, vice-rector, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Cabinet No. 97, City of Lutsk, Volyn Oblast, Ukraine 43025, or The Ukrainian Historical Association, P.O. Box 312, Kent, OH 44240.

Members of the organizing and program committees are appealing to Ukrainians and Ukrainian institutions in the U.S. and Canada to support this important third International Congress of Ukrainian Historians. Financial donations would be most appreciated since funds are needed to help defray the transportation and attendance costs of many of our best and brightest younger historians from Ukraine and the Eastern Diaspora who, without some financial assistance, would be unable to attend. It is this generation that will define the future of Ukrainian historiography. These donations will also be used to publish the multi-volume proceedings of the congress. Donations are tax-deductible.

Donors from the U.S. should make contributions payable to "Ukrainian Historical Association (Congress Fund)" and mail them to The Ukrainian Historical Association, P.O. Box 312, Kent, Ohio 44240. For contributions from Canada, please make your checks payable to: "Ukrainian World Foundation" with a notation for "World Scholarly Council/Congress" and mail to Ukrainian World Congress, 145 Evans Ave., No. 207, Toronto, ON, M8Z 5X8.

“An unidentified guest,” and our family collections

by Yaro Bihun

CONCLUSION

Those who have read my January 2000 two-part feature in *The Weekly* about searching for family roots may think I fancy myself as my family's Jonathan from “Everything is Illuminated.” Fair enough, although I'm quite a bit older than Elijah Wood, who plays that part in the film. But I definitely do see my mother in the role of Lista (played by Laryssa Lauret), the lone remaining resident of what used to be Trachimbrod, who, in an isolated house in a sea of sunflowers, preserved as much as she could of the history of that Ukrainian shtetl.

Mychajlyna Kubrak Bihun was our Lista. She was the keeper of the family “tabernacle” and two old photo albums, all dating back into the 1930s, as well as a growing number of other boxes and large envelopes chronicling our past. She not only collected and identified these items (most of the photos are marked with at least the year and place), she somehow managed to bring all of it out of Ukraine, through war-torn Eastern Europe to the American-occupied Germany with three small children in tow (I was barely 1 then), while her husband, Mykola, was incarcerated along with other nationalist leaders in 1944 in German concentration camps.

She continued preserving and adding to this archive until she died in 1994: all our photographs, all kinds of documents and certificates, diplomas, Ukrainian community event programs even a German-language newsletter from the USS Gen. Harry Taylor that brought us to America old address books, postcards, Christmas and Easter cards, letters, including all of my correspondence home from the Army in the 1960s. She even saved the stashes of letters my brother and I received during our youthful, inter-city long-distance romances and carelessly left at home when we moved to Washington much to the delight of his teenage daughters many years later who found them during a family Christmas gathering at mother's place near Soyuzivka.

Every generation of every family should have at least one Lista and one Jonathan. In this respect, we may have been luckier than most. Still, all-too-many unidentified persons remain in our



In the oldest photograph preserved in her family collection by Mychajlyna Kubrak Bihun, dated 1915, she is held by her mother Anna Kubrak in a Peremyshl studio; also in the picture are her sister Osypa and brother Volodymyr, who 14 years later would meet her future husband Mykola Bihun in a Polish prison where both were incarcerated for nationalist activities; he died in Auschwitz in 1940.



Maria Bihun Fedorka and her daughter Kateryna before they set off in 1913 to join up with her husband Nick Fedorka in Colver, Pa.

photographs, “blank spots” in our family history and many questions that yearn to be answered.

Traveling to the origin of one's roots, as Jonathan did, is one way to help fill in the blanks, but not the only way. Among the other, closer-to-home ways, are:

- Finding and helping or becoming the Listas and Jonathans in the family.

- Interviewing the oldest members of the extended family and organizing get-togethers and reunions so family members can share this information. We had shared and learned much as some 60 members of our extended family from across the country came together in Cleveland in 2000 to mark our 50th anniversary in the United States.

- Locating the major collections of family photographs and making sure they are inscribed with all available identifying information. And doing it sooner rather than later.

- Reading memoirs and history books, and taking advantage of the capabilities



This Bihun family “tabernacle,” made sometime in the 1930s, has served as a portable sanctuary for the physical evidence of its history for more than 70 years.

of the Internet, where, for example, one can digitally:

- search the passenger lists of ships that arrived at Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924 (www.ellisland.org) where I found my Aunt Maria Fedorka's arrival with her 18-month old daughter Kateryna in 1913. Her immediate family knew about the daughter, who died soon after their arrival, but none could recall her name.

- locate the microfilm roll that contains the 1920 and 1930 census information about your relatives (www.archives.gov). To actually view the microfilm and photocopy the report, however, one must visit the National Archive in Washington or one of its regional centers. I did, and confirmed from their 1930 census interview that Maria Fedorka (“Teta Marunia” to us children) then was already the sole breadwinner of the family, taking in five boarders (four miners from “Poland” who spoke Ukrainian and one Hungarian). Her husband, Nick, a coal miner, was listed as “unemployed.” He must already have been suffering from tuberculosis or black lung from which, we know, he died a few years later.

- Check Social Security death and birth dates through the Mormon website

(www.familysearch.org). The Mormons also maintain a huge microfilm library of old church records from around the world, including Ukraine.

- Find just about anything, important or trivial, through Google (www.google.com), where I learned, among other things, that the USS Gen. Harry Taylor troop ship that brought us to America later transported the 1956 Hungarian Revolution refugees from Europe to Australia, was refitted for sophisticated satellite missile tracking operations and renamed the Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, served as a backdrop in the science fiction movie “Virus,” and now is slated to spend the rest of its days submerged as an artificial reef off the Florida Keys.

- Scan, enlarge and study the photographs, paying attention to background details that normally go unnoticed. A seemingly innocuous 2-by-3-inch photograph of my mother standing with a young boy at the doorway of a Peremyshl bookstore where she worked in the 1930s takes on special meaning when enlarged, making readable some of the headlines on newspaper front pages posted on the bookstore's doorway columns: “Turbulent Days,” “The Battle for Asia,” “Peace Plan?” “Capitulation of

(Continued on page 23)



Mychajlyna Bihun photographed in 1944 after a mandatory de-lousing bath at the refugee camp in Strasshoff, Austria, through which she brought her family to the American zone in Germany.



This identification photo of Volodymyr Kubrak, with the Lviv newspaper Dilo stamped on it, may well have been used as cover for his nationalist clandestine activities in the 1930s. Caught by the Gestapo, he died in Auschwitz in 1940.



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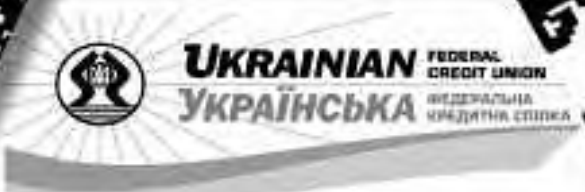



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ЗАПРОШУЄМО НА

**УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ ФЕСТИВАЛЬ
19, 20, 21, ТРАВНЯ 2006 р.**



Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America

Greetings and best wishes at this Easter time of personal and spiritual renewal!

We are again witnessing changes in Ukraine that will have a long range impact on the development of the country. The significant voter turn out was a sign of the people's maturity in demanding accountability and civil rights as citizens. This moment in Ukraine's history underscores the importance of an educated population in the country's steps toward political freedom, economic prosperity, and accountability in government.

Since the Kyiv Mohyla Academy's renewal fifteen years ago after centuries of closures, the university regained its historic position as a leader of higher education in Ukraine and one of the most respected universities in Eastern Europe. NaUKMA is a major contributor of the fundamentals of Ukraine's intellectual and cultural growth as the country continues its democratic national development.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



The Kyiv Mohyla Library in its reconstruction stage. The planned opening is Fall 2006.

THE NEW KYIV MOHYLA LIBRARY

In 2004 NaUKMA obtained a historic building for its new library. The university embarked on a major program of the building's renovation. Renovation of the building is almost completed, but the interior is still in need of remodeling and technical equipment and systems. The opening of the new library is planned for autumn of 2006.

Funding for the new Kyiv Mohyla Library is still short of its goals. By making a donation to the Library

Fund you will make a significant contribution to systematic and uniform changes in accessing information within Ukraine and opening the country's access to the world. The names of donors will be permanently displayed on a wall at the entrance of the Library. We thank you in advance for your consideration of this funding request. When sending your donation, please make a notation that the funds are for the Library Fund.

IN MEMORIAM

We express our deep sympathies to the family and colleagues of Dr. Mykhailo Bryk, first vice-president of NaUKMA, who passed away on March 5, 2006. Dr. M. Bryk was professor of chemistry, researcher,

founder of the school of membrane technology, a recognized scientist and administrator dedicated to the re-establishment of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Ukraine's independence. May his soul rest in peace.

NAUKMA EVENTS

NAUKMA IS INCLUDED IN THE BOLOGNA AGREEMENT ON DOCTORAL EDUCATION REFORM

Delegates at a conference on European reforms of doctoral programs which took place in Brussels in January 2006 voted to accept the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy into the Association of Universities belonging to the Bologna Group. The Association of European Universities, composed originally of 29 European countries and supported by the European Commission, signed an agreement in Bologna in 1999 to reform their higher education systems in an effort to set standards and uniformity in an attempt to establish European commonality in education.

ANNE APPLEBAUM, AUTHOR OF GULAG - A HISTORY

NaUKMA hosted author Anne Applebaum at the presentation of her Pulitzer winning book *Gulag-A History*. Anne Applebaum is a columnist and member of the editorial board of the *Washington Post*, she has worked as the foreign and deputy editor of the *Spectator* (London), as the Warsaw correspondent for the *Economist*, and as a columnist for the on-line magazine *Slate*, as well as several British newspapers. Her work has also appeared in the *New York Review of Books*, *Foreign Affairs*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, among many other publications.

EAST-WEST ECONOMIC BRIDGE

As a result of a collaborative program with the Warsaw University of Economics, NaUKMA students became

members of the *East-West Bridge*, a program in economic education that will link exchanges between the two universities. One of the program's components is the establishment of a permanent collaborative project entitled *East-West Business*, to promote and assist investments in Polish-Ukrainian business ventures.

LAW STUDENTS - INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WINNERS

Law students from six Ukrainian universities participated in the International Competition in Public Law at The Hague, Netherlands. The competition included more than 1600 students from more than 300 law schools that represented over 80 countries.

Representatives of NaUKMA Law School were awarded third prize for a team. NaUKMA law student Olha Burluk was awarded first prize in the category of "Best Public Speaker".

SEMINAR FOR LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

As part of its continuing work in uniform standards, catalogize, methodology in documentation and integrated library systems, the Kyiv Mohyla Library sponsored and hosted a series of seminars for library professionals from participating libraries in Ukraine. Among others, the training program included the Lesia Ukrainka Public Library and the Denysenko Science and Technology Library of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES MACE

NaUKMA held a round table in memory of James Mace entitled *Ukraine as a Post Genocide Society*. After many years of teaching in the United States, James Mace, historian, teacher and author, established his academic career as professor of history at Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Professor Mace dedicated his life to research and writing on the Ukrainian Famine.

PHILIP KOTLER AT KYIV MOHYLA BUSINESS SCHOOL

Distinguished Professor of International Marketing at Northwestern University Kellogg School of Business, the world's leading authority in strategic marketing, Phil Kotler will present a master class titled *Marketing in the New Economies* at the Kyiv Mohyla Business School on May 17. Professor Kotler will also lecture separately to the students of the Kyiv Mohyla MBA class.

