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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

U.N. commemorative meeting marks 20th anniversary of Chernobyl disaster

by Matthew Dubas

UNITED NATIONS — The General Assembly of the United Nations held a commemorative meeting on the morning of April 28 to mark the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe. It was an expression of international solidarity and a sign of the commitment of the international community to prevent an event like Chernobyl from happening again.

A statement issued by the spokesman for Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the U.N., said many hard lessons had been learned from Chernobyl, including the importance of providing the public with transparent, timely and credible information in the event of a catastrophe. Mr. Annan recalled the heroic acts of the liquidators, the sacrifices of the populations that were relocated, and the measures that have already been taken to limit the impact on health and the natural environment. Further on, Mr. Annan urged the international community to pay homage to the victims of Chernobyl by providing generous support to programs for the affected regions to regain self-sufficiency.

The acting president of the General Assembly, Hamidon Ali of Malaysia, opened the meeting by recalling the events of April 26, 1986, when the fourth reactor of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded and released radioactive elements into the atmosphere, poisoning the surrounding lands indefinitely. Mr. Ali also recognized the important contributions of the Chernobyl Forum, a collective effort by eight organizations within the U.N. system and the governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, to analyze the health, environmental and socio-economic impact of the nuclear accident.

Mr. Ali also said that the international community must remain attentive to the continuing needs of the affected regions, adding, “May today’s event also serve to remind us of the need for international solidarity, whenever or wherever international disasters occur. In today’s world, the crucial challenges are borderless.”

Kemal Dervis, administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) stated that findings by the U.N. Chernobyl Forum indicate that the 5 million people who lived in the Chernobyl-affected areas did not need to live in fear of radiation, with many of the areas previously designated as contaminated now suitable for habitation.

In many places where levels are considered safe, such as in Belarus, it has been reported by groups such as the Chernobyl Children’s Project International that the “safe” level was simply raised by the government so that people will live there and will not receive any state-sponsored compensa-

tion when latent medical conditions later arise.

The executive director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Ann Veneman, focused her words on the preventable medical conditions that have sharply increased since the Chernobyl disaster. Just as iodine deficiency allowed for thyroid cancers in children to skyrocket, it has also been a leading cause of mental retardation in children and pregnant women. The simple and low-cost solution to this, presented by Ms. Veneman, is to increase the consumption of iodized salt. Currently only 55 percent of households in Belarus, for example, consume iodized salt, meaning that every year an estimated 41,000 children are born iodine-deficient.

In 2002, the UNDP and UNICEF commissioned a report on the humanitarian consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, recommending that the U.N. shift its support from direct humanitarian aid to sustainable development for the long-

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International conference in Kyiv reviews Chernobyl’s consequences

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — “Beauty is truth, truth beauty.”

With these words penned by Irish poet John Yeats, First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko began her April 24 remarks at the international conference on Chernobyl organized by the Ukrainian government.

As much as the truth about the catastrophe’s effects on human health is sought, the conference proved that finding it will demand a struggle, as it will be contested for decades to come, if not remain elusive altogether.

“Twenty years after the largest man-made disaster in the history of mankind, we Ukrainians don’t know enough, and we haven’t properly grasped the reasons, scope and consequences of this event,” President Viktor Yushchenko himself acknowledged at the April 24 opening.

Depending on one’s view, a window into the truth either creaked opened or slammed shut when the United Nations - affiliated Chernobyl Forum issued its

now famous report, “Chernobyl’s Legacy: Health, Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts.”

At the April 24 ceremony, Mikhail Balonov of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reviewed the forum’s carefully phrased conclusions, which were initially announced in September 2005:

“... among the 600,000 persons receiving more significant exposures (liquidators working in 1986-1987, evacuees and residents of the most ‘contaminated’ areas), the possible increase in cancer mortality due to this radiation exposure might be up to a few percent.”

“This might eventually represent up to 4,000 fatal cancers in addition to the approximately 100,000 fatal cancers to be expected due to all other causes in this population.”

This conclusion sharply contrasts with those made by a coalition of scientists and medical experts commissioned by European parliamentary groups and

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Villagers in Chernobyl zone reflect on their lives

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

ILLINTSI, Ukraine — They plant their own potatoes in radiation-contaminated soil. Their only source of income is a government check.

They have children in Kyiv, and one fellow even has a son in Oklahoma.

Yet, the 30 or so residents of the village of Illintsi wouldn’t want to live anywhere other than their hamlet in the

Chernobyl zone, just 27.5 kilometers (17 miles) from the power plant that released almost 300 times the nuclear radiation unleashed upon Hiroshima.

“I don’t want to move to a two-room apartment in the city,” said Hanna Symonenko, 81. “I was born here, and I will die here.”

No one living in Illintsi is younger than 45.

Its residents rely on pension checks from the Ukrainian government of about

\$75 or \$80 a month.

With no store in the village, they can spend their money only when a food truck swings into town once or twice a week.

They mostly feed themselves with the food they grow in the local soil.

Maria Shaparenko, 82, said she doesn’t see why her village has become such a spectacle. “I eat the potatoes, beets and

(Continued on page 14)



His son lives in Oklahoma, but Oleksander Tkachenko, 62, prefers to make his home in the village of Illintsi in the Chernobyl zone.



Maria Shaparenko, 81, lived through the Holodomor, World War II and the Chernobyl catastrophe.

ANALYSIS

Press freedom under assault in the former Soviet Union

by Christopher Walker

RFE/RL Newswire

Independent media in the countries of the former Soviet Union, already operating under extreme duress, came under further assault over the course of the last year. The political, legal and economic environments in most of the non-Baltic former Soviet countries remain distinctly inhospitable to independent journalism.

This reality is reflected in "Freedom of the Press 2006," the latest edition of Freedom House's annual global survey of media independence. Ten of the 12 Soviet countries are ranked "not free" in the new edition of the survey. Of the 10 not free countries, five saw a further erosion in their performance over the course of last year.

Of the 12 non-Baltic former Soviet states only Georgia and Ukraine, which are categorized as "partly free," escape the not free designation. No country in the region achieves the designation of "free." The degree to which each country permits the free flow of information determines the classification of its media as free, partly free, or not free.

The downward trend was particularly evident in countries with regimes that place a premium on controlling the airwaves. Among the not free states, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan experienced declines. Uzbekistan and Russia suffered the most dramatic backslide.

Russia slipped due to the Kremlin's ongoing obstruction of journalists from reporting on sensitive topics and its tightening of control over news sources. According to this year's report, the Russian "authorities continued to exert direct influence on media outlets and determine news content, as the state owns or controls the country's three main national television networks – Channel 1, RTR and NTV."

In 2005, Russian journalists continued to be subjected to detention or physical attack, ostensibly from coverage of sensitive topics such as corruption. The Russian government's posture toward the media has also led to increased self-censorship. Critical coverage of the Kremlin on national broadcast media is virtually non-existent today.

The government in Uzbekistan, which has crushed independent voices throughout society, paid particular attention to the elimination of independent media. The Uzbek press freedom rating for the last year dropped accordingly.

The Andijon massacre, which occurred one year ago, was the trigger for the further crackdown on the media in Uzbekistan. In the immediate aftermath of the events in Andijon, the regime of President Islam Karimov instituted a news blackout, preventing virtually any information about the violence in the eastern Uzbek city from reaching wider audiences.

Western-funded media in Uzbekistan drew particularly intense attention from the government. The Karimov regime refused to renew the agreement that allowed Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to operate a bureau in Tashkent. It likewise forced other international news and media support organizations, including the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and Internews, to

close their operations in the country.

Manipulation of television news content in Uzbekistan, as in a number of neighboring repressive countries, reached new heights over the last year. The television medium was a favored tool in regime security efforts. The report on Uzbekistan in this year's press-freedom survey cites the September trial of 15 men accused of involvement in the Andijon unrest, where "prosecutors charged that the BBC, IWPR and RFE/RL had advance knowledge that violence would break out in the city. State-controlled media gave prominent coverage to these unsubstantiated charges."

In Belarus, the autocratic government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka intensified its control over the country's media, at least in part due to elections taking place this spring. Last year, among the measures taken by the Belarusian authorities, was passage of broadly defined legislation that makes it a crime punishable by up to two years in jail to "discredit Belarus" in the eyes of international organizations and foreign governments. The same prison terms apply to those convicted of distributing "false information" about the country's political, economic, social or international situation.

Among the regulatory tricks relied upon by media-unfriendly regimes, the Belarus press-freedom report relates a May 2005 decree issued by President Lukashenka that banned all privately owned, but not state, media from using the words "national" or "Belarus" in their names, forcing a number of publications to reregister.

In a region where good news on the news media is hard to come by, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan were the only countries to register improvement.

In Kyrgyzstan, given the larger questions concerning the country's overall political direction, the durability of the positive press-freedom change was far from certain, however. Kyrgyzstan remains in the not free category.