CHORNOBYL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

NaUKMA hosted an exhibit of photographs, paintings and drawings by children of families from the Chernobyl region to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the nuclear disaster. The collection will be exhibited at the art gallery of Oxford University on April 24 through May 7.

JOB FAIR AT NAUKMA

The job fair which took place at the beginning of the year included 34 Ukrainian and international companies, which are interested in hiring qualified employees. NaUKMA graduates rank high among employers who need highly trained professionals and staff personnel.

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Ukrainian political prisoners celebrating Christmas in Polish prison in Wisnicz in 1929. (Name, city, term of imprisonment, in years.) Sitting (left to right): Andriy Shchyrba, Yavoriv (3 yrs.), Ivan Paslavskyi, Yaroslav (5), Roman Tulskyi, Drohobych (4), Mykola Bihun, Stryi (6), Pavlo Zablotskyi, Peremyshl (4), Ivan Sovhan, Peremyshl (2 1/2), Ivan Pokladok, Peremyshl (2 1/2). Standing (left to right): Osyp Hrytsulyk, Stanislaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk) (3), Volodymyr Kubrak, Peremyshl (3), Vasyl Kolodiy, Peremyshl (4), Osyp Stetsura, Lviv (3).

“An unidentified guest”...

(Continued from page 11)

Romania,” “France Undermined.” In a companion photo taken that same day but from a different angle, a small poster behind her reads “Germans in Ukraine.”

My family roots piece in 2000 featured a photograph of my father within a group of Ukrainian political prisoners celebrating Christmas in a Polish prison in Wisnicz. That photograph is the centerpiece of our “tabernacle,” which may well have been especially made to hold it, judging by the way the box is inlaid with a Ukrainian trident within a wreath of thorns dominating its cover and the inscription “Wisnicz 1929” next to where the photo was framed on the inside of the cover.

In my younger years, I had looked into that box many times. I recognized my father’s face in the picture, but never wondered who were the other 10 men sitting and standing beside him. The inscription on the front of the photograph seemed enough for me then: “Our Christmas in the Polish prison in Wisnicz. January 7, 1929.”

Only when I removed the photograph to scan it for inclusion with The Weekly roots feature did I learn from the inscription on the reverse that standing behind him was my future uncle, Volodymyr Kubrak (Uncle Vlodko). The wonderful researchers at the Lviv Historical Archives who helped find many old family root documents for me also found a copy of the prosecutor’s charges against him and his five co-defendants from Peremyshl, but since my mother had already passed on, as had all of our family members of her gen-

eration, so had my hope of finding out any more about him.

Until two years ago, that is, when The Ukrainian Weekly carried a piece about the Ukrainian Canadian film maker Yuriy Luhovy working on a documentary about the Polish concentration camp Bereza Kartuzka. My father had spent 18 months there in 1934-1935, so I wondered if Uncle Vlodko did his “graduate work” there as well, as I suspected he would be inclined to do.

(I sometimes refer jokingly, of course to my father’s incarcerations in educational terms: he received his “undergraduate” degree at Wisnicz, went to “graduate school” at Bereza Kartuzka, and did almost a year’s worth of “post-graduate work” in a German concentration camp in 1944. But there is nothing funny about my being lucky that he was in Krakow in 1939 when the Soviets entered Lviv, otherwise, I would not have come into this world. The NKVD left mostly corpses behind in Lviv’s prisons when they fled before the German invasion.)

I recalled seeing the book “Peremyshl: The Western Stronghold of Ukraine” while transporting my parents’ book collection from Kerhonkson, N.Y., to Washington and hoped that it would have some mention about my uncle’s activities there between the wars. And it did, although not about any connection to Bereza Kartuzka. It reported about his 1928 trial that sent him to Wisnicz and, five pages later, about the period when the Soviet and German armies occupied opposing banks of the Sian River running through Peremyshl. It noted that a number of local Ukrainian nationalists would sneak



Mychajlyna Bihun with her family at the DP camp in Berchtesgaden in 1947. She is holding a recent addition to the family, Christine; standing around them are Marta and, below, Yaroslav and Andrew. Their father, Mykola, not shown, was away working for the Ukrainian Committee in Munich.

back and forth across the border, coordinating their activities with their colleagues on the other side. The Gestapo eventually apprehended some of them, including my uncle, the author writes, adding: “Volodymyr Kubrak was sent to Auschwitz in 1940 where he later died.”

I learned this from a book that for more than 10 years had been sitting unread in a bookcase less than 10 feet from the dinner table.

The inscription on the back of the Wisnicz prison photo, which probably had not been looked at since it was inserted into the frame of our “tabernacle” in the 1930s, identified not only my father and my uncle. Someone had meticulously inscribed the names of all 11 prisoners, including the cities they came from and the length of their prison terms. I must have felt their identities were not germane to the roots story back in 2000 and left them “unidentified.”

I was wrong. They, as my father, uncle and many others, sacrificed much during this critical period in Ukraine’s history. Some of them, like Uncle Vlodko, may well have paid the ultimate price. They deserve to be identified.

Mea maxima culpa.

(Please see the photo with a complete caption).

UNA Branch 287...

(Continued from page 5)

requests a copy of the convention minutes must be supplied with a printed copy.

- The editors-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly have all the rights accorded to delegates to a UNA convention.

- Each UNA member is required to subscribe to at least one of the UNA’s official publications, i.e., Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

- The title of the UNA treasurer in the Ukrainian-language should be changed from “kasyr” to “skarbnik” (in recognition of current proper usage).

As well, the branch members discussed the proposal to reduce the number of advisors on the General Assembly. No consensus was reached on this issue as some agreed that the number could be reduced since the advisors have no special assignments, while others argued that they should be used more effectively as

the UNA’s representatives in local communities.

The branch decided to suggest that all advisors should be assigned specific projects, for which they are responsible and about which they should report to annual meetings of the General Assembly and to UNA Conventions. Furthermore, the branch decided that it should inquire what projects were assigned to advisors during the past four years and what was accomplished. These questions should be answered at the upcoming convention.

Finally, the branch proposed two changes to the section on branches in the UNA Manuals:

- Branches shall meet at least once per year (instead of monthly).

- Five members shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting of branches having less than 60 members. For branches having 60 or more members, a quorum is one-tenth of the membership.

The meeting was then adjourned and fraternal discussions continued over coffee and donuts.



The Ukrainian American Professionals
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invites the public to hear

Prof. Yaroslav Hrytsak

speak about

How Ivan Franko Became a Genius

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.

In the atrium of the UNA Building at
2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, New Jersey

Professor Hrytsak teaches history at Lviv University and has also taught at Columbia University and the Central European University.

He is the author of over 400 publications on history and current affairs; his new biography of Franko is scheduled to appear in September.

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NEWSBRIEFS

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agreement by the Regions Party will be sent to all political forces that passed the 3 percent barrier to enter the Parliament. "We've decided that negotiations should start on the day of official announcement of results of the elections," Mr. Kushnariov said. He explained that thus far the Regions Party had held no negotiations on forming a parliamentary majority. "The leader of the party had preliminary consultations with Yuriy Yekhanurov [Our Ukraine] and means to hold consultations with SPU [Socialist Party] leader Oleksander Moroz and CPU [Communist Party] leader Petro Symonenko. If Yulia Tymoshenko wants to join the negotiations, we are open for a dialogue," he said. Mr. Kushnariov confirmed that post distribution was not discussed during the consultations. "But if the coalition is created with us, then the prime minister must be the leader of the winning party." Under the Regions Party's coalition agreement, the winning party would get the posts of the prime minister, first vice prime minister, vice prime minister for economic and agricultural matters, and the ministers responsible for budgetary affairs and other principal posts. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych sees "universal coalition"

KYIV According to the Regions Party's website, it was reported on April 5 that the leader of the Party of the Regions, Viktor Yanukovych, is pressing for what he calls a "universal coalition," which must incorporate both the pro-presidential forces and the Regions Party. Mr. Yanukovych offered his opinion that, in forming a new government, President Viktor Yushchenko must think about the nation's future and about creating a viable, efficient parliamentary majority, that is, a coalition that would maximally take into account society's prevalent sentiment and which would, figuratively speaking, reflect the configuration of the entire society. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych: don't repeat 2005 mistake

KYIV The leader of the Party of the Regions, Viktor Yanukovych, said revival of the "maidan team" is a repeat of the mistake made in 2005 in its worst variant. The ex-prime minister offered that assessment in an article in Zerkalo Nedeli, it was reported on April 10. According to Mr. Yanukovych, attempting to create a coalition, the political opponents of the Party of the Regions urge unification of democratic forces, to which they refer only as the Orange parties. Thus, the Party of the Regions, which practically won the elections and is supported by millions of voters, is declared a priori a "non-democratic force," he said. Unfortunately, Mr. Yanukovych continued, "such calls are aired by the president, too, though he should place himself "above the struggle." Mr. Yanukovych said Ukrainian politicians should move toward establishing an efficient parliamentary majority and "to get rid of all maidan anachronisms." He added, "We won't be able to constructively work for the benefit of the country, if labels keep on being pinned on the Party of the Regions." (Ukrinform)

President signs Chornobyl bill

KYIV President Viktor Yushchenko on April 7 signed the bill on "The All-National Program of Overcoming the Chornobyl Disaster for 2006 to 2010," which the Parliament passed on March 14. The program provides for a series of measures in health care and the improvement of social protection for persons who suffered from the Chornobyl disaster, strengthening and maintaining nuclear

safety and anti-radiation protection for the population of radiation-polluted areas. On April 26 Ukraine will mark the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian, Belarusian and Russian citizens were involved in combating the accident's consequences. As a result of the disaster, 17 countries of Europe, with a general area of 207,500 square kilometers, were polluted with radiation. (Ukrinform)

Chornobyl march slated for Miensk

MIENSK The Belarusian opposition is planning to stage a march in Miensk on April 26 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl catastrophe with or without official permission from the city authorities, Belapan reported on April 11, citing opposition leader Alyaksandr Milinkevich. Mr. Milinkevich noted that the march will be a politically charged event, and the release of political prisoners will be high on its agenda. "[The march] should show the Belarusians that there are increasingly more people who are not indifferent, who are able to defend their dignity," he said. "We're beginning a siege of the fortress, an information and mobilization siege. And it is very important for us to know to what extent our civil society is ready to stand up against the regime." In the official application for permission to hold the march, Viktor Ivashkevich, deputy chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front, asked the Miensk City Executive Committee to allow some 1,000 demonstrators to gather on the capital city's October Square at 6 p.m. on April 26, march along Independence Avenue to the National Academy of Sciences and hold a rally there. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine wants to discuss USSR assets

KYIV The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry has expressed disagreement with the position of Russia, which has refused to discuss with Ukraine issues involving the former USSR's assets located abroad and has stated that Ukraine's claims to them are groundless. In a commentary issued on April 7, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Ukraine stressed that the issues should be resolved on the basis of exhaustive information about the assets and liabilities of the former USSR, underscoring that it has not yet received such information. According to the ministry, the data about the structure of the former USSR's assets and liabilities contained in the documents that were signed in the early 1990s were merely preliminary working data. In particular, according to the ministry, the data do not include the sizes of the currency and diamond reserves of the former USSR and its investments abroad including the capital of Soviet banks in deposit accounts with foreign banks. According to the ministry, joint work aimed at determining, evaluating and distributing the former USSR's liabilities has not been completed. Moreover, the ministry said that the Ukrainian-Russian intergovernmental agreement of December 9, 1994, on the so-called "zero option" for sharing the former USSR's assets and liabilities does not contain such information. As a result, the Ukrainian Parliament still has not ratified this agreement. At the same time, reports from Russia indicate that the former USSR's real estate assets abroad alone are worth over \$400 billion. The Foreign Affairs Ministry stresses that Russia and Ukraine have equal status as the primary inheritors of the former USSR and that Russia's proclamation that it is the "successor state of the USSR" is legal nonsense. The ministry notes that a proposal was again made to Russia in March of

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NEWSBRIEFS

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this year to continue bilateral consultations on the entire range of issues involving inheritance of the former USSR’s assets and liabilities. Thus, Ukraine considers the issue of sharing the former USSR’s assets and liabilities an issue that remains open for constructive dialogue. (Ukrinform)

Greens seek new coalition of left

KYIV The Green Party of Ukraine means to create a coalition of left forces. “We mean to be the new left,” said Maryna Bondarenko, the party’s press secretary. She stressed that the new coalition “must become the third force to partition the ‘blue’ and ‘orange.’ ” According to the party spokesperson, the Green Party convened a congress to discuss post-election strategies and to tackle some internal issues. On March 25 some members of the political council of the party decided to discharge Chairman Vitalii Kononov from his position at the head of the party. The 87,000-member-strong party gained 0.54 percent of the ballots, which is 137,845 votes, in the March 26 elections.

New benefits for birth mothers

KYIV According to Vice Prime Minister Viacheslav Kyrylenko, a governmental committee has endorsed amendments to the procedures for allocating benefits to birth mothers. The amendments provide for paying birth benefits to Ukrainian females who give birth to babies while temporarily abroad. The baby birth allowance is 8,500 hrv (about \$1,700 U.S.). Raising these benefits was one of the main points in Viktor Yushchenko’s election platform. (Ukrinform)

“Gulag” book presented in Kyiv

KYIV A translation of American journalist Anne Applebaum’s book “Gulag: A History” was presented in Kyiv, reported Ukrinform on April 5. In 2004 the book won the Pulitzer prize. According to different sources, after World War II as many as 2 million Ukrainians were deported to the “Gulag.” (Ukrinform)

German experts discuss Chornobyl

BERLIN On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, the German Bundestag’s Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety held an open session, with the participation of experts and public figures. Between 600,000 and 1 million persons may be regarded as victims of the Chornobyl disaster, according to a member of the non-governmental organization International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Angelica Claussen. She added that some 100,000 persons have died from illnesses caused by the nuclear blast. She argued that the figure of 4,000 Chornobyl victims, which was cited by a 2005 report issued by the United Nations, is bogus. According to the Bundestag Environment Committee’s Vice-Chairperson Eva Bulling-Schroeter, a group of Bundestag members was supposed to travel to Ukraine to learn the true situation in the Chornobyl zone. Some 900 Chornobyl NGOs operate in Germany, aiding Chornobyl victims to the tune of 20 million euros annually. Since 1998 the German government has contributed 60.5 million euros to Ukraine through the Foundation of the Protection of Chornobyl, of which 12.4 million euros were allotted in December 2005 for the construction of a new sarcophagus at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant. (Ukrinform)

McCain calls for tougher line

WASHINGTON U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), a vocal critic of many of President Vladimir Putin’s policies, said in Washington on April 2 that the “glimmerings of democracy are very faint in Russia today” and that the United States should take a tough response to those policies, news agencies reported. He stressed that Mr. Putin has repressed the Russian media, backed the authoritarian rule of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and not cooperated with Washington on the Iranian nuclear issue. Sen. McCain repeated his earlier call to President George W. Bush not to attend the summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized countries in St. Petersburg in July. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Bush will not boycott G-8 summit

WASHINGTON President George W. Bush said at the Washington offices of Freedom House on March 29 that he wants to attend the Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized countries summit in St. Petersburg in July because he fears that shunning

President Vladimir Putin to protest his foreign and domestic policies would be counterproductive, strana.ru and mosnews.com reported. “I need to be in a position where I can sit down with [Putin] and be very frank about our concerns,” Mr. Bush added. He noted that unnamed members of Russian human rights groups have told him in the past that their “universal consensus ... is that it is important for the United States to be in a position to be able to express our concerns” to the Russian authorities. The president added that leaders of unnamed other countries often ask him to “pass a message for me” to the Russians at top-level U.S.-Russian meetings. He said that he has not “given up” hope on democracy in Russia. U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Andrei Illarionov, who recently resigned as economic adviser to Mr. Putin, have called on Mr. Bush not to attend the summit. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukraine wants to serve on rights council

KYIV Ukraine is among a score of nations seeking membership in the United Nations Human Rights Council, which was established last month. The council’s mem-

bers will be elected at a U.N. General Assembly session on May 9. Ukraine, being one of the U.N.’s co-founders, is a member of many U.N. institutions, including ECOSOC, the Commission for Human Rights, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Statistics Commission, the UNICEF Executive Committee and other bodies. Ukraine was thrice elected as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. In 1997 Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko of Ukraine was elected president of the 52nd session of the U.N. General Assembly. (Ukrinform)

Gas, electricity tariffs to be raised

KYIV The government on March 30 decided to increase the price of gas for the general population and state-supported organizations by 25 percent as of May 1, the UNIAN news service reported. In May, individual consumers will have to pay 220 hrv (\$43), while budget-subsidized organizations will pay 360 hrv (\$71) per 1,000 cubic meters of gas. The government also increased the price of electricity for individual consumers by 25 percent as of May. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Harvard hosts...

(Continued from page 10)

tionally long before it shut off gas to Ukraine on January 1. Dr. Goldman ticked off a list of similar moves: in 1948 against Israel, the 1960s against China, and already in 1992-1993 against Ukraine. Lithuania, Georgia and Moldova have also been recent targets as Russia asserts its will in its “near abroad.”

Despite some negative fall-out from the January shut-off to Ukraine, Russia clearly sees no problem in emulating OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) and using energy as a foreign policy tool. Indeed, strengthening its energy monopoly not only drives Russia’s Central Asia policy but, according to Dr. Saivetz, may also lead to militarization of the Caspian Sea. Several presenters referred to President Vladimir Putin’s (unfinished) doctoral dissertation on mining as a valuable clue to current strategic thinking in Moscow.

In Ukraine’s case recently, Dr. Goldman noted that Russia is unwilling to finance Ukraine’s turn to the West by continuing to subsidize its energy needs. President Putin has said Europe and the U.S. are welcome to provide such funding. Russia’s goals, in the meantime, are to discredit Ukraine, influence its March elections, make it an example to other Commonwealth of Independent States countries like Georgia, and in the process elicit support for a Baltic pipeline to Europe while also making more money.

Last-minute insertion of the mysterious intermediary, RosUkrEnergo, into the January gas deal may well serve these overall goals and strengthen Mr. Putin’s hand in the matter. Mr. Kupchinsky reported that the two presidential officials handling RosUkrEnergo are important players in the political factions behind

the Russian president. Whatever the connection to Mr. Putin, RosUkrEnergo’s murky front-company ancestry includes Russian and international scam artists. Presenters had no doubt that its involvement and the lack of transparency in the agreement overall will only increase highly profitable shadow activity.

So, the agreement not only does nothing to encourage needed energy reform or economically sustainable development of Ukraine’s energy sector, but is likely to forestall them. The price Ukraine pays for gas nearly doubled, but remains one of the lowest in the former Soviet Union, which is not necessarily in Ukraine’s long-term interests. As the economists repeatedly pointed out, the new price has no more discernible relation to underlying realities than did the old.

And even though Ukraine’s newly agreed receipt of transit payments in cash does introduce an element of the transparency demanded by the Orange Revolution, the transit fee is fixed and not tied to future increases in gas price. Like the negotiations themselves, the reason for not linking transit fees to prices remains opaque, as does RosUkrEnergo which serves no economically justifiable purpose – it merely enables continued systemic corruption and siphoning off of resources that could otherwise be invested in much-needed sector improvements.

The good news is that its very inefficiency gives Ukraine huge energy savings potential. Industry accounts for 41 percent of consumption, and especially energy-intensive sectors like metallurgy have been quite successful since 1990. Dr. Pavel estimates that industry needs to reduce its profligate energy consumption only by about a third to compensate for the January agreement’s projected negative impact on GDP. Even just rudimentary conservation measures could also

produce significant savings in the residential sector, which represents 35 percent of consumption.

However, absent such changes, a GDP decline of 9 percent can be expected over the next five to eight years. Further, Dr. Balmaceda pointed out that consumer (residential) energy prices in Ukraine have been among the lowest in the former Soviet Union, and that price increases and supply disruptions are an obviously sensitive political and regional issue. That ordinary consumers are used to lower prices makes populist measures politically attractive, though they perpetuate dependence on Russian goodwill and merely postpone necessary reforms.

As Dr. Kuzio noted, while increased media freedom enables better coverage of how those at the top manipulate and benefit from deals like the January gas agreement, for the average Ukrainian citizen the reported machinations are not only difficult to follow but also breed cynicism. Their first question remains “Is my home heated?” The second, and perhaps more problematic calculation is that since all politicians are, at best, unreliable, and at worst, corrupt, we should vote for “our own” crook.

Energy-intensive industries are concentrated in the southern and eastern regions that supported Yanukovich in the last election and now see the upcoming one as an opportunity to revenge a stolen victory, according to Dr. Kuzio. Although Mr. Yanukovich’s personal support has declined to 30 percent in recent polls, support for President Yushchenko has weakened more precipitously. Dr. Kuzio reported that disappointment with President Yushchenko is up 46.4 percent; even among Yushchenko supporters, 40 percent currently “don’t know” if the domestic situation is good or bad.

So, despite a changed political context

that is rife with new ideas, Mr. Yushchenko’s leadership style, slow start, missed opportunities, questionable entourage and reaching out to the Party of the Regions have, Mr. Fishel asserted, contributed to the collapse of the Orange Revolution. Return to “business as usual” has enabled rebirth of the Party of the Regions, which Mr. Fishel believes will haunt Ukraine for a long time to come.

Thus, Monday’s sessions made it abundantly clear that the January gas agreement bodes nothing positive for Ukraine. Presenters agreed it instead brings greater opportunity for Russia to corrupt Ukrainian politics. The current government’s failure to meet the challenges of reform, rather than rising gas price per se, will likely make the Party of the Regions the biggest March election winner, bringing in a non-reformist coalition Dr. Kuzio characterized as “Kuchma Light.”

Mr. Teriokhin added that local elections pose the biggest threat to reform, as regional leaders gain responsibility and the power to bloc further democratization and economic reform.

Meanwhile, what external counter there may be to Russia’s corrupting influence on Ukrainian politics remains unclear. Europe responds to Russia’s assertion of monopoly power by continuing to diversify its energy sources and building alternate supply routes. Its political sensitivity to Russian muscle flexing appears low. The U.S. is sympathetic but otherwise engaged. And in diversifying their energy markets, will the Central Asians continue to have fuel enough for Ukraine?