Ukraine enjoys a wide range of state and private television and radio stations, as well as print and electronic news outlets. While Ukraine's media ownership is diverse, it still confronts the challenges that accompany oligarchic ownership structures. Nevertheless, since the end of 2004 the media in Ukraine, while today still designated partly free, have achieved a degree of pluralism and independence that would have been unthinkable in the pre-Orange Revolution era.

Ukraine – now with the strongest press-freedom rating among the former Soviet states – therefore remains a critical media case study. Just one and a half years ago the country suffered from many of the same pathologies that continue to confront most of the media in the region today. In the run-up to Ukraine's pivotal 2004 elections, for example, "temnyky" – editorial theme directives from the president's office – were standard operating procedure. This practice was purged from the Ukrainian media landscape but remains a blight on many other former Soviet states' media systems.

The significant yet incomplete progress in Ukraine should serve as a reminder that overcoming deeply entrenched Soviet-era habits and practices will be a trying, long-term effort for reform of the media, as well as for other key institutions that form the building blocks of democratic societies.

Christopher Walker is director of studies at Freedom House.

NEWSBRIEFS

May Day rally held in Kyiv

KYIV – Addressing a May 1 rally in downtown Kyiv, Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko called upon his supporters to form a new left-wing political force capable of countering oligarchs in the newly elected Verkhovna Rada. Commenting on the March 26 elections' outcome, Mr. Symonenko said that the people of Ukraine had once again lost the battle to big capital. He maintained that the big political forces in the Parliament do not intend to keep their pre-election commitments, rather they mean to increase their influence on the Ukrainian economy and recoup the money they spent on canvassing. He expressed his opinion that the new Ukrainian Parliament is a set of oligarchs and bandits who are keen on property redistribution. Speaking about the reasons for the Ukrainian people's defeat in the elections, Mr. Symonenko pointed to the people's lack of unity, as well as the lack of unity with the brotherly peoples of Belarus and Russia. (Ukrinform)

Kyiv: NATO bid is 'irreversible'

SOFIA – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk told a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in the Bulgarian capital on April 28 that Ukraine's course toward NATO membership is "irreversible," Reuters reported. "Those political parties that made anti-NATO slogans the core of their electoral programs have failed to get to the Ukrainian Parliament," Mr. Tarasyuk said. "We also hope that this year the strengthening of NATO-Ukrainian relations will follow its logical continuation in the framework of the main preparations program – membership action plan – and further results in the invitation to accession talks," he added. NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said in Sofia the previous day that Ukraine and Georgia can expect encouragement during the alliance's November summit in Riga regarding their hopes to join NATO, but no "actual invitations." (RFE/RL Newswire)

Kyiv seeks RosUkrEnergo documents

KYIV – The Secretariat of Ukrainian

President Viktor Yushchenko wants to obtain the official documents an April 26 Izvestia article cited in listing two Ukrainian businessmen as the stakeholders of RosUkrEnergo, a company that controls Ukraine's gas imports, Interfax-Ukraine reported on April 26. Izvestia on April 26 cited an audit by PricewaterhouseCoopers in reporting that Kyiv basketball club owner Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin, owner of a Ukrainian bank, own 90 percent and 10 percent, respectively, of a company called Centragas Holding AG. Centragas in turn owns a 50 percent stake in RosUkrEnergo, which is the monopolist of gas supplies to Ukraine according to a deal concluded between Kyiv and Moscow in January. The other half of RosUkrEnergo is owned by Gazprom. The Austrian bank Raiffeisen Zentralbank on April 26 announced that it is holding the stake on Mr. Firtash's and Mr. Fursin's behalf. President Yushchenko has repeatedly defended the January gas deal, which increased the gas price for Ukraine from \$50 to \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters and introduced the secretive Swiss-based intermediary RosUkrEnergo as the monopolist supplier. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Lytvyn comments at Rada's last session

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn noted on April 26, in closing the last session of the Parliament of the fourth convocation, that the deputies' corps "lived with everything that the people lived with" these past four years. He compared the activities of the Parliament members with constantly "balancing on the edge of a knife," noting activities aimed at destroying the Parliament both from the outside and the inside. Nevertheless, Mr. Lytvyn said he believes it is to the Parliament's credit that between 2002 and 2005 the GDP grew by 30 percent, budgetary outlays increased 250 percent and minimum salaries and pensions grew by 250 and 400 percent, respectively. According to Mr. Lytvyn, the Verkhovna Rada of the fourth convocation passed the biggest number of bills, 1,250, of which 1,138 took

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Bush nominates new ambassador to Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Embassy of the United States in Ukraine on May 3 released the text of a White House announcement on the nomination of William B. Taylor as the new ambassador to Ukraine.

According to the Embassy, the White House Office of the Press Secretary released the following announcement on May 1:

“The president intends to nominate William B. Taylor Jr., of Virginia, to be ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ukraine. Mr. Taylor, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, currently serves as senior consultant to the Coordinator of Reconstruction and Stabilization at the Department of State. Prior to this, he served as the United States representative to the Quartet’s Special Envoy for Disengagement in Jerusalem.

“Earlier in his career, he served as director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office in Baghdad, Iraq. In addition, Mr. Taylor served in Kabul, Afghanistan, as coordinator of United States and international assistance to Afghanistan and as Afghan coordinator in the Bureau of South Asian Affairs at the Department of State.

“He also served as a captain in the United States Army. Mr. Taylor received his bachelor’s degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point and his master’s degree from Harvard University.”

Mr. Taylor’s State Department biography notes that he served as coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia in the U.S. Department of State. As such, he oversaw the bilateral economic, security, democracy and humanitarian assistance of all U.S. government agencies providing assistance to the 27 states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Washington insiders told The Weekly that, in his capacity as assistance coordinator for Europe and Eurasia, Mr. Taylor interacted with individuals involved in Ukraine-related matters, including at periodic meetings with Ukrainian American community representatives.

FOR THE RECORD

Secretary of State Rice comments on Ukraine and NATO membership

Below is the text of a statement by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Ukraine’s prospects for NATO membership delivered in Sofia, Bulgaria, on April 27. It was released on April 28 by the Embassy of the United States in Ukraine.

It has been the policy of NATO and it remains the policy of NATO to have an open door to European democracies that wish to join NATO, but also that qualify to join NATO. NATO is a membership organization that has a lot of requirements and a lot of obligations that have to do with security. And so, membership in NATO is something that has to, when NATO takes in members, it is taking in members that can meet those obligations that have the capabilities to do it.

And so when we talk about that open door, we also talk about the states that need to be prepared, we talk about meeting the criteria that are clearly laid out.

78 newly elected mayors attend practical management course

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

KYIV – For 78 of Ukraine’s newly elected mayors, the first training they received in their new capacities was a 16-hour certified course in “Practical Management for Newly Elected Mayors.” During the week of April 8-15, the course was conducted in Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Cherkasy and Kherson.

The “Practical Management for Newly Elected Mayors” course, administered by the Community Partnerships Project (CPP) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides knowledge about effective management and helps develop practical skills, which are of utmost importance for mayors starting their first terms in office. The course was jointly developed by experts from the Community Partnerships Project and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in Athens, Ga.

The participants of the training – among them the mayors of Lviv and Svitlovodsk, Drohobych and Oleksandria, Debaltsevo and Kakhovka – noted that this training was open, practical and timely. In total, 82 local government officials from 17 regions of Ukraine attended the training.

Additional training is being planned for newly elected mayors from the Donetsk, Odesa, Sumy, Chernihiv and Kharkiv oblasts, as well as the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Approximately 60 percent of all mayors of Ukrainian cities, towns, and villages were replaced in the 2006 elections.

In addition to training, the event provided newly elected mayors with the opportunity to meet with their more experienced colleagues – Ukrainian mayors who have already proven their reputation within their communities. The newly elected mayors were given friendly advice by Oleksander Popov, the mayor of Komsomolsk, Poltava Oblast; Oleksander Mazurchak, the mayor of Kamianets-Podilskyi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast; and Volodymyr Udovychenko, the mayor of Slavutych, Kyiv Oblast.

The “City Mayors Guide,” published by CPP with financial support from USAID, was presented to the partici-

But I think NATO has a record of having kept that door open and, indeed, when states have met those criteria, they have indeed been admitted. That’s why NATO has continued to enlarge over this last decade or so.

The Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people will have to decide whether or not this is something that they wish to pursue, and they will also have to work very hard, I think, to meet the criteria. We already have with Ukraine a NATO-Ukraine Council. That council will meet tomorrow. I think people are looking forward to hearing from Foreign Minister [Borys] Tarasyuk as to Ukraine’s intentions. But I think the principle that NATO remains an open organization for those who can meet its requirements and, therefore, are capable of meeting the obligations that come with NATO membership, that remains strong within NATO.



Ukrainian mayors at the course on “Practical Management for Newly Elected Mayors.”

pants of the course. This practical guide, tailored for mayors elected in the 2006 elections, consists of topical sections based on those priority objectives that all newly elected mayors will face during their first months in office.