Dr. Havrylyshyn concluded that the East-West tension that has traditionally plagued Ukraine was at play in the gas crisis and has not been resolved. Where that leaves Ukraine’s prospects for integrating with Europe remains to be seen.

Fourth Wavers prepare program in Jersey City to honor Shevchenko



A view of Jersey City’s program in honor of Taras Shevchenko, bard of Ukraine.

by Zenon Halkowycz

JERSEY CITY, N.J. The Jersey City, N.J., branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America commemorated the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko by inviting the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) girls’ choir Prolisok from Yonkers, N.Y., as the principal attraction of a program on March 12.

The entire program was prepared by the Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigrants to the United States.

The branch president, Zenon Halkowycz, greeted the community and introduced Olha Nukolyn as the artistic director of the program. Ms. Nukolyn, who has extensive theater experience from her native Ternopil, prepared the program and enriched its every moment with appropriate commentary and excerpts of Shevchenko’s poems.

As the choir performed its first selection, “Reve ta Stohne Dnibr Shyrokyi,” the audience sensed that it was in for a real artistic treat. The Prolisok’s director and choirmaster is Andriy Stasiw, a well-known pianist and conductor.

Other selections during the course of the program included “Tiutiunnyk,” Taras Petrynenko’s well-known “Ukrayino” and “Hospody Pomylui,” and “Mavly.”

Anna Chreptuk was the program’s main speaker, and her topic was “Continue the struggle and you will overcome.” She tied in Shevchenko’s poems to the current struggle for a truly independent Ukrainian nation. She also recited two poems.

Also performing were the children of Ridna Shkola, the local School of Ukrainian Studies, who recited a multitude of Shevchenko poems.

Mariana Nukolyn of the Jersey City SUM branch recited the famous poem “Rozryta Mohyla,” and Vasyl Symonenko’s “Lebedi Materynstva” was performed by Larissa Balko. Soloist Marijana Zajec sang a nostalgic “Svityt Misiats” and Prolisok performed “Mamo” with Aleksandra Sckaferovska as soloist.

The program came to an end with the entire audience and choir singing Shevchenko’s “Zapovit” (Testament).

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The leader of the Commissioned Corps is the surgeon general, Vice Adm. Carmona, a surgeon and public health physician with decades of hands-on experience in emergency medical response management. Vice Adm. Carmona is also a decorated combat veteran who served in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Army’s Special Forces. In 2002 President George W. Bush selected him to serve as the nation’s 17th surgeon general.

Woonsocket community pays tribute to Shevchenko, poet laureate of Ukraine



Participants of Woonsocket’s celebration honoring Taras Shevchenko.

WOONSOCKET, R.I. St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Woonsocket was the setting for a celebration in honor of Taras Shevchenko.

The opening prayer and introduction were conducted by Msgr. Roman Golemba, followed by recitation of “Testament,” or “Zapovit,” by Kateryna Klowan. A brief summary of Shevchenko’s life and poetry was presented by Sofia Kachor in Ukrainian.

A solo rendition of Ukrainian folk songs was performed on the saxophone by Marko Tkach with accompaniment by his father, Ivan Tkach. Dimitry Wolanky’s “Try Shlakhyy” and Oksana Karkhut’s

“Meni Trynadtsiatyi Mynalo” were followed by a very interesting personal comparison in English by Cornel Osadsa.

A group of mothers and children dressed in fine embroidery recited “Sadok Vyshnevyi” and sang “Yikhav Kozak za Dunay” with masterful accompaniment on the accordion by Yuri Minyayluk.

Besides the organizers, participants and guests, a representative of Ukrainian National Association Branch 241, Secretary-Treasurer Janet Bardell, was present.

A delicious pot-luck lunch followed the program.

Dr. Boris Lushniak...

(Continued from page 4)

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Rynat Akhmetov...

(Continued from page 1)

The catalyst for Mr. Akhmetov's political maneuvering was his realization that, if he didn't become active in politics, he would become its victim.

Former Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun, now a Party of the Regions national deputy, charged Mr. Kolesnykov with extortion for allegedly threatening to kill Donetsk department store owner Borys Penchuk in order to force him to sell his shares at a discount.

He sat for four months in jail before his release, upon which he returned to his post as chair of the Donetsk Oblast Council.

Mr. Kolesnykov was never prosecuted for his alleged crime, though his arrest caused enough concern with Mr. Akhmetov to lead him to believe that he could be next.

Politics was the next logical step.

Becoming a public figure with wide popularity and support beyond the Donbas region could shield him from criminal prosecutions.

By joining the Parliament, Mr. Akhmetov would also gain immunity from any possible prosecution attempts.

To present himself to the electorate, Mr. Akhmetov's first public appearance was a carefully staged public relations event held at the Donetsk Drama Theater on February 19.

During the live broadcast, Mr. Akhmetov discussed his political positions, the Shakhtar Donetsk soccer team that he owns, and even his personal life and history — or at least those portions that made him appear appealing.

In fact, Mr. Akhmetov said he knows the struggles of Ukrainians because he grew up poor himself.

His family lived in a 215-square-foot home in Donetsk, where they slept on folding beds. The home had no plumbing, so they went outside to wash from a cup and go to the bathroom. His father was a coal miner.

"Only the warmth of my parents and my activity in sports helped me become who I am," Mr. Akhmetov told the Donetsk audience.

"My parents gave me life, taught me how to make friends, to love and to respect. Sports made me purposeful, sports taught me how to overcome difficult obstacles. The main things sports taught me was to set the most ambitious goals and to achieve success," he related.

What Mr. Akhmetov didn't discuss at the Donetsk appearance, and what he avoided discussing during his first meeting with Kyiv reporters on March 30, were the years of his young adulthood.

Roman Kupchinsky of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported that Mr. Akhmetov graduated from Donetsk State University with a degree in economics, but the Korrespondent news magazine was not able to confirm that he ever graduated.

In fact, Mr. Akhmetov was among the top card sharks in the Donbas, Vasyl Nerus, leader of the region's Nova Syl'a party, told Korrespondent, a Russian-language weekly in Ukraine published by KP Publications.

He played throughout Crimea, in Moscow and other Soviet cities, Mr. Nerus said, and Mr. Akhmetov's gambling was well-known among local police and criminals.

When asked by a reporter at the Kyiv press conference just how he made his first million dollars, Mr. Akhmetov took a humorous approach. "I feel the shells exploding closer and closer!," he shouted, then returning to a calm voice.

"You want me to tell you how I made my first million? It's easier to tell you how I earned my first billion. And the second billion too," he said.

Sometime between 1992 and 1995, which he called the years of Ukraine's "informal economy," Mr. Akhmetov said he started a company called ARS that traded coal and coke, the residue of coal after distillation used for fuel.

He had no inheritance or start-up capital, Mr. Akhmetov said, just "great desire and energy." It is this energy, and the ambition that he so often refers to, that drove Mr. Akhmetov to acquire businesses in the anarchic Ukrainian society in the 1990s.

Mr. Akhmetov's baby-face looks and new polished image belie the alleged violent and even murderous methods he used to build his business empire, his critics claim.

He first appeared in government records in 1994 as a vice-president of the Shakhtar soccer organization, Korrespondent magazine reported.

A year later, the club's owner and distant relative of Mr. Akhmetov's, Akhat Bragin, was killed at the stadium, according to Korrespondent.

Mr. Akhmetov took over as the soccer club's president and created System Capital Management that year, the hold-

ing company for his \$5.2 billion asset empire, as recently reported by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"When there's a Shakhtar press conference, you can see the names of the club's sponsoring companies on the back wall," Mr. Penchuk told Korrespondent magazine. "The prior owners of those companies were killed, and their properties fell into the ownership of Shakhtar's owner."

When asked by reporters about his past business dealings, Mr. Akhmetov offered no specifics, only repeating over and over that his business is transparent, and that he wants to see the same kind of transparency in Ukrainian politics.

He also points out that he's been investigated numerous times by police, particularly by the Yushchenko government, with no charges ever filed. "Imagine if there was something the whole world would know about it," Mr. Akhmetov said at the Kyiv press conference.

"As for my 'criminal circle,' I have absolutely legal business dealings with an absolutely transparent property structure. But if I met with somebody, talked, had a cup of tea, it doesn't mean that we have a common business and common interests. With such talk, we can get to absurdity," he continued.

He even said he would vote for a measure stripping national deputies of their immunity from prosecution.

Mr. Akhmetov's political strategy is to project an image of himself as a leader who can bring the type of economic prosperity to Ukraine that he brought for himself and his more than 160,000 employees in the Donbas, "who earn stable and the highest salaries in industry," he said in Donetsk.

"I am not an oligarch," Mr. Akhmetov said. "Oligarchs are destructive. Oligarchs never found themselves in business and never will. They are like cows on ice. But I became a businessman a long time ago and began working long ago."

While others hid their money in foreign banks, and while Western investors avoided Ukraine, it was businessmen like himself who had faith in Ukraine and kept its industries running, Mr. Akhmetov told the Donetsk audience.

"We made bold decisions," he said. "We invested assets, knowledge and most importantly a part of our hearts. Why a part of [our] hearts? Yes, because this is a native Ukrainian enterprise. It may be immodest on my part, but this is patriotism. And how life revealed itself, courage and patriotism is foresight."

At his 50-minute press conference in Kyiv, Mr. Akhmetov uttered the phrase "economic growth" no less than 21 times.

He also demonstrated the remake in rhetoric, ideas and image that he had invested in when hiring Davis Manafort. His speech included the political rhetoric most Americans are familiar with in their own politicians.

Much of what the Party of the Regions leaders said during this year's campaign was an attempt to reverse their angry tirades during the 2004 presidential campaign.

They called for a united Ukraine and equal treatment of all Ukrainian citizens, a slogan repeated frequently by Mr. Akhmetov.

For example, Mr. Yanukovich gives all his interviews in Ukrainian now, and the Party of the Regions Kyiv staff communicates in Ukrainian.

At the March 30 press conference, Mr. Akhmetov admitted that his lack of Ukrainian is a "gap in education" and vowed to learn the language.

However, both leaders support official status for the Russian language "because government is supposed to serve society,

half of which speaks Russian," Mr. Akhmetov said.

In talking with reporters, Mr. Akhmetov delivered phrases that sounded as if they came straight from an American politician's mouth.

"Our main task is economic growth," Mr. Akhmetov told the assembled Kyiv reporters. "Economic growth is impossible without transparency, the rule of law, individual freedom, respect of private property rights, free mass media — and that means you. Friends, I greatly respect you, your work, and I understand the role of the press in building a democratic society."

While Mr. Akhmetov espoused Western values, he wasn't ready to exclude Ukraine's membership from the Single Economic Space led by the Russian Federation.

He criticized the European Union for delaying Ukraine's membership, reminding his Donetsk audience that the government must take care of its citizens now and not 10, 15 or 20 years down the road.

Some might not make it on a hungry stomach, he said.

"Without a doubt, I am for the European choice," he said. "Without a doubt, I am for European values. But today, if we approached Europe and knocked, would they open the door? I think not," he stated.

Ukrainians must earn a European-level salary, Mr. Akhmetov argued. "Then we won't be poor relatives of Europe, but equal partners," he said. "I've said many times that we deserve respect."

Mr. Akhmetov is an ethnic Tatar with a wife and two sons, 17-year-old Damir and 8-year-old Almir. His mother is still alive, as is his brother Ihor. It isn't known whether he speaks Tatar.