Over the past nine years, the USAID-funded Community Partnerships Project, administered by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, has worked with over 40,000 local government officials and 1,600 communities in Ukraine.

Quotable notes

“... The question now occupying the minds of leaders of the G-7 countries is whether to participate in the upcoming G-8 summit in St. Petersburg. Idealists have proposed a boycott. Pragmatists oppose that approach. In either case, a bad outcome is inevitable.

“Pragmatists proposed to include in the agenda a discussion of ‘energy security’ and another attempt to persuade the Russian government to accept universal democratic values. But it would be naive to expect substantial results on these two points.

“The Russian authorities have already demonstrated how they understand energy security. Instead of liberalization and privatization of energy assets, they are opting for nationalization of private companies, the cementing of state control over the electricity grid and pipeline system and, on the international scene, efforts to use non-market methods to manage international energy resources. Is this something the world’s leading democracies are ready to accept? ...”

– Andrei Illarionov, former senior economic adviser to President Vladimir Putin, writing in the April 18 issue of *The Washington Post* in an op-ed piece titled “The Death of the G-8.”

“... After the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union, Russia rid itself of its oppressive police state, and the Russian people were finally free to choose how they wanted their country to evolve. In those days it was believed that Russia would become part of a broader democratic world. The time of irreconcilable confrontation with the West seemed to be over.

“But by 2003 Alexander Vershbow, then-U.S. ambassador to Russia, was talking about a widening ‘values gap’ between the United States and Russia with regard to democracy and the rule of law. And in today’s Russia, the West – and especially the United States – is increasingly regarded as an adversary whose values are not shared by Russians. ...

“The hardships of the early post-Communist years caused bitter disillusionment. The insecurity and disparities in wealth under fledgling capitalism brought anxiety and resentment. The task of reforming a nation crippled and demoralized by decades under an inhuman regime proved insurmountable. It would have taken a true visionary to mobilize the Russian people and pursue the path of modernization. And Vladimir Putin is no visionary. He addressed his nation’s pain and anger by offering a return to traditional paternalism – a model that people welcomed with a sense of relief. For even if the government was habitually self-seeking, incompetent and corrupt, it was once again possible for people to avoid making choices and assuming responsibility for Russia’s future. ...

“... The nation and the state have slipped back to the familiar pattern of seeing enemies inside and outside, regarding the West as a force that seeks to harm Russia and Westerners as potential spies. ...”

– Masha Lipman, editor of the *Carnegie Moscow Center’s Pro et Contra* journal, writing in the May 2 issue of *The Washington Post*, in her monthly column, this one titled “Fear of the West in Russia.”

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Karmazyn appointed chief of VOA's Ukrainian Service

WASHINGTON – Veteran Voice of America journalist Adrian Karmazyn has been appointed chief of VOA's Ukrainian Service, it was announced on April 20.



Adrian Karmazyn

Mr. Karmazyn, 45, joined VOA in 1988, as an international radio broadcaster in the Ukrainian Service. He served in this capacity as a reporter, writer, producer, translator and announcer, and also served as a correspondent in Kyiv.

Since 1999 Mr. Karmazyn has served as program manager of VOA's Ukrainian Service. During that period the Ukrainian Service significantly expanded its network of reporters in Ukraine and

its cooperation with FM affiliates. In addition, Mr. Karmazyn oversaw the reorganization of "Vikno v Ameryku" (Window on America), a weekly TV magazine program, the launch of the daily "Chas-Time" television program and regular interactive satellite feeds with TV networks in Ukraine.

Mr. Karmazyn is a native of Cleveland. He completed a B.A. in history at Ohio State University and a M.A. in Russian and East European studies at the University of Michigan.

He is a member of the Ukrainian National Association's Washington branch. He resides in Olney, Md., with his wife, Sonia, and children, Melania and Levko.

VOA's Ukrainian television and radio programs have a combined weekly audience of 12.7 percent, a rating which means that 12.7 percent of adults (defined as anyone 15 or older) in Ukraine have seen or heard a VOA program at least once in the past week, making the Voice of America the No. 1 international broadcaster in Ukraine. For programming information readers may visit VOA's Ukrainian Service website at: <http://www.VOANews.com/Ukrainian>.

The Voice of America, which first went on the air in 1942, is a multi-media international broadcasting service funded by the U.S. government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of news, information, educational and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of more than 100 million people. Programs are produced in 44 languages, including English.

Memorial unveiled to Welsh journalist who exposed genocidal Soviet Famine

TORONTO – The first-ever trilingual (Welsh-English-Ukrainian) plaque was unveiled on May 3 at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth, honoring Gareth Richard Vaughan Jones, a journalist with The Western Mail.

Traveling surreptitiously in Soviet Ukraine, in March 1933, Jones, who spoke Russian fluently, soon thereafter wrote a number of articles about the man-made famine orchestrated by the Stalinist government in what had been the "breadbasket of Europe." He then himself fell prey to a determined effort to discredit his reporting.

Some 7 million of Ukrainians perished even as the Soviet authorities denied that a famine was raging, and continued to export grain. They were joined in their cover-up by Western journalists, including the now notorious Walter Duranty of

The New York Times.

Commenting on the plaque unveiling, the UCCLA's director of research, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, said: "Today we have hallowed the memory of the many millions of victims of a Stalinist crime against humanity, arguably the greatest example of genocide to befoul 20th century Europe. We have also paid tribute to a brave and honest journalist, Gareth Jones, who tried to expose the truth, only to fall victim to Stalin's men."

"In some ways," Dr. Luciuk noted, "Jones was the last victim of the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine. It is fitting that we could gather today in Wales, at the university where he studied, to honor a remarkable young man who paid such a heavy price for his commitment to being an honest reporter of the facts."

Canadians for Genocide Museum protest the prime minister's stance

TORONTO – During the recent federal election Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated his intention to support the Asper family's project to establish a "human rights" museum. Canadians for a Genocide Museum (CGM), a coalition of 47 associations representing 27 Canadian cultural communities (see member list below), is protesting this commitment. A total of \$100 million in federal money is at issue.

CGM Chairman John Gregorovich

explained: "In principle, we support such a project on the condition that it is both inclusive and equitable in all aspects. However, we have profound concerns regarding the Asper project. CGM has just written to Prime Minister Harper and launched a mail-in card protest campaign to voice our concerns about it."

"Our organization believes that anything less than a full and explicit commitment to the twin principles of inclusivity and equity

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OBITUARY: Dr. Alec Danylevich, neurosurgeon, community activist

by George Powch

WORCESTER, Mass. – The Ukrainian American community lost one of its finest on April 14 in Worcester, Mass., when Alec Danylevich passed on after a heroic battle with cancer.

He was a man of many talents: a renowned neurosurgeon in the Worcester area, devoted husband of Louise Feldhaus, loving father of twin daughters Laryssa and Natalia, and dear brother to an extended clan including sisters Irene Billon, with husband Slavko, of Newark, Del.; Angelina Grundhoff, with husband George, of Reading, Mass.; and a twin brother, the Very Rev. Wladimir Danylevich, married to Anna, of Kensington, Md.

He is survived by 12 nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Dr. Danylevich was a pillar of the Ukrainian American community in the greater Boston area and of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America.

Born July 16, 1947, in Kempton, Germany, he was the fourth child of the Very Rev. John Danylevich, who came from a long line of distinguished Ukrainian Orthodox clergy from Volyn. The family emigrated to the U.S. in 1949, where Dr. Danylevich's father was first assigned to concurrently lead the Ukrainian Orthodox Parishes in Bakerton and Dixonville, Pa., and later in Herkimer, N.Y.

Dr. Danylevich's formative years, however, were in Boston, where the family settled in 1952 when his father was transferred to lead St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Jamaica Plains.

He excelled at Boston's renowned Latin High School, which led directly to Harvard University. At Harvard, he was one of the organizers of the Boston-Cambridge Ukrainian Students Club in the late 1960s and was involved in the genesis of what has become today the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

He went on to medical school at Dartmouth and then George Washington University, followed by an extended residency in neurosurgery at New York Hospital (Cornell).

During those years, he was actively involved in various Ukrainian student events, engaged in student campaigns of the time, such as the movement to free Valentyn Moroz and other writers, poets

and artists expressing liberal or nationalist sentiments who had been incarcerated by the repressive Soviet regime. And, he was a fixture on the Ukrainian American social circuit.

On completing his residency, Dr. Danylevich joined a practice in Worcester, Mass., where he stayed and built a very distinguished career. He was assistant professor of surgery at University of Massachusetts Medical School, and chief of neurosurgery, first at Memorial Hospital and later at St. Vincent's Hospital at Worcester Medical Center.

He married Louise Feldhaus, a radiologist, and they raised twin daughters, Laryssa and Natalia, in a home filled with love, joy and no end of artifacts of Dr. Danylevich's Ukrainian heritage.

A longtime members of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Boston, Dr. Danylevich was a founder in 1990 of the Father John Danylevich Foundation, and its first president. The foundation has been very successful in providing diverse humanitarian aid to the needy in Ukraine, and Dr. Danylevich was continually involved and a strong supporter of this and many other Ukrainian causes.

In life, Dr. Danylevich was compelling: brilliant and brash, quick-witted and very opinionated, fiercely protective of his family and proud of his heritage, yet modest and self-effacing, and generous to a fault.

He was a deeply religious and spiritual man, and sought solace in his faith as sickness consumed him. He faced the end fearlessly, confident in what lay before him. He declined artificial measures to prolong his life, and medications to ease his discomfort, wishing the sensation of being alive not be diminished in the slightest, despite the pain that it meant. He suffered stoically, giving few if any signs to those around him, and setting an example of grace and dignity in death.

He was interred in the mausoleum at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J., on April 19 with family and friends in attendance, after extended funeral services the prior day in Worcester, Mass. He leaves behind a large legacy in the lives of the people he touched.

Memorial donations may be sent to: St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society, 1023 Yorkshire Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024.

OBITUARY: Dr. Alexander Gudziak, community leader and benefactor

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Dr. Alexander Gudziak, 80, of Syracuse, N.Y., passed away peacefully at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse on Saturday, April 22, after a long illness.

He was born on January 19, 1926, in Pomoriany, Ukraine. He completed a degree in dental surgery at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and a D.D.S. degree at New York University.

After serving as captain in the U.S. Army in Germany, Dr. Gudziak settled in Syracuse, where he had a successful dental practice for 40 years. He was an active member of the Greater Syracuse Dental Society and other professional organizations.

Actively involved in the Ukrainian American community, Dr. Gudziak served as the head of the Syracuse Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and chairman of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in

Syracuse. He was a communicant of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse.

Dr. Gudziak was an avid skier, swimmer and golfer, and a generous contributor to academic and community organizations. In March 2005 Pope John Paul II decorated Dr. Gudziak with the medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice."

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Jaroslawa; sons Father Borys Gudziak of Lviv, and Dr. Marko Gudziak, with his wife, Roma, and their children, Kateryna, Gregory and Zachary of Michigan.

Funeral services were on April 25 at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse. Burial was on April 26 at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; www.ucef.org.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Convention Committee welcomes delegates to Soyuzivka

by Oksana Trytjak

Convention Committee Chairman

The UNA has a proud history of 112 years of service to the Ukrainian community. Over the years, the UNA held 35 conventions throughout the United States and Canada. The 36th Convention will be held on May 26-29, marking the first time this gathering will take place in our own backyard, at Soyuzivka in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

The Convention Committee has spent much time and energy in planning and preparing a program that will remind each participant of the

value of Soyuzivka. We hope that all of you enjoy the wonderful setting of Soyuzivka.

Since Ukraine's independence the UNA has become more mindful of focusing on our Ukrainian communities in the diaspora. We must concentrate on supporting our organizations, churches and various cultural, educational and social institutions here in the United States and Canada.

We trust that the 36th UNA Convention will produce resolutions that will be meaningful and productive. Hopefully, they will remind us of the value of the oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal association in the world – the Ukrainian National Association. We must work together to promote the UNA as the organization that unites the Ukrainian community.

Soyuzivka is eager to welcome the 36th UNA Convention's delegates, members of the General Assembly, UNA members and special guests, and promises you wonderful memories to take home.



Members of the Convention Committee for the UNA's 36th Regular Convention to be held at Soyuzivka: (front row, from left) Sonia Semanyshyn, Anna Slobodian, Stephanie Hawryluk, Oksana Trytjak, Maxine Hayden, Vera Staruch, (second row) Soyuzivka Manager Nestor Paslawsky, Gerald Tysiak, Roman Hawryluk, Longin Staruch, Vasyl Luchkiw and Nicholas Fil. (Missing from the photo is committee member Maya Lew.)

Correction

Due to typographical errors in the Young UNA'ers column in the April 30 issue, two daughters were listed as sons. Maya Maria Nyzhnykevych is the daughter of Olena and Yuriy Nyzhnykevych; and Nicole Emilia Deychakiwsky is the daughter of Nicholas Deychakiwsky and Oksana Pronych. We apologize for the error.

UNA SENIORS' CONFERENCE

at
SOYUZIVKA
on

June 11-16, 2006 – Senior Citizens' Week

Ladies and Gentlemen! 2006 is already well on its way.
We wish you good health and invite you to visit SOYUZIVKA!

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



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

UNA members
single occupancy \$399
double occupancy \$345 pp
Per night - Single \$85 – Double \$74 pp

Non-UNA members
single occupancy \$450
double occupancy \$360 pp
Per night - Single \$95 – Double \$82 pp

BANQUET & ENTERTAINMENT only \$35 pp
Call SOYUZIVKA at 845-626-5641 and register early. Limited space available.
Organize a bus from your area, contact your local seniors' club!
For further information please call Oksana Trytjak at 973-292-9800 ext. 3071.
Senior Citizens' Week is FUN, AFFORDABLE AND INTERESTING.
WE WELCOME GUESTS ! COME ONE, COME ALL!

THE UNA: 112 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our Soyuzivka

It is a truism that everybody in the Ukrainian community considers Soyuzivka "ours" – a gorgeous piece of property in the Catskill region that the Ukrainian community can call its own.

"Nasha Soyuzivka" (our Soyuzivka), which is owned by the Ukrainian National Association, is a veritable gem. It's a place where anyone in our Ukrainian community feels at home, a place where many of our organizations hold their conferences, meetings and conventions; the venue for countless Ukrainian weddings (everyone knows that a Soyuzivka wedding is second to none); a vacation spot where all family members can feel comfortable and safe, where friends can enjoy each other's company in a relaxed and naturally beautiful setting.

Soyuzivka is also the host to a variety of camps: from tennis and other sports camps to day camps for preschoolers, from Discovery and Exploration camps that promise adventure in the great outdoors to Ukrainian Heritage and Ukrainian Folk Dance camps. In fact, Soyuzivka's roster of camps has been expanded for the 2006 season – a development that demonstrates the continuing popularity of the estate.

The establishment back in September 2005 of the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation aimed to take advantage of all Soyuzivka has to offer in order to promote the cultural, educational and historical heritage of Ukraine and Ukrainian Americans. A non-profit charitable entity, the foundation is to operate Soyuzivka as a cultural and educational venue for all Ukrainians, regardless of their backgrounds.

Earlier this year the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation announced membership options for those who want to help secure Soyuzivka's future by creating a strong financial foundation for the estate. Responses have begun coming in from young and old alike; certainly many more are expected as the summer season gets under way.

In addition, there are several groups of activists that have stepped up to the plate.

The Brooklyn Ukrainian Group, for example, held a Spring Cleaning Weekend – the third annual – at Soyuzivka on April 7-9, with all labor to spruce up the estate provided by a band of hardy volunteers.

Then there's the concert slated for May 19 during the Ukrainian Street Festival in New York City. Dubbed "Ukrainian Music Invasion," it will feature five live bands. Proceeds will benefit St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church and Schools, Help Us Help the Children and the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation (via the Chornomorski Khvyli Sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization).

All of the above indicates that, yes, our Ukrainian community truly wants Soyuzivka to remain ours. And yet, the resort is not filled to capacity during the summer season, save for a few popular weeks and special weekends. The fact of the matter is that, if we truly want Soyuzivka to continue to exist and be there for us when we need it for our weddings, conferences, meetings, etc., then we need to support the resort by being more than occasional guests. Our community members need to book rooms for more than a weekend. Why not make reservations for a week along with a group of friends? Not only will you be re-establishing the bonds of friendship, but you will be making a very concrete contribution toward Soyuzivka's well-being. And, rest assured, there is much to do in and around Soyuzivka. (Don't believe us? Call the helpful staff at the estate and they will steer you to activities that will satisfy everyone in your family or group.)

We write this editorial with this week's special pullout section, "A Ukrainian Summer" – our 10th annual summer supplement – in mind. As our thoughts turn to summer, we say to our readers: Why not make plans this year to rediscover our Soyuzivka?

May
12
1996

Turning the pages back...

The Ukrainian Weekly's front page from May 12, 1996, carried a news story about the White House commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

"Ten years after the fateful May Day when children in Kyiv marched down the Ukrainian capital's main boulevard, the Khreshchatyk, unaware that deadly radioactive fallout was coming down upon them, the first lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, hosted a special commemorative program whose aim was to focus attention on the continuing devastating effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster," reported The Weekly.

The White House event was billed as "A Call to Healing and Prevention," and it brought together activists from both the private and government sectors who had worked to help the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, and the ambassadors of the three republics most affected by the accident's fallout, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Included among the nearly 200 guests were many Ukrainian American community members representing charitable, women's, fraternal, religious and other organizations, as well as individual activists.