Some media have reported that Mr. Akhmetov is a practicing Muslim, but that would imply that he finds the time to pray five times a day. It would also imply that he doesn't engage in violent or criminal acts.

Furthermore, Crimean Tatars declined to support the Party of the Regions despite Mr. Akhmetov's request that the Ukrainian Muslim Party do so, a Symferopol newspaper, Holos Kryma, reported in December.

Tatars complained that the Party of the Regions Crimean branch was led by Russian nationalists who conducted anti-Tatar and anti-Muslim campaigns in the past. Tatars have traditionally been among the strongest supporters of the Our Ukraine bloc.

As for the make-up of Ukraine's next parliamentary coalition, Mr. Akhmetov fiercely criticized Yulia Tymoshenko and her re-privatization campaign, "which was a great blow to our economy."

Instead, he left the door open for an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions union.

"There are marriages based on love and there are marriages for money," Mr. Akhmetov said. "A marriage for love is closer and more understandable for me. But in business and politics, marriages for money are more common. Considering that there is no love between us, only a marriage for money is possible. Our intention is economic growth and unity of Ukraine."

Though he evaded tough questions and repeated carefully-tailored political slogans, Mr. Akhmetov managed to establish a positive rapport with the Kyiv press corps.

When a reporter with the daily newspaper Den attempted to get under his skin by asking whether he would block the tribune or beat people up in Parliament, Mr. Akhmetov produced the perfect response.

"I will chair the committee to fight organized crime!" he said, to a roar of laughter.

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Cornell Ukrainian Club hosts third annual pysanka workshop

by Taras Czebiniak

ITHACA, N.Y. The Ukrainian Club of Cornell University held its third annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop which opened the world of pysanky to a large Cornell audience.

About 170 pysanky were made by some 140 visitors, with many more coming through and enjoying large informational displays on the history and symbolism of pysanky, several varieties of traditional Ukrainian Easter food, and the sweet aroma of melted beeswax permeating one of the



Cornell students Ileana Sevilla and LiLi Xu show off their finished pysanky. Miss Sevilla's pattern resembles a more traditional egg while Miss Xu chose to depict the mythical Pheonix.

most visited spaces on Cornell's campus.

"It was a great triumph," concluded Assistant Dean of Academic Advising Patricia Wasylw, who also serves as the club's staff adviser.

From the first event two years ago, the number of attendees has grown two- or three-fold into an event that now spans eight hours.

Outgoing and incoming treasurers Larissa Bell and Chris Quinn helped me pull funding from three different sources on Cornell's campus. The first source, as usual, was the Student Assembly, which is sometimes restrictive in its funding rules and would not supply the essential chicken eggs. Next, the club made friends with the International Students Programming Board, which filled in the gaps in its financial needs and commented on how well organized the Ukrainian Club was in its presentation.

Finally, the club approached the Russian Department just several days before the event, and the department's chair, Nancy Pollack, took quick action in agreeing to co-sponsor the event. "We'd be glad to have a working relationship with the Ukrainian Club," she commented in a generous gesture.

With some 35 dyes, over 50 kistkas, and 250 total eggs all pre-blown by assiduous and determined club members we were ready to have over 50 people working on their pysanky at any one time. With the Ukrainian flag hanging over them, the visitors spontaneously offered each other help in art and technique in true Ukrainian spirit.

Taking a break between colors or between eggs, visitors could enjoy fresh Ukrainian paska with soft butter along with Eastern European "kabanosy" and "khrustyky" thanks to two visitors and members' Ukrainian moms from nearby Binghamton, Sonia Bell and Chrystina Czebiniak.

Ms. Wasylw, whose husband, Zenon Wasylw, an Ithaca College professor, and daughter Vika joined her at the workshop, summed up the typical visitor's reaction to the



Part of the set-up crew and members of the Ukrainian Club standing behind the table of dyes are (from left): Max Kovalchuk, Larissa Bell, Taras Czebiniak, Renia Soluk and Asya Kleyn.


event's overall offerings, saying "We had a lovely time."

But the day was not without its mishaps. One visitor, Cornell linguistics senior Katharine Pan, recounted: "I had a lot of fun and was there for five hours. I dropped my second egg ... when I was using the paint thinner [to clear off excess wax]. I'm so sad!" Luckily, clean-up is rather mess-free when using pre-blown eggs, and Ms. Pan did bring home one beautiful egg.

The Ukrainian Club members say they enjoy working with the productive and culturally alert student body at Cornell. President Renia Soluk proudly noted that "the Pysanka Workshop enhances the culture of the Cornell community, which becomes more aware of us as Ukrainians." Similarly, many visitors with cross-cultural backgrounds made active use of their own culture in designing their own unique and thoughtful pysanky.

Readers may contact Cornell Ukrainian Club at ukrainians@cornell.edu.

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Yaro Bihun

The lead participants of the Chornobyl 20 Commemorative Airlift press conference (seated, from left) Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, Deputy Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky, State Department Director of Humanitarian Programs for Europe and Eurasia Gerald Oberndorfer and Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch. Sitting behind Dr. Dobriansky is Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Airlift to mark...

(Continued from page 1)

Since then, the Cuban American group has established hospital-to-hospital and doctor-to-doctor exchanges, installed equipment to conduct tele-medicine operations with their Ukrainian counterparts and is bringing Ukrainian children to Florida for medical treatment, as well as for a visit to Disney World.

U.S. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) who helped organize the Cuban American community's involvement in the Chornobyl aid effort, explained it by paraphrasing a statement by Martin Luther King about injustice anywhere being an affront to justice everywhere. "In the same spirit," he said, "my community believes that helping a child anywhere is helping a child everywhere."

Calling the Chornobyl accident "one of the saddest events in Ukrainian history," the event's host, Ukrainian Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, expressed his country's gratitude to all who have come to its assistance. The 17 years of work by the CCRDF has made "an enormous difference" for its 24 partner-hospitals in Ukraine and the many people affected by the disaster, he said.

Dr. Shamshur expressed special thanks to the fund's founders Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, who were not at the news conference because they were preparing the anniversary conference and concert in Kyiv and other CCRDF activists, to Gerald Oberndorfer, director of humanitarian programs for Europe and Eurasia at the State Department, to Rep. Diaz-Balart and his colleagues at the House of Representatives, who on the previous day passed a resolution on the Chornobyl anniversary calling for continued assistance for Ukraine. (See text of the resolution at right.)

"This is a grand project, and this project will be measured for many years to come by the affected children and their families," Ambassador Shamshur said. Those children and families were represented at the press conference by Vasyl and Maria Kavatsiuk, who shared their feelings about how these assistance efforts helped them.

Mr. Kavatsiuk is a surviving "liquidator" of the Chornobyl disaster. A professional musician and conductor of the Ukrainian Radio and Television Orchestra in Kyiv, he was activated as an army reservist to commanded a unit that was putting the nuclear waste back into the damaged core of the reactor.

After some treatment in Moscow, he returned home, to what he described as a "miserable" life. He was ill, his first

daughter, Marta, died before reaching the age of 2, and his second child, Maria, faced an uncertain fate.

But, thanks to the CCRDF, Maria's life, and his, were spared. The Children of Chornobyl Fund brought the family to New Jersey, where both were successfully treated. "As a father and as a family, we'll never forget this," he said. "If you save somebody's life, then you are blessed."

Maria Kavatsiuk was one of the first children brought over by CCRDF for treatment in the United States. "One of my earliest memories is living in the Children of Chornobyl Relief Fund home and being surrounded and immersed in all the loving care by many people that helped me and my family," she recalled. "I will always be grateful for all their help."

"There are so many more children that need our help today, and we can only accomplish that with your support," the 16-year-old told the gathering. She also spoke about her plans for the future: "I hope to become an active member of this foundation by becoming a doctor and helping to save children's lives, as the foundation saved my life," Miss Kavatsiuk said.

On the following day, the Kavatsiuk family left for a visit to Ukraine their first since being evacuated to the United States in 1990.

Also addressing the press conference were Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Michael Sawkiw Jr., Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur from Ohio and Congressman Christopher Smith from New Jersey.

CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch, who moderated the session, highlighted some of the achievements in caring for Chornobyl's victims. Even though one-third of the children in the region have suffered from tumors and other medical problems, and birth defects have doubled, there is hope, she said.

"We have seen how even a modest investment can make dramatic impact on survival and cancer remission rates." She pointed out that in one hospital the recovery and remission rates for childhood leukemia improved from 5 percent "a virtual death sentence" in 1991 to 75 percent in 2004 as a result of the introduction of appropriate chemotherapy and equipment.

Model neonatal care units were created in hospitals in Poltava, Lviv and Dnipropetrovsk, she said, and infant mortality there has dropped by 45 to 80 percent.

These successes, she added, have stimulated unprecedented private philanthropy in Ukraine and local government programs in the region.

House passes Chornobyl resolution

WASHINGTON The House of Representatives on April 4 passed a resolution (HR 703) "recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl [sic] nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chornobyl nuclear power plant."

The resolution marking the anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident, was introduced on March 1 by Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.).

The co-sponsors of the bill were: Roscoe G. Bartlett (R-Md.), Howard L. Berman (D-Calif.), Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.), Raul M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.), Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-Mich.), Michael R. McNulty (D-N.Y.), Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), Mark Udall (D-Colo.) and Curt Weldon (R-Pa.).

The resolution was passed by a vote of 402-1. (The lone nay vote was cast by Ron Paul, Republican of Texas.)

Following is the text of the House Resolution 703.

* * *

Resolution recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl [sic] nuclear disaster and supporting continued efforts to control radiation and mitigate the adverse health consequences related to the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

Whereas April 26, 2006, marks the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas serious radiological, health and socioeconomic consequences for the populations of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, as well as for the populations of other affected areas, have been identified since the disaster;

Whereas the Chornobyl Forum, an initiative launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency and supported by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Program, and other United Nations agencies, as well as by the governments of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, examined the scientific evidence of the human health affects and the environmental impact of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the findings of the Chornobyl Forum, issued in September 2005, significantly added to the understanding of the health consequences and economic impact caused by the Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the Chornobyl Forum found that approximately 5 million people live in areas of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia that were contaminated by radioactivity;

Whereas the populations of the affected areas who were exposed as children have experienced significant increases in thyroid cancer;

Whereas the lives and health of people in the affected areas continue to be

heavily burdened by the aftermath of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas numerous charitable, humanitarian and environmental organizations from the United States and the international community are committed to overcoming the extensive consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster;

Whereas the United States has sought to help the people of the affected areas through various forms of assistance;

Whereas humanitarian assistance and public health research into the consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster will continue to be needed in the coming decades when a large number of latent health effects are expected to emerge;

Whereas the United States strongly supports improving nuclear safety in Ukraine;

Whereas, in 1997, the United States, the European Union and Ukraine developed the Shelter Implementation Plan for the purpose of protecting people and the environment from the dangers of the large quantity of highly radioactive material contained in the Chornobyl nuclear power plant;

Whereas as the United States is the largest single country donor to the Chornobyl Shelter Fund, which was created with the purpose of funding the Shelter Implementation Plan, having pledged a total of \$203 million; and

Whereas the most critical component of the Shelter Implementation Plan will be the construction of a new shelter designed to better protect people and the environment from the radioactive remains of the Chornobyl nuclear power plant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives:

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster and expresses sympathy for the ongoing effects of the disaster, including adverse health consequences and deaths;

(2) calls upon national and international health organizations to focus their research into the public health consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster into areas identified by the Chornobyl Shelter Fund, so that the global community can benefit from the findings of such research;

(3) supports continued United States assistance to the Chornobyl Shelter Fund, the Shelter Implementation Plan, construction of a facility to store spent nuclear fuel and other efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster; and

(4) urges other countries and the European Union to continue to provide assistance to the Chornobyl Shelter Fund, the Shelter Implementation Plan, construction of a facility to store spent nuclear fuel, and other efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster.