The 10th anniversary commemoration featured speeches by the first lady and Vice-President Al Gore, as well as Alexander Kuzma of the Chernobyl Challenge '96 coalition and 11-year-old Vova Malofienko, one of the first "children of Chernobyl" brought to this country for medical treatment in the aftermath of the world's worst nuclear accident.

Mrs. Clinton, who served as honorary chair of Chernobyl Challenge '96, said the event "is one both of mourning and also of hope." Mourning because "the people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia have suffered so much in the 10 years since the explosion and fire at Chernobyl's Unit 4 reactor," and hope because, "as we so often see

(Continued on page 18)

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



How could this have happened?

Just 17 months after Ukrainians launched a revolution in which they were willing to lay down their lives for Viktor Yushchenko, he is now the target of disgust and derision for many of those very same people.

Out of 25 million Ukrainians who voted in the 2006 parliamentary elections, only 14 percent, or 3.5 million of them, supported Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc.

Typically, finishing in third place isn't bad.

But considering that the Our Ukraine bloc won the most votes in the 2002 elections, and considering that Mr. Yushchenko was the most admired man in Ukraine one year ago, his result can be described as disastrous.

Incredibly enough, Mr. Yushchenko has become a virtual lame-duck president one and a half years after a the revolution that swept him into power.

With every day that passes in the elections' aftermath, it becomes ever more apparent that Mr. Yushchenko's political career has peaked with the Orange Revolution. His future is dim, at best.

Eastern Ukrainians have demonstrated that they will never support Mr. Yushchenko, while central and western Ukrainians have made clear that it's Yulia Tymoshenko whom they trust.

The Tymoshenko Bloc received 60 percent more votes than Our Ukraine, or 5.7 million.

The result made it loud and clear to Mr. Yushchenko that the Orange electorate wants Ms. Tymoshenko to return to government as prime minister.

For one reason or another, that, to him, is anathema.

Several theories are circulating throughout Kyiv: he fears her challenge for the presidency in 2009, he doesn't agree with her governing style, he doesn't agree with her policies, she is corrupt, his circle of corrupt cronies loathes her or perhaps fears her.

Ms. Tymoshenko has repeatedly alleged that it's Mr. Yushchenko's notorious entourage that manipulates his antipathy for her because she stands in the way of their corrupt activities.

Mr. Yushchenko's aversion to Ms. Tymoshenko returning to the prime ministership became apparent three weeks ago when he rejected the point in a coalition-forming protocol agreement that allows for the bloc winning the most votes to select the prime minister.

By requiring a detailed program of activities among coalition participants, which Mr. Yushchenko indicated could be at least 100 pages long, the president is clearly revealing his distrust of Ms. Tymoshenko.

By requiring the program, Mr. Yushchenko wants to hold Ms. Tymoshenko accountable.

That way, should another major conflict

arise, Mr. Yushchenko could specifically point out to the public how Ms. Tymoshenko is pursuing her own agenda instead of the one set by the coalition forces.

Our Ukraine's leadership remains arrogant.

Roman Zvarych figuratively wagged his finger at Tymoshenko ally Mykola Tomenko during a political talk show several weeks ago, telling him, "We have the votes that you need." So let's sit down and negotiate, he said.

But why should Ms. Tymoshenko be the one bending over backwards when she has the power to make or break Mr. Yushchenko's political future?

Our Ukraine may well have the votes the Tymoshenko Bloc needs. But with every day that Our Ukraine drags out the coalition-forming process, votes from its share of the electorate will slowly trickle over to the Tymoshenko Bloc.

Through some wonder or divine intervention, Our Ukraine might be able to convince Ms. Tymoshenko to take the Parliament's chairmanship instead.

Other than that political outcome, Mr. Yushchenko's only hope for survival is to allow Ms. Tymoshenko to become prime minister.

The fact that Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko are already fighting and wrangling portends little chance of a renewed Orange union surviving beyond the three and a half years the president wants for a coalition.

What's the other option?

Political suicide is the undoubted consensus in the event of an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition.

The Our Ukraine bloc won three oblasts in the elections, all in Ukraine's most pro-European, nationally conscious regions: Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zakarpattia.

An Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition would seal those votes forever beyond the reach of Our Ukraine.

In the event of such a coalition, the Our Ukraine bloc will inevitably splinter, and Mr. Yushchenko will become a bona fide one-term president, if that isn't the case already.

It's even doubtful that Mr. Yushchenko's political party, the Our Ukraine People's Union, would survive.

Mr. Yushchenko is the only slightly appealing personality on an Our Ukraine People's Union roster that features the likes of Roman Bezsmertnyi, Petro Poroshenko and David Zhvania, who are essentially self-interested businessmen or career politicians incapable of offering any vision for Ukraine.

Dismissing the Parliament is Mr. Yushchenko's third option, another path to sure disaster since few Ukrainian voters want a repeat of the elections.

If an Our Ukraine-Party of the Regions coalition would put Mr. Yushchenko in the doghouse with his electoral base, dismissing the Parliament would send him straight to the gutter.

The current no-win situation in which Mr. Yushchenko finds himself is a rare display of political self-destruction – a textbook example of how to sabotage one's own career that will likely be studied by political scientists for decades to come.

And now we confront the possibility that Our Ukraine, the political movement that brought about the Orange Revolution, will not even exist as a political entity by the time the next major elections roll around.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Illegal immigrants and U.S. law

Dear Editor:

Columns in the April 16 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly on illegal immigration all but exonerate aliens who reside here illegally, thus breaking American law. Although thoughtfully written, the writers mute why we are a sovereign nation with immigration law. We don't want to become like Mexico, a vast plantation system, although that is where we are going. To harbor or assist illegal aliens also violates the law, although you wouldn't know that listening to George W. Bush. Every time he opens his big mouth the border-jumper numbers triple, anticipating a fast break to citizenship.

As many as 20 million illegals here made a conscious decision to illegally occupy the United States. The cost to American taxpayers in terms of social services, beaten-down wages and lower standards of living is staggering, according to NumbersUSA, an immigration control group.

The "one-time only" 1986 amnesty took on 2.7 million illegals. There were six more amnesties under President Bill Clinton. No more!

Meanwhile the elephant in the room is legal immigration, which takes on 1 million new aliens a year. If President Bush and the Senate have their way, under work visas we'll see 35 million new aliens (who, in turn, bring along families under visas) over the next 10 years.

A half century ago, Dwight D. Eisenhower heard that crime and labor strife were spiraling in the Southwest. A million illegals were invading annually. He sent Gen. Joseph May Swing down to Texas. Feds working with local police and militias cleaned out the entire Southwest of illegals and that lasted a decade. This is never mentioned in the current media spotlight.

The question is: Does America have the will to survive? What sin is this nation's, that our leaders get away with opening the gates? Americans are starting to arise from their sofas, beer in hand, looking out beyond the TV set to see their front yards crawling with aliens. Sound crass? The Republican Party under King George is torn between amoral business interests and national security.

Punish parasitic businesses involved in this human trafficking. Deport the illegals. It may be our last chance to save this great republic.

Peter B. Hrycenko
Allentown, Pa.

The pain of a family of immigrants

Dear Editor:

My name is Igor Karnaoukh, and The Ukrainian Weekly wrote numerous articles about me and my family. I would like to thank you on behalf of my family for publishing such beautiful and informative articles in our defense.

We hope that these articles will not only win justice for us, but also help every other human being who was struck by the same misfortune.

Also, we hope that these articles will rouse the Ukrainian community to stand up for each other so these things will not happen anymore.

We are very glad that you understand our pain and the pain of countless other immigrants. Thank you.

Igor Karnaoukh
Ternopil, Ukraine

More on Chicago and its people

Dear Editor:

It was great to read Andrew Fedynsky's recent column featuring Chicago ("Chicago, my kind of town," March 26), and in particular the Ukrainian Village section which can boast of a real ethnic neighborhood. The "Ukrainian Village" is a vibrant, cultural area that is alive and well and in a highly desirable part of Chicago. As a former resident, I always look forward to returning to Chicago Avenue and revisiting the shops, churches and the streets that are still visibly Ukrainian in flavor and spirit.

It was also wonderful to know that several notable people have come out of the old 'hood, including Kateryna Yushchenko. However, Mr. Fedynsky overlooked and should have also mentioned another great luminary who was born and raised in the Ukrainian Chicago neighborhood and that is, of course, award-winning fiction writer Irene Zabytko. Her novel about Chornobyl, "The Sky Unwashed," is still a must-read and appears on several reading lists in schools and colleges throughout the country. And most interestingly, her second book, "When Luba Leaves Home," is a collection of stories about the Ukrainian Village in Chicago set in the late 1960s. Readers will no doubt recognize several landmarks that Mr. Fedynsky mentioned in his article.

It's also interesting to note that Ms. Zabytko, in addition to her reputation as a stellar American fiction writer who writes about Ukrainian themes, has conducted her own "Luba Walking Tours" in Chicago's Ukrainian Village. My husband and I, as well as several of our friends and even a book club or two, were treated to Ms. Zabytko taking us on a walking tour there. It was fabulous to hear the author (in person!) read sections from her book where the stories take place and tell us how she came to write her book.

Her tours have received marvelous local press in the Chicago Tribune, WBEZ-Radio (NPR, Chicago), The Chicago Reader and other places, and we hope that Ms. Zabytko will continue to lead more walking tours in the near future.

It really brings in interested folks from everywhere who are fascinated and thrilled to know about our special Ukrainian world in Chicago, and we have Ms. Zabytko to thank for that through her great books and her connection as someone who was born and raised in Chicago's Ukrainian Village.

Nadia Fralinger
Orlando, Fla.

We welcome your opinion

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Answering Putin's challenge to the G-8

If all politics is local, as House Speaker Tip O'Neill once famously said, then few politicians have delivered for their hometown like Russia's President Vladimir Putin. As a member of the G-8, the group of leaders of the world's eight major industrial democracies, Mr. Putin selected St. Petersburg as the venue for Russia's turn this July to host the exclusive gathering. It's where he grew up, went to college, landed a job with the KGB and as deputy mayor, got his start in politics.

The G-8, of course, is anything but local. It has its roots in the 1973 oil crisis and the global recession that followed. In response, President Gerald R. Ford in 1975 convened a gathering of senior financial officials from the U.S., Europe and Japan to discuss economic issues. Two years later, French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing hosted a summit of the leaders of West Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. A schedule of annual meetings was adopted under a rotating presidency, and the Group of Six (G-6) was formed. In 1976 Canada joined, making it the G-7. Starting in 1991, the USSR and later its successor, Russia, began meeting with the G-7 after the main summit. In 1998, in appreciation for President Boris Yeltsin's economic reforms and agreeing to NATO's eastward expansion, Russia was accepted into the summit, creating the G-8.

For President Putin, hosting the G-8 summit in his hometown has to be immensely gratifying. "Being valued by the West is very important to Putin," according to Alexei Arbatov, former chairman of the Duma Defense Committee. "He considers Russia a great Western power – that's the basis of his world view."

That was also Tsar Peter's motivation in 1703, when he decreed construction of St. Petersburg as a "Window to the West." Like Mr. Putin, Peter the Great wanted to present Russia as a modern country, equal to any. To accomplish that, he used the same methods to build his city that the pharaohs used to build the pyramids.

A century later in the summer of 1839, French aristocrat Marquis de Custine visited Petersburg and observed in his travelogue, "Journey for Our Time," it was "only too easy in St. Petersburg to let yourself be taken in by the appearances of civilization." Appalled by the human costs of Peter's imperial showcase, he saw "a real barbarism barely disguised under a revolting magnificence."

That same summer, the newly liberated serf, 25-year-old Taras Shevchenko, was working as an illustrator in St. Petersburg and writing the Kobzar, the poetry collection that would change the course of history. Like de Custine, Shevchenko was haunted by St. Petersburg's construction slaughter – 100,000 slaves, including many Ukrainian Kozaks, died building it. For him, Peter was the "voracious beast [who] reared his shining capital on tortured corpses."

A hundred years later in 1934, with the city renamed Leningrad, the head of its Communist Party, Sergei Kirov, was assassinated, in all likelihood at the behest of Joseph Stalin. That murder launched the Great Terror, including 1,100 victims found in a mass grave in 1997 at Sandarmokh about 243 miles north of St. Petersburg. These included four Orthodox archbishops, 30 Catholic

priests, 300 Ukrainian nationalists and intellectuals, 20 Tatar political figures, a Gypsy king, Belarusian leaders, Russian cultural figures and workers. Sandarmokh was kept secret, like other Soviet crimes, until the St. Petersburg Chapter Memorial pieced together clues from KGB archives and unearthed the ghastly site.

Vladimir Putin, himself a career KGB man, prefers not to acknowledge all this history. As Russia's president, he's surrounded himself with people with the same training and mindset. Not surprisingly, civil liberties in Russia, property rights, the rule of law, freedom of speech and non-governmental organizations are all being suppressed. Mr. Putin routinely meddles in his neighbors' affairs, most notoriously with manipulation of Ukraine's election, the use of energy as a foreign policy cudgel, the boycott of Georgian wine and the festering sore in Chechnya. The U.S., for its part, is unhappy that Russia tried to undercut its Iraq policy by providing Saddam Hussein with war materiel and military intelligence on the eve of America's invasion in 2003 and is now playing an obstructionist role in the effort to stop Iran's nuclear program. Russia, of course, denies everything – including much of its own past – and poses as a country like any other.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, responding to calls for Russia's expulsion from the G-8, says only that the country is going through "a difficult transition" and maintains expelling Mr. Putin would be a mistake – "a personal insult, like spitting in his face," according to Mr. Arbatov.

So what to do? Russia's conduct under the Putin administration is inconsistent with the values and objectives of the G-8. On the other hand, Russia is a veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council, a nuclear juggernaut and an energy giant, so expelling Mr. Putin would raise problems the U.S. would rather not deal with.

President Bush has often spoken of his friendship with "Vladimir" as one that allows him to speak privately and candidly with Russia's leader about democracy. (But to no avail, it seems.) Well, it's come time that Mr. Bush and his G-7 colleagues lift the curtain on the 21st Century version of "barbarism barely disguised under a revolting magnificence," that the Marquis de Custine perceived 165 years ago. Blunt words are needed; clear gestures required.

While in St. Petersburg, President Bush and other democratic leaders should pause to lay a wreath to commemorate the victims of communism. Mr. Bush should then follow up with a trip to Kyiv to confer with President Viktor Yushchenko and, while he's there, lay another wreath to honor victims of the Nazis at Babyn Yar. He might point out how the totalitarian mindset that made the Holocaust possible, also formed the basis for the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. From there, he should get into his limo and go to the Famine memorial to lay a wreath there.

If all that makes Mr. Putin squirm, and even if it spoils his party, then good. Otherwise we'll all be squirming as G-7 leaders act as if a Mr. Putin's Russia were a normal country like theirs. It isn't. Pretending that it is would be the biggest mistake of all.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is: fedynsky@stratos.net.

U.N. commemorative...

(Continued from page 1)

term. Regarding the psychological impact, UNICEF has been working to educate children about healthy lifestyles, to combat the lingering effects of Chernobyl.

Andrei Dapkiunas, the permanent representative for Belarus, thanked all of the delegations present at the day's commemorative meeting, highlighting the need for continued efforts in Belarus, which received 70 percent of the fallout from Chernobyl and 20 percent of which is still contaminated by radionuclides.

U.N. experts estimated the overall cost of the damage in Belarus at \$235 billion, with Belarusians themselves spending over \$17 billion to address post-

Chernobyl issues, including the relocation of over 140,000 people. A recent conference in Miensk had suggested proclaiming the years 2006-2016 as the "international decade for the recovery and sustainable development of the regions affected by the Chernobyl disaster."

Additionally, Mr. Dapkiunas said that early diagnosis and detection of cancer and cardiovascular diseases, especially in children, was one of Belarus' largest concerns. He cited the need for modern medical equipment to help address these issues.

Mr. Dapkiunas also agreed with the Miensk conference's recommendation to include Belarus in the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, giving it a platform to share its years of experience to face the new

challenges and problems that have arisen in the field of radiation protection. He added, "Whether or not we have the courage to admit it, by attempting to harness the most powerful available energy source, humankind has unleashed unknown risks and dangers."

The representative of the Russian Federation, Igor Shcherbak, called the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant a potential source of danger in Europe, asking the international community to muster its scientific, technical and financial capacities to minimize this threat in the near future.

Representatives of the Russian Federation viewed the consensual adoption in November 2005 of the General Assembly resolution calling for a commemorative meeting dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster (A/RES/60/14), and its unprecedented 69 co-sponsors, as the international community's expression of solidarity with the affected countries. Calling on his fellow delegates to strengthen their response capacity for technological disasters, Mr. Shcherbak highlighted as an example the readiness of the Russian Federation's Ministry for Emergency Situations that has already explored international cooperation in this matter.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Kholosha, vice minister of emergencies, said that Ukraine agrees with the remarks of Gerhard Pfanzelter, the representative from Austria, who spoke on behalf of the European Union. Thanking the international community for its efforts in helping Ukraine after the Chernobyl disaster, Mr. Pfanzelter said he looks forward to continued measures to help mitigate the disaster's effects and thanked the General Assembly for passing the resolution in November 2005, which called for the Chernobyl commemorative meeting at the U.N. General Assembly. He noted that 3 million people were affected by the disaster and 10

percent of Ukraine's land was contaminated by radiation, as 164,000 people had been relocated. Referring to current findings and varying statistics, Mr. Kholosha said there has been no consensus on the disaster's health impact and that health assessments must be continued.