"Coming..."

(Continued from page 7)

number of poorer new residents.

But the cost of accepting more legal immigrants is greatly outweighed by the benefits new immigrants offer. They add to our diversity, our social fabric and our economic system. Immigrants are often more committed to family values, more hungry to succeed and more driven to excel than the average American. This is

true regardless of whether the immigrants are Ukrainian, Cuban, Polish or Mexican.

So who will it be, Neil Diamond or Mr. Dobbs? For me, it comes down to a choice between reaffirming what makes America great, or succumbing to fear and distrust. We can embrace the ideals that allowed us to become Americans, or we can discard those ideals now that we're residents of this great country. It's not a hard decision, actually. I'm a Neil Diamond fan, and I'm not embarrassed to admit it.

“Iskry”/“Living Embers”: an exhibit of the art of Orysia Sinitowich-Gorski

by Maya Gregoret

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. The Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center at St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arden Hills, Minn., in the vicinity of Minneapolis/St. Paul, hosted a fascinating exhibit of the art of Orysia Sinitowich-Gorski, a well known artist in the Ukrainian community in Winnipeg, on Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2.

The exhibit was attended by members of the Ukrainian community of Minneapolis, St. Paul and surrounding areas. Oleh Gregoret, president of the Cultural Center, introduced the artist and Dr. Alexandra Pawlowsky, professor at the University of Manitoba, who assisted in organizing this exhibit.

The focal point of the exhibit was the artist’s striking artistic homage to the 1932-1933 Holodomor/Famine-Genocide in Ukraine through her work of the same title. In opening the exhibit, Maya Gregoret lit candles to honor the victims of the genocide. Dr. Pawlowsky then acquainted the audience with Ms. Sinitowich-Gorski’s art.

The artist has already had a large and successful solo exhibit at the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center Oseredok in Winnipeg, and has taken part in a number of group exhibitions in that city. It bears noting that Winnipeg is the historical hub of Ukrainian Canadian religious, social and cultural life and activity. Several other art exhibits are planned in Canada and the United States in the near future.

Ms. Sinitowich-Gorski was born and grew up in Hafford, Saskatchewan. She developed her artistic talents on the lap of her dear father, Hryhoriy, a descendant of the talented Hutsul family Sinitowich. After graduating as a medical technician, she met and married Dr. Bronislaw Gorski. His medical career led them to Winnipeg, where their children, Khrystia, Tamara and Antos, grew up involved in

the activities of the large Ukrainian community.

And this is where Ms. Sinitowich-Gorski found a venue for the expression of her artistic talents. She studied under renowned artists Taras Korol and Nic Bjelacic.

The artist is a third-generation Ukrainian Canadian, yet, as evident in her art, she remains closely tied to the concerns and realities of her ancestral homeland and the Ukrainian diaspora. At the same time, however, she is integrally involved with mainstream issues that supercede the boundaries of ethnicity.

Executed primarily through the media of oils and acrylics, some of her pieces reflect a realistic, “photographic” style. This is particularly true of the portraits that depict, for example, the powerful religious figure Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky. They are, however, also representative of the cultural and ethnic diversity of North America, for example, “Chief Phil,” a portrait of Chief Phil Fontaine (grand chief of Canada’s Assembly of First Nations), “Leo’s Windows,” a portrait of Leo Mol (world renowned sculptor and artist), “Pas de Deux,” a portrait of prima ballerina Evelyn Hart (formerly of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet).

Other works employ a mixture of impressionistic and avant-garde styles. This is particularly true of those works that intermix the ideals of human rights and her Ukrainian heritage: for example, the artist’s aforementioned “Holodomor/Famine-Genocide” (striking images of the victims of the genocide of 1932-1933) and “Democracy?” (a demonstration on the streets of Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, completed in 2003, an ominous precursor to the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the events that continue to affect Ukraine and Ukrainian politics even today). Her “Arise, Ukraine!” spurs the Ukrainian nation to take further strides towards achieving permanent democracy.



Orysia Sinitowich-Gorski and one of her paintings.

The same tendency toward the avant-garde is reflected in one of her most recent pieces, “Manitoba Mosaic.” This piece portrays, through the emblems symbolic of Ukraine (trident), Manitoba (bison) and Canada (maple leaf), the symbiotic unity of Canada’s multicultural landscape. There are also examples of pastoral scenes from Ukraine and Canada, the glory of the Ukrainian icon and the serene beauty of still life.

The exhibit also belies the artist’s whimsy of spirit. This is evidenced in her “5 a.m.,” a colorful depiction of the rooster who awakened her every morning during her childhood years. It is also so very visible in her series of some 50 miniature colorful pen-and-ink caricatures, originally created on scraps of paper as a weekly

weekend farewell for her co-worker, which interweave humor, fantasy and reality.

Ms. Sinitowich-Gorski and Dr. Gorski have three children and two grandchildren. Their son, Antos, with his wife, Robyn, and their son, Aiden Christopher, who live in Lansing, Iowa, were also present at the exhibit in Arden Hills, as was the Gorski’s daughter Tamara from Canada. The birth of their first grandson inspired Ms. Sinitowich-Gorski to create a painting especially for Aiden, titled “Sunflowers,” representative of the Ukrainian, Canadian and American landscapes that reflect all of Aiden’s ancestral roots.

Ms. Sinitowich-Gorski presents her art under the name “Iskry”/“Living Embers.” Some of her pieces are featured and can be viewed at www.iskryart.com.

Northern New Jersey...

(Continued from page 5)

bers’ name to the Home Office, whose staff is capable and ready to sign up members.

Finally, Ms. Kozak noted that the pre-convention sales blitz is now taking place and that the deadline for enrolling new members to qualify for its cash prizes is April 30. The top prize is \$2,000; \$750 will be awarded for second place and \$500 for third.

Reacting to Ms. Kozak’s report, Ms. Jarosewich pointed out that the Northern New Jersey District is responsible for insurance sales of \$2.9 million, which is a major portion of the UNA total of \$7 million for the year 2005. Furthermore, she noted that Ms. Brodyn alone is credited with over \$2 million in face amount of insurance sold last year.

Mr. Welhasch seconded Ms. Kozak’s remarks by calling on each of the district’s branch secretaries to enroll at least

three members in 2006, which would make it easy for the district to meet its quota for the year.

Ms. Kozak then proceeded to answer questions regarding secretaries’ rewards, which are actually meant to serve as a refund of expenses incurred in enrolling and serving members. Also touched upon were issues related to the Fraternal Fund, branch dues and the mechanism of proposing changes in by-laws to be considered at the next UNA convention.

The final topic on the meeting’s agenda was a discussion of district activities for the coming year. Several members expressed interest in a bus trip to Soyuzivka for the annual Father’s Day program. Mr. Welhasch replied that the district needs 45 or even 50 people in order to cover the cost of chartering a bus, otherwise the district winds up paying a good amount of money to make up the shortfall.

Members of branches in the Passaic-

Clifton area noted that there is a very active seniors’ club at St. Nicholas Parish and that perhaps the club and the district could jointly charter a bus. Rostyslaw Halaburda said he would try to determine how many seniors would be interested in traveling to Soyuzivka for Father’s Day, and Mr. Welhasch appealed to branch

secretaries to also poll their members.

The meeting ended with the newly re-elected district chairman appealing to all in attendance to let the district know of events in their communities so that the district could go out and promote the UNA, Soyuzivka and its newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

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BOOK NOTE: *The memoirs of Anthony Hlynka, MP*

"The Honorable Member for Vegreville: The Memoirs and Diary of Anthony Hlynka, MP," edited by Oleh W. Geruas and Dennis Hlynka. Calgary: Center for Ukrainian Studies, University of Manitoba, University of Calgary Press, 2005. 388 pp., \$34.95.

Translated from Anthony Hlynka's personal memoirs and diaries, "The Honorable Member for Vegreville" was written, as noted in the preface, to add to the body of knowledge that informs Western Canadian history, politics and culture and to re-acquaint the Ukrainian Canadian community with one of its distinguished sons, the memory of whom has diminished over the years.

Anthony Hlynka served two terms as Member of Parliament (1940-1949), representing the constituency of Vegreville, Alberta, for the Social Credit Party.

A high-profile MP who garnered much attention from the mainstream Canadian press, Mr. Hlynka was instrumental in raising awareness of the plight of displaced persons following the second world war, and was a major supporter of the third wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada. As the only Ukrainian Canadian parliamentarian during his first term (1940-1945), he became the public voice of his community-at-large, about whose aspirations and dynamics the general Canadian public was largely uninformed.

As noted in the preface to the book, Mr. Hlynka's involvement with the post-World War II refugee crisis, particularly his efforts to end the forcible repatriation of Ukrainians to the Soviet Union and to facilitate their immigration to Canada, distinguished his political service.

In his foreword to the book, Gerald Friesen, fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and professor at the University of Manitoba, notes that apart from working

for his constituency, which was predominantly Ukrainian, "Mr. Hlynka's contribution to the principle of plural citizenship in prairie Canada, an ideal that evolved out of the thinking and practice of many ethnic and religious leaders, constitutes a significant legacy to all Canadians."

The book draws on Mr. Hlynka's memoirs, press reports from the era and material provided by Stephanie Hlynka, his widow.

Among the rich historical documents that comprise the book are a diary covering Mr. Hlynka's travels and negotiations in post-war Europe; excerpts from his memoir, offering insights into the politics of north-central Alberta during the 1930s and 1940s; and newspaper articles and speeches documenting the public life of Mr. Hlynka as a forceful representative of Canada's Ukrainian community at the height of his influence.

In his introduction to the book, Dr. Oleh W. Geruas of the University of Manitoba, provides the context for these documents, referencing life in the displaced persons' camps, Ukrainian wartime politics, as well as an array of issues raised by the profound ideological clashes engendered in the aftermath of World War II during the Cold War period.

The book consists of four distinct parts. The first part contains selected, edited and translated parts of the 1982 Ukrainian edition "Posol Federalnoho Parlamentu Kanady" (Anthony Hlynka, member of Canada's Federal Parliament), which discussed the Canadian-Ukrainian issue. The second part contains passages from Mr. Hlynka's incomplete Ukrainian-



language diary and includes collection of notes in English and Ukrainian that cover his lobbying efforts in Europe on behalf of the refugees and his fact-finding tour of their camps.

The third part presents selected speeches by Mr. Hlynka, including a list that directs the reader to Mr. Hlynka's speeches and participation in the House of Commons. The fourth part presents press accounts concerning Mr. Hlynka's political activities. An appendix includes three of Mr. Hlynka's essays dealing with the Alberta scene from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Prof. Friesen underscores that Mr. Hlynka "waged an unrelenting campaign to ensure that Ukraine's national status was recognized and the freedom from ethnicity-based discrimination was the norm for Canadian citizens of Ukrainian origin.