After statements were read by the Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine, the acting president of the General Assembly called for one minute of silence for the victims of Chernobyl.

This was followed by statements read by representatives of Uganda, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Slovenia, Chile, the Latin American and Caribbean Group, France, the Western European and other states, the United States, the European Union and associated states, Japan, China, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Argentina, Cuba, Brazil and the European Commission, as well as by Raymond Forde, vice-president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and U.N. observer of the situation in the affected areas.

Once the meeting was adjourned, the Russian, Belarusian and Ukrainian representatives each gave statements at the opening of the Chernobyl photo exhibit titled, "20 Years After Chernobyl: From Tragedy to Recovery." The exhibit, which was organized in cooperation with the American project "Chernobyl: 20" and the UNDP, displayed over 70 photographs in the visitor's lobby of the U.N. headquarters.

Later that day, Ukraine's ambassador to the U.N., Valeriy Kuchinsky, with the representatives of the Russian Federation and Belarus, as well as Japanese Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, rang the U.N. peace bell in memory of the victims of Chernobyl. The bell is located in the Japanese garden of the United Nations and is made from coins collected by children from over 60 countries.

Photographic exhibit focuses on Chernobyl 20 years after

NEW YORK – A photographic exhibit titled "20 Years After Chernobyl: From Tragedy to Recovery" opened on April 28 at the United Nations and is on display in the South Gallery of the General Assembly visitor's lobby until May 12. Over 70 photos attempt to capture the human dimension of the tragedy and recovery efforts. Included are images of the liquidators who risked their lives in the early phases of the response efforts to save others.

At the opening of the exhibit, statements were read by U.N. Ambassadors Igor Shcherbak of the Russian Federation, Andrei Dapkiunas of Belarus and Valeriy Kuchinsky of Ukraine. The exhibit features a collec-

tion of photographs contributed by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Photographs were provided by "Chernobyl: 20," the Chernobyl Museum in Kyiv, the Chernobyl Union of Russia, the ITAR-TASS News Agency, Anatoliy Kleshchuk and Dzianis Ramaniuk of Belarus, the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow, Mondano, the National Photo Artists Union of Ukraine and RIA-Novosti News Agency.

The exhibit is sponsored by the U.N. missions of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

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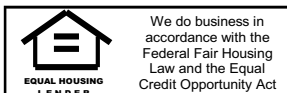
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1729 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111

New York District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association

announces that its

Annual General Meeting

will be held on

Friday, May 19, 2006, at 6 p.m.

At the "Selfreliance" Association

98 Second Avenue, New York, NY

Obliged to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Branch Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

5, 8, 16, 86, 130, 184, 194, 267, 325, 327, 450, 489

Guests and members of the Ukrainian National Association are welcomed

For the District Committee:

Nadia Sawczuk – acting District Chairman

Motria Milanytch – District Secretary

Honorary District Chairman – Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw

Attention, Students!

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

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

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

International conference...

(Continued from page 1)

Greenpeace International, who released estimates in time for the 20th commemoration of the April 26 catastrophe.

The Greenpeace report estimated at least 30,000 more deaths related to Chernobyl, perhaps reaching as many as 100,000. The Ukrainian government has reached even more somber conclusions.

"At least 500,000 people, perhaps more, have already died out of the 2 million people who were officially classed as victims of Chernobyl in Ukraine," said Nikolai Omelianets, deputy head of the National Commission for Radiation Protection in Ukraine.

Of those, about 34,500 liquidators who took part in cleaning up Chernobyl have died, a rate three times as high as in the rest of the population, Mr. Omelianets said.

The Chernobyl Forum, consisting of eight United Nations organizations (including the IAEA) and representatives of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus, wrote its report by analyzing "all appropriate scientific information."

Such information included scientific studies undertaken by the IAEA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Scientific Commission on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

However, the forum report doesn't mention how many studies or which studies it chose to examine.

The report also stated "it is impossible to assess reliably, with any precision, numbers of fatal cancers caused by radiation exposure due to the Chernobyl accident. Further, radiation-induced cancers are at present indistinguishable from those due to other cancers."

As for ailments aside from cancer, the report states that because of the relatively low doses of radiation in the Chernobyl-affected regions, "there is no evidence or any likelihood of observing decreased fertility among males or females."

As surprising as the report's conclusions were, few of the speakers attending the Kyiv conference's opening ceremony questioned its validity.

President and Mrs. Yushchenko didn't issue any opinion on the forum report, and neither did U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, who told The Weekly that he didn't know enough about it.

Only Zenon Matkiwsky, president of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, injected debate into an otherwise placid opening ceremony, devoting his entire 15-minute speech to challenging the forum's conclusions.

Dr. Matkiwsky pointed to scientific studies that demonstrate increases in birth defects and rare cancers in those geographic regions most severely contaminated by Chernobyl's radiation, such as the Volyn, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Kyiv and Chernihiv Oblasts, as well as Belarus.

The Chernobyl Forum report didn't take these studies into account, he said.

For example, 75 percent of the children living in the village of Ivankovo in northern Kyiv Oblast suffer from high blood pressure.

The incidence of acute lymphoblastic leukemia in the children of Zhytomyr and Rivne are significantly higher than national averages in Ukraine, Dr. Matkiwsky said.

Centers in the Volyn and Rivne oblasts that have tracked the genetic health of 104,000 newborns over the past four years have documented birth defects in living and stillborn infants that should occur in much smaller numbers, even in larger populations, he said.

Nuclear radiation undeniably causes extra fingers or toes, deformed limbs and missing or deformed organs, he said.

"We invite the World Health Organization and the IAEA, the journalists and the government health officials present in this theater to visit the God-forsaken orphanages crammed with children with severe disfigurements, in villages like Znamianka, Vorzel, Tsiuropinsk and Zaluchia, and to see for themselves the situation we are trying to address," Dr. Matkiwsky said.

Perhaps the most disturbing, he said, is the spike in spina bifida cases, which have increased to levels four times higher than normal and nine times higher for the districts of northern Rivne Oblast that were most heavily contaminated by radioactive fallout.

Spin bifida is a birth defect in which the infant's spinal canal is exposed outside the skin, or is severed.

A joint Israeli-Ukrainian study found that children born to Chernobyl liquidators suffer from chromosomal aberrations at a rate seven times higher than their siblings born prior to 1986, he said.

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that chromosome damage will have a significant impact on genetic health as well as cancer incidence," Dr. Matkiwsky said.

The only available peer-reviewed studies in Belarus and Ukraine have clearly shown that women living in radiation-contaminated territories have a much higher rate of pregnancy complications, stillbirths and birth defects than women living in non-contaminated regions, he said.

"How can the WHO and the IAEA say with any confidence that there has been no impact on the immune system of children when blood samples taken from Chernobyl children show a much lower count of killer T cells as opposed to control populations?" he said.

In fact, the forum report acknowledges a steady increase in congenital malformations in both contaminated and uncontaminated regions of Belarus. However, "this does not appear to be radiation-related and may be the result of increased registration," the report states.

Dr. Matkiwsky criticized the fact that Dr. Fred Mettler was appointed co-author and spokesman for the Chernobyl Forum report.

In 1992 it was Dr. Mettler who told the U.S. Congress that the IAEA had conducted the most comprehensive investigation possible on Chernobyl survivors and the agency found no noticeable increase in thyroid cancer in children.

Dr. Mettler assured Sen. Joseph Lieberman that no increase in thyroid cancer would be noticeable for another 15 years after Chernobyl.

Five weeks later, the WHO and the British scientific journal Nature validated the reports of Belarusian scientists showing an 80-fold increase in thyroid cancer in children living in radiation-contaminated villages in Belarus.

Not every American of Ukrainian descent agrees with Dr. Matkiwsky's view.

Mary Mycio, the author of "Wormwood Forest," a book about the Chernobyl zone's natural history, said the Chernobyl Forum's report is right on target because it objectively examines the data currently available. "It's a good report that summarizes everything that is known, but not everything is known and may never be," she said.

The problem is that cancer, and even birth defects, can be attributed to a host of other factors, including genetics, the environment and behavior such as smoking, Ms. Mycio said. "People in Ukraine don't take care of their health, and often they blame it on Chernobyl," Ms. Mycio added.

As for birth defects, she points out that



Zenon Zawada

Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky was the only speaker at the opening ceremony of the Ukrainian government's international conference on Chernobyl to question the September 2005 Chernobyl Forum report.

none were detected among the Hiroshima and Nagasaki populations which suffered nuclear attacks.

While Dr. Matkiwsky might have been the only leader to criticize the Chernobyl Forum report at the ceremony, his concerns were echoed in the Verkhovna Rada two days later.

Outgoing Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn took an unusually bold stand in challenging the forum report at a special parliamentary hearing on April 26. He called upon the Rada, along with the scientific and medical communities, to respond to the "unacceptable speculation of experts" which offended Ukrainians.