A half-century later, it takes a newcomer to prairie Canada only a little while to discover that Hlynka's plural ideal has been largely realized." Prof. Friesen states that Mr. Hlynka's story "underlines why ethnic identity remains a force in western Canada. It suggests, too, that Canada's multiculturalism is much more complicated than any simple model of either melting pot or mosaic can convey."

The book is edited by Dr. Geruas and Dennis Hlynka. Dr. Geruas, who wrote the introduction to the book is also responsible for transcription and translation of texts. He is professor of history at the University of Manitoba, and has written extensively on Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian history. Mr. Hlynka is a professor of instructional technology at the University of Manitoba in the department of curriculum, teaching and learning.

Conceived as a tribute to Anthony Hlynka in view of his significant contributions to Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian community specifically, the book has been published as part of the University of Calgary Press "Legacies Shared" series, which preserves the many personal histories and experiences of pioneer and immigrant life that may otherwise be lost to the public discourse.

The volume is the first major publishing project of the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba, as a part of its mandate to create, preserve and communicate knowledge that deals with Ukrainian Canadians.

Major funding for the book was provided by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

Available in a soft-cover edition, the book may be purchased for \$34.95. It may be ordered from the University of Calgary Press: telephone, 403-220-4343.

The "Feast..."

(Continued from page 6)

Himself, radiant in glory, as are the angels and sinful humanity, because we have become children of God and inheritors of the Kingdom of God. Let us remember how, having physically suffered as a mortal, the Master of life Christ descends into Hades, to free the souls of the righteous ones of the Old Testament from the shackles of hell. And behold, they are pass through the gates of paradise to the incorruptible, real life, singing praises of the eternal Pascha.

The earthly world however is still engulfed in gloom, horror, sorrow and tears. The cross still stands on Golgotha; the stone still bars the entrance to the grave. Dreadful pain and grief deeply pierce the heart of the Mother of God. The myrrh-bearing women are gathering early in the morning preparing

to anoint the body of the Divine Teacher.

The blessed moment is, however, drawing nearer. The heavenly joy is transmitted to the earth, which is convulsed to its core by a strong earthquake. The vibrant Messenger from Heaven appears in the tomb, shining with the unapproachable and radiant light of the Resurrection.

"Rejoice!" says he to the myrrh-bearers. To the one "Full of Grace" he says: "Pure Virgin, rejoice, your Son is Risen!" From one end of the world to the other, from generation to generation the joyful response resounds and will forever resound: "Indeed He is risen!"

The joy of this great Feast of Feasts enables us to rejoice together with our loved ones. During the Paschal liturgical celebration of the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to joy and love through the Paschal kiss and the greeting: "Christ is risen!" At this moment all per-

sonal grievances, offenses and ill feelings disappear. In the Paschal love we come closer to comprehending God's Love, which defies all understanding.

May the myrrh-bearers teach us to preserve and to pass on to our descendants all the freshness, purity and fragrance of this Paschal joy. May they instill in us their great love for the Savior, a love, which made them, even though weak in the flesh, more courageous than the apostles, a love, which irresistibly led them without fear through the crowds of our Lord's worst enemies, to Golgotha and to the doors of the tomb. It was a love that gave them the courage and the bravery, ignoring all danger and prepared to sacrifice all, to rush to the sealed tomb, a love which made them the first to carry the news of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In her sacred hymnography our Holy Church compares the most radiant day of Resurrection/Pascha with other most radiant feasts and refers to it as the first "morning", the forerunner of another, which will shine with the unapproachable Light, a day without end, a day that has no evening. Let us, therefore, our dear and beloved, honor this first morning of the future eternal day, so that its sun does not set before our eyes, leaving us in an impenetrable darkness. Let us turn with feelings of love and fellowship in Christ, with sincere hearts to all our brothers and sisters the children of or Holy Church and say: "Christ is risen, and we shall live! Christ is risen and has conquered death, and we shall conquer the falsehood and bondage to sin. May God rise, and His enemies be scattered!"

On this great holy day, let us not mention enemies, or better yet, let us call them "brothers" and greet them also with the Paschal greeting: Christ is risen! Even when they might say: "Christ never existed, He was never incarnated and He certainly did not rise from the dead," we shall respond with even greater faith and with mutual conviction: "Not only did Christ exist, but He exists forever, He is alive forever. Christ is risen!" Even if Satan himself and through his servants, would slander the

Risen Christ our Life, our Light and our Hope, we shall bravely respond to him with a sense of almighty victory and the certainty of his doom: "Christ is risen!" To all who live and breathe, to all God's creation we shall say today: Christ is risen!"

Amongst us, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in sincerity and in the love of Christ, let us forget all disagreements, let us embrace one another and walk in one spirit along the road to the strengthening of our Holy Church, to the resurrection and a blessed life for our nation. May Christ, our True God, Who has risen from the dead, who has trampled down death by death and upon those in the tombs has bestowed life, through the prayers of His All-Holy Mother, the holy and glorious apostles and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, because He is merciful and He loves mankind.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

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ROMA STECKIW LONG

Yushchenko optimistic...

(Continued from page 1)

coalition will take on these and other issues," Mr. Yushchenko said. "So that it doesn't happen that, in 20 days into the work of the new coalition, the issue of privatization of land will split this coalition."

Despite their general westward orientation, the political positions of the Orange forces have distinct political differences.

The Socialists have voted against WTO measures in the past, oppose privatization of government property and support the constitutional changes that went into effect January 1.

Meanwhile, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc doesn't appear to favor free market economics to the same extent as the Our Ukraine bloc, although Ms. Tymoshenko has been trying to portray herself as pro-business in the weeks leading up to her impressive performance on election day.

Once an agreement is drafted, then President Yushchenko said he would be ready to name a prime minister whom he supports.

Ms. Tymoshenko has made clear that her bloc will not unite with Our Ukraine without her becoming Ukraine's next prime minister. Mr. Yushchenko seems ready to accept her as prime minister, but is trying to defend himself from being burned once again by a coalition split.

The coalition agreement appears as though it will provide the President protection from political fallout if the coalition fails and the parties involved begin blaming each other.

"My position won't be formed on my emotions regarding one person or another,

how I estimate them on a professional or political scale, but how much (the person) will have clear answers on issues which today are fairly risky as to the functioning of a future coalition," the president said.

"These answers are supposed to be given clearly and publicly, so that you, as Ukrainian citizens, can regulate the behavior of this or that force within the limits of this agreement."

The Central Election Commission, meanwhile, announced the final results of the elections on Monday, April 10, with only minor changes to the parliamentary results.

On April 12, however, a High Administrative Court blocked the publication of the election results in two government newspapers, the Secretariat's Uriadovyi Kurier and the Verkhovna Rada's Holos Ukrayiny, which would have finalized them.

The court ruled against finalizing the results based on a complaint filed by Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc, which just missed making it into parliament with 2.93 percent of the vote.

In the weeks following the elections, Ms. Vitrenko's supporters erected about 100 tents in the red and blue colors of the Russian flag around the Central Election Commission to protest what they charged was its failure to properly tally the votes for the national opposition bloc.

They alleged fraud in counting the votes, as did other political blocs and parties that didn't make the 3 percent barrier.

President Yushchenko said the court's decision was appropriate, from a legal standpoint. "Not a single complaint should be left unexamined if it's justified," Mr. Yushchenko said. "And we're going down this road."

Lviv conference...

(Continued from page 3)

this day," he said.

Diaspora Ukrainians continue to help Ukraine build an independent nation, but Dr. Luciuk asked the audience what he considered a more important question: "Will you help us in the diaspora?"

Volodymyr Serhiichuk, director of the Ukrainian Studies Center at Shevchenko State University in Kyiv, addressed the problem of Ukrainian researchers researching the diaspora and political immigrations.

Academic research into the diaspora offers many possibilities, and it's simply a matter of finding the information stored in foreign countries, he said.

Also available in Kyiv are NKVD documents, many of which were removed from European cities such as Munich and Prague after the second world war. "The NKVD removed its materials on Ukrainian immigrant circles in Bulgaria, for instance, or anywhere the Red Army was in 1944 and 1945," Dr. Serhiichuk explained.

"All these materials wound up in Ukraine, and thank God they're saved. But Ukraine needs to turn its attention to these massive, unresearched troves of information that have been preserved in the West," he said.

Many research materials can be found in a few prolific Western institutions. For example, the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York City contains much information on 20th century history, Dr. Serhiichuk said, and an enormous collection of Ukrainians' academic work is also located at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences archives in New York.

A massive amount of important materials on the Ukrainian freedom struggle is located in Canada's National Archives in

Ottawa, where letters written by Symon Petliura are kept.

Valuable archives of Ukrainian history are situated also at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and churches and libraries in Winnipeg.

Family archives of the leaders in the Ukrainian freedom struggle also deserve examination, Dr. Serhiichuk continued, though many of them have disappeared because their assimilated children and grandchildren neglected to preserve them.

"Not all children save such an invaluable inheritance," he said. "They could have simply thrown it out, or donated to an American library, which could have placed it in storage where access is limited."

To better understand the political immigration, their documented memories and accounts demand collection and research, Dr. Serhiichuk said. "If we do this, we will be able to better understand and shed light on the history of the Ukrainian struggle for freedom."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided \$6,000 to support this year's conference, Ms. Kliuchkovska said.

The next conference of the International Institute of Education, Culture and Diaspora Ties in 2008 will bear the theme "Ukrainians in the World's Civilization Processes," she said.

Never have activities examining the diaspora been so vibrant, as all three of Ukraine's academic diaspora institutions will host conferences this year.

On May 22 and 23, the Institute for Ukrainian Diaspora Research at the National University of Ostroh Academy in the Rivne Oblast will host its second diaspora conference, with the expectations that up to 100 academics will arrive. (The institute is a department of Ostroh Academy, which provides the necessary financing.)

The conference will cover a wide array

of topics, ranging from archival foundations and collections in the diaspora to Ukrainian educational opportunities in the diaspora.

Anyone interested in attending can contact the institute at diaspora@uosa.uar.net, or the institute's director, Alla Atamanenko, at ataman@ostroh.uar.net.

The Center of Humanitarian Cooperation with the Ukrainian Diaspora at Hohol State Pedagogical University in Nizhyn will host its second annual academic conference on June 21-24.

Director Stanislav Ponomarevskyi said he expects scholars from at least a dozen

different countries to discuss topics such as history, culture, religion and education in the Ukrainian diaspora.

His center has no operational budget, Mr. Ponomarevskyi said, and he's hoping the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine will support this year's conference.

Those interested in attending can contact the center at 2diaspora2@ukr.net or diaspora@meta.ua.

Either a government or private organization has to emerge to coordinate the work of all of Ukraine's diaspora efforts, Ms. Kliuchkovska said.

Measuring...

(Continued from page 2)

find common ground and wound up offering two candidates Alyaksandr Kazulin and Mr. Milinkevich. Aleksei Malashenko, an expert at the Carnegie Center think-tank in Moscow, said achieving political unity is only a part of the problem the opposition faces. He said the provincialism of Belarusian society and its isolation from the changes taking place in neighboring countries is the core of the issue.

"Belarusian society is provincial in character and in its political culture," Mr. Malashenko said. "One gets the impression that it [the society] is lagging behind [the neighboring countries] by some 10 or 15 years. It is not a fault, but it is a disaster. It might look funny but it still lives in this Soviet-era inertia."

Mr. Malashenko said the majority of

Belarusian citizens seem to be satisfied with the stability President Lukashenka offers and are afraid of the uncertainty that follows change.

"As you see, we observe complete self-satisfaction," Mr. Malashenko said. "One gets the impression that for many [Belarusians] the main value is stability. People point to Ukraine, Russia some kind of demonstration taking place there, some kind of meeting; prices are going up, defaults happen. But here [in Belarus] everything is quiet and good. It is completely a trait of Soviet psychology [to be happy with what one has.]"

Meanwhile, Mr. Milinkevich has called for an end to what he calls Belarusians' "slavery" to this kind of thinking, and said the protests mark the beginning of "a revolution of the spirit."

Mr. Milinkevich said this shift away from a Soviet mindset marks the greatest achievement of the recent protests.

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Commentaries...

(Continued from page 8)

ers of the Orange Revolution, Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko, but their combined vote exceeded that for Yanukovich. Voters, except in the pro-Western western end of the country, punished Yushchenko for disappointed hopes, economic mess, continued widespread corruption, dealing badly with the Russian gas squeeze at the beginning of the year, and falling out with Yulia. Fair on some counts, less so on others. But

the essential point remains: the people could choose in a free and fair election. They can bring an old rogue back, if they want; then they can chuck him out again. It's democracy, stupid.

The Daily Telegraph, "The future is still Orange," editorial, March 28:

... Fifteen months after Mr. Yushchenko was elected president, his record was tested at the ballot box and found wanting. ...

... voters have been given a democratic chance to pass judgment on a government that has not met their expectations. While making Ukraine more open, Mr. Yushchenko has presided over a declining growth rate and a confrontation with Russia over gas supplies, and has failed to slough off the taint of venality.

The best thing now would be for him and Mrs. Tymoshenko to combine in tackling corruption, keeping Ukraine's nose pointing towards the West, the likely source of foreign investment, and attempting to bridge the divide between the east and west of the country. While a setback to reform, Sunday's vote in no way betrayed Orange democratic ideals. Just compare its conduct with the intimidation and vote-rigging that marred the presidential election in neighboring Belarus a week earlier.

Newsweek International, "Never mind the headlines. Ukraine's Orange Revolution is alive and well," opinion, by Adrian Karatnycky, president of The Orange Circle, April 10-17:

... yes, voters in Ukraine gave a plurality to Viktor Yanukovich, the former prime minister, figurehead of the old regime and friend of the Kremlin, while the Orange Revolution's hero, President Viktor Yushchenko, placed a dismal third. But this was a setback for one party, not for the

democratic spirit of the Orange Revolution.

Put aside the fact that this was the first fully free and fair ballot in the country's history, and look at the numbers. While Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party lost ground, other Orange parties made it up. In the end, 55 percent of Ukraine's new Parliament will be held by groups that led the Orange Revolution identical to the victory in December 2004. Charismatic Yulia Tymoshenko's party won nearly 30 percent of seats, making her the likely prime minister in an Orange coalition.

Nor is rival Yanukovich's strong showing all it seems. Without a legislative majority, the Regions Party cannot dictate any backward policies. And it, too, is deeply fissured. On one side is the motley gang that tried to steal the last presidential election. On the other are the pragmatic politicians associated with the billionaire Rynat Akhmetov, the party's de facto leader. They talk of economic reform, corporate-tax cuts, European integration and the need to heal the rifts between eastern and western Ukraine.

There are other important signs. Crisscrossing Ukraine recently, I met multibillionaires and trade-union leaders, media magnates and editors of small but influential Internet sites, bankers and civic activists. Ukraine was changing, they told me optimistically, and emphasized that they not government are the solution to the country's problems. This reflects deep social and economic changes over the 15 years since independence. ...

The Moscow Times, "The trick to understanding Ukraine," commentary, by Anders Aslund, senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington, March 29:

... The surprise is what happened within the Orange coalition, with Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc trouncing

Yushchenko's Our Ukraine. It is easy to understand why that happened. Our Ukraine ran an inept campaign and put its least popular representatives, such as discredited businessman Petro Poroshenko, in the spotlight, while the president and his prime minister, Yurii Yekhanurov, kept a low profile.

Tymoshenko is an outstanding campaigner, and she seems to have chosen the right political themes as well. Her main slogan was "justice," reflecting Yushchenko's unfulfilled promise from 2004: "Bandits to prison!" Once again, revenge against the old regime became the dominant line.

Her victory over Our Ukraine elevates moral issues over economic policy, and her rhetoric looks backward to the Orange Revolution, further cementing the east-west divide. She also defeated Pora-PRP [Reforms and Order Party], the new liberal bloc, which tried to offer a decent alternative to Orange voters appalled by both populism and corruption.

Since the campaign became a relishing of the Orange Revolution, nothing but an Orange coalition appears natural, that is, Tymoshenko's bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party. The Lytvyn Popular Bloc will not enter Parliament. Today, nobody but Tymoshenko appears the natural prime minister. The job is hers to lose. ...

The big question is what policy a Prime Minister Tymoshenko would pursue. As deputy prime minister for energy in 2000, she surprised us positively by going after other oligarchs and cleaning up the energy sector.

As prime minister last year, by contrast, she surprised us negatively by focusing on re-privatization, which had not been part of her government program. Now she has received a greater popular mandate than ever before, so we can only wonder how she will amaze us this time. ...



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Paratroopers from U.S. and Ukraine complete joint training at Fort Bragg



FORT BRAGG, N.C. – During the week of February 12, 50 Ukrainian officers and soldiers from the 95th Airborne Brigade participated in joint training at Fort Bragg, N.C., with paratroopers of the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division. The visit establishes a foundation that hopefully will lead to closer military ties between the United States and Ukraine. There are plans to send paratroopers of the 82nd to Ukraine this year. In the photo above, Victor Petrenko, commander of the 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division awards airborne wings to Lt. Col. Yuri Halushkyn, chief jumpmaster of the Ukrainian 95th Airborne Brigade. Below, U.S. and Ukrainian paratroopers in formation for the ceremony to exchange the airborne wings.



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# OUT AND ABOUT

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 1-30<br>Whippany, NJ      | "The Decorative Egg: A Ukrainian Tradition,"<br>exhibit at Morris County Library, 973-286-6966                                                                             |
| April 13 - May 10<br>New York   | Exhibit of mosaic icons by Oksana Prokopenko,<br>Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660                                                                              |
| April 15<br>New York            | Pysanka-making demonstration,<br>The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110                                                                                                        |
| April 17<br>College Station, TX | Presentation by Ambassador of Ukraine to the U. S.<br>Oleh Shamshur, "The March Elections in Ukraine<br>and Ukraine's Energy Needs," Texas A&M<br>University, 979-862-2251 |
| April 18<br>New York            | Lecture by Diana Bilak, "The Borders of Common<br>Sense: Imagining Reality in a Post-Soviet Place,"<br>Columbia University, 212-854-4697                                   |
| April 20<br>New York            | Lecture by Prof. Karel Berkhoff, "Soviet Ukraine<br>Under Nazi Occupation: Identities and Loyalties,"<br>Columbia University, 212-854-4697                                 |
| April 20<br>New York            | Three contemporary films from Ukraine,<br>Columbia University, 212-854-4697                                                                                                |
| April 25<br>New York            | Commemoration of the Chornobyl disaster,<br>Columbia University, 212-854-4697                                                                                              |
| April 26<br>Ottawa              | 20th Anniversary of Chornobyl commemoration on<br>Parliament Hill, 613-733-700 or 613-738-1724                                                                             |
| April 28-30<br>Kerhonkson, NY   | Spa Weekend organized by UNWLA Branch 95,<br>Soyuzivka, 845-626-5641                                                                                                       |
| May 6<br>Warren, MI             | Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus auditions,<br>Ukrainian Cultural Center, 734-658-6452                                                                                           |
| May 7<br>Farmington Hills, MI   | Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus concert,<br>Nardin Park United Church, 248-476-8860                                                                                             |

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

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# Soyuzivka's Datebook

**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

Thursday, April 20

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will conclude its 2005-2006 season with an April event titled "When Difference Enrich and Energize," screening three films representing different languages, cultures and religions of contemporary Ukraine: "The Drizzle" (2004; Heorhiy Deliev), a story of two women – one Ukrainian, the other Jewish – who lost their families in World War II, yet managed to break a circle of hatred and forgive their German enemies; "Wish Best Wishes, Enver" (2006, Viktoria Melnykova), a portrait of the Ukrainian-Tatar jazz musician Enver Izmaylov, who, after years of exile, returns to his ancestral land, Crimea; and "Sound of the Wind" (2002, Serhiy Masloboyschkyov), a poignant search for the meaning of love, human attachment, loss and death by one of the best, intellectually subtle Ukrainian filmmakers. Introduction and post-screening discussion led by Yuri Shevchuk, director of the Film Club. The screening of the films (all with English subtitles) will be free of charge at 7:30 p.m. in 717 Hamilton Hall, Columbia University. For more information see [www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc) or call 212-854-4697.

Tuesday, April 25

**NEW YORK:** The Harriman Institute at Columbia University will host the "Commemoration of the Chornobyl Disaster: The Human Experience Twenty Years Later" in Room 1512 (15th floor) of the International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St., 9 a.m. The program will feature opening remarks by Prof. Mark von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program; and Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations; 9:30-11 a.m. – Mary Mycio, author of "The Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl"; Dr. Norman Kleiman, associate research scientist, Columbia Department of Environmental Health Sciences; William M. Novick, M.D., founder of International Children's Heart

Foundation; 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Lisa Milanytch, co-director of procurement, Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund; Sherrie Douglas, director of Chernobyl Children's Project International; Irene Zabytko, author of the novel "The Sky Unwashed"; 2-3:30 p.m. – screening of the Oscar-winning documentary "The Chornobyl Heart," followed by a question and answer session; 3:30-4 p.m. – closing remarks by Mykola Riabchuk, National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy, Petro Jacyk visiting scholar. For more information call Diana, 212-854-4697, or e-mail [ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu](mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu).

Saturday, April 29

**NEW YORK:** The Cornelia St. Café's "Ukrainian Night" will feature Andriy Milavsky and Halyna Remez of the Cheres musical ensemble, documentary filmmaker Damian Kolodiy ("The Orange Chronicles"), readings by poet Vasyl Makhno, and fiction writers Alexander Motyl ("Whiskey Priest") and Irene Zabytko ("The Sky Unwashed" and "When Luba Leaves Home"). Yuri Shevchuk will introduce Ihor Strembitsky's "Wayfarers," winner of the Palme d'Or at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. The program will be offered in two sets, 6-8:30 p.m. and 8:45-11 p.m.; admission of \$10 per set includes one house drink. The Cornelia Street Café is located in the heart of Greenwich Village, 29 Cornelia St. For more information log on to [www.corneliastreetcafe.com](http://www.corneliastreetcafe.com) or e-mail [ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu).

Friday, June 16

**ROCK HALL, Md.:** The Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. (UANAI) will hold its annual three-day Chesapeake Sail on June 16-18. If you have your own boat, we'd love to have you join us. We have chartered two sailboats. A few crew spots are still available (cost is \$300 person). For further details call Petro, (610) 225-0211, or e-mail [usail2006@comcast.net](mailto:usail2006@comcast.net).

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