The Rada's Committee on Health Protection, Motherhood and Children, along with scientific and medical experts, must create a document that provides scientifically proven facts about the negative health effects of the Chernobyl disaster on the Ukrainian people, Mr. Lytvyn said. This document should be presented as Ukraine's official position for examination by various international institutions.

While scientists in Ukraine "shed tears over Chernobyl's medical effects, those in Vienna and Geneva are practically contradicting them," Mr. Lytvyn said.

The Ukrainian government has been playing bureaucratic games with Chernobyl, during which enormous sums of money assigned to mitigating its effects have obscurely disappeared, Mr. Lytvyn said.

He supported the proposition from Chernobyl veteran's organizations to create a single, authoritative executive organ to deal with the catastrophe's effects.

The Chernobyl Forum's prediction of up to 4,000 fatal cancer deaths is based on the experiences of other populations exposed to radiation that have been studied for many decades, such as the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, it doesn't explain more specifically how it obtained this result.

Initial Soviet estimates predicted 9,500 cancer deaths related to Chernobyl in the European parts of the former Soviet Union alone, using formulas based on radiation dose exposure.

A 1987 study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy predicted a minimum 7,000 to 19,500 cancer deaths related to Chernobyl in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

In his presentation to the Rebirth, Renewal and Human Development Forum in Kyiv on April 25, Dr. Wolodymyr Wartelecki of the University

of South Alabama in Mobile pointed out that the Chernobyl Forum report includes only six lines about the effect of the disaster on human reproduction.

Dr. Wartelecki, who led the studies revealing increases in spina bifida rates, as well as rare cases of conjoined twins in the Rivne Oblast, said the report's wording is very carefully crafted. It refers to congenital malformations instead of birth defects, which excludes a whole wide range of health problems, Dr. Wartelecki said.

Congenital malformations are physical deformities that don't include DNA damage, abnormal cell growth and chromosome abnormalities – all of which are birth defects.

The Chernobyl Forum's raw data and original materials are difficult to access, and the reader is left to rely on vague summary statements, Dr. Wartelecki said, adding that he neither accepts nor rejects its conclusions.

The report refers to people who have recovered from thyroid cancer, but it's impossible to reproduce without a thyroid, he said.

"The word-crafting, to me, is not done by scientists," Dr. Wartelecki said. "It sounds almost as if it is done by masters of communication."

Chronic, low-dose radiation pollution such as Chernobyl demands further study, and the forum report is "woefully incomplete," he said.

An equal amount of effort is necessary to study birth defects.

"They refer to a study in Belarus, which implies there's only one study," he said. "You cannot criticize a single study and then call it a consensus. A consensus based on one study sounds strange to me."

The IAEA has intentionally suppressed or ignored many studies because they threaten the image of nuclear energy, Dr. Matkiwsky told The Weekly in an interview a week later.

As a result, the IAEA has emerged as a modern-day Walter Duranty, he said, referring to The New York Times reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for covering up Ukraine's Famine-Genocide created by Joseph Stalin.

"One way or another, the truth will come out about Chernobyl," Dr. Matkiwsky said in his opening ceremony speech. "It may take another 20, or even 50 years. We can only hope that Chernobyl's impact will be less severe than we expected. But we have a duty to seek the truth."

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Liquidators recall disaster, speak about post-Chornobyl life

by **Gulnoza Saidazimova and Claire Bigg**
RFE/RL Newline

Among those worst affected by the 1986 Chornobyl accident were the “liquidators” – military personnel, workers and scientists from around the Soviet Union who were sent to clean up the aftermath of the disaster. They went without proper safety equipment, many of them not knowing where they were going. Thousands have since died. Many of those still alive battle against poor health and little state support.

When Talgat Suyunbai and 44 other Soviet Army officers arrived in the Belarusian village of Navasyolki, some 40 kilometers from Chornobyl, they had

no idea an accident had even taken place.

That was in January 1987, nine months after the explosion at the Chornobyl nuclear power plant.

“We heard some rumors but didn’t know anything about it,” said Mr. Suyunbai, a 52-year-old member of Kazakhstan’s Union of Chornobyl Veterans. “When I first arrived in Chornobyl, what struck me and stuck in my memory was the landscape. It looked like a beautiful painting. When approaching, you could see a city far away, a forest and a path, a river, and the church’s [dome] was shining. It was like a painting. It remains a memory of my life.”

As the military motorcade approached

the site of the disaster, the picture changed dramatically.

“But when we were approaching Chornobyl, [the view] was very different. We called it ‘a rusty forest.’ It was all burnt. It was staggering. We couldn’t comprehend it. It was horrible. But then we had to get used to it slowly,” Mr. Suyunbai said.

For what turned out to be seven months of work, Mr. Suyunbai and his fellow officers had one night of training in Kazakhstan. They were not told that a nuclear explosion had taken place. Even as a former officer in a chemical unit, Mr. Suyunbai did not know how high the radiation levels were.

“[We had] no special clothing, just a regular military uniform, because [we were told that] there was already no high radiation,” he said. “The radiation level was suitable to work for two hours a day. So we wore a regular uniform. Then we’d [take it off and] shake it, shower and change only our underwear. The next day was the same.”

Mr. Suyunbai is one of some 32,000 people from Kazakhstan who went to Chornobyl to clean up after the disaster. Russian liquidator groups estimate that a total of about 600,000 people took part in the clean-up operation. They say the number could be even higher.

Kadyrbek Sasykulov, the president of the Union of Chornobyl, a Kyrgyz veterans’ association, participated in the liquidation work in 1988.

By that time, he says, people knew about the scale of the disaster. But, despite their protests or even outright refusal, Mr. Sasykulov and many others were forced to go to Chornobyl.

“They said we were going to construct a power plant,” Mr. Sasykulov said. “We didn’t know what kind of plant it was. They said: ‘You’ll go to the Samara region’ and we left the next day. Only in Samara did we learn that Chornobyl was our destination. Some 80 percent of us protested. But our commanders said we would be punished as deserters if we left. They threatened us.”

Mr. Sasykulov worked in Chornobyl for four months.

“On the third day many of us felt a sour taste in our mouths and our bodies felt weak. In 1989, after I returned, I had pain all over my body and my joints were weak. In 1991 I retired as a disabled veteran, as did my fellow officers who served at Chornobyl,” Mr. Sasykulov said.

Mr. Sasykulov’s story is sadly familiar. Many liquidators have since faced severe health problems. Of the 32,000 liquidators from Kazakhstan, there are

(Continued on page 11)

Chornobyl’s political legacy

by **Jan Maksymiuk**

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Since 1986, learning the truth about the world’s worst nuclear disaster has been more than a humanitarian and a health issue; it has also been a political challenge. The Chornobyl explosion is often linked to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. It also had dramatic political consequences in the republics of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

Does Chornobyl still pose a political problem in these republics 20 years after the disaster?

The Chornobyl blast proved to be a crucial test for the Soviet government’s new policy of openness – one that it failed in horrific fashion.

Citizens were denied accurate information on the danger and scale of what happened not only in the crucial first days and weeks after the accident, but also in subsequent years.

For example, it emerged only in 1989 that nearly one-fourth of Belarus, which absorbed some 60 percent of the Chornobyl fallout, was significantly contaminated.

Former Ukrainian diplomat Yurii Shcherbak wrote a documentary book on the Chornobyl accident as early as 1987, in an attempt to provide readers with more insight than they could get from the government. Dr. Shcherbak told RFE/RL in a recent interview that the suppression of accurate information about Chornobyl by the Gorbachev-era Soviet government helped increase the divide between the state and Soviet society: “The mendacious propaganda, the lack of reliable information [about Chornobyl] had affected millions of people, particularly in Ukraine, to such an extent that those people lost the rest of their faith in what [Mykhail] Gorbachev was saying about perestroika, glasnost and so on.”

On the Ukrainian political scene, the catastrophe also launched a new type of realpolitik. Dr. Shcherbak, a former ambassador to the United States, asserts that the Chornobyl catastrophe was largely responsible for the readiness with which the Ukrainian Parliament signed on to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty after gaining independence. The decision effectively obliged the fledgling state to destroy or return to Russia all nuclear weapons on its territory.

Dr. Shcherbak believes that since the closure of the plant’s last reactor in 2000, Chornobyl has ceased to be a major political issue in Ukraine, but he does believe

it will continue to impact government decisions in the nuclear-energy sphere. He says Ukraine should never forget the potential hazards of operating its 15 nuclear reactors at four power plants.

“We should proceed from the premise that we will have to live side by side with risk. We are taking a risk. And we should be taking a reasonable risk, not the one that might lead, God forbid, to a new Chornobyl-type catastrophe. We should enhance the safety of reactors,” Dr. Shcherbak said.

Belarus does not have any nuclear power plants and is not planning to build any in the near future. The Chornobyl aftermath seems to persist in the country not only as a grave environmental issue but also a political one.

Viktor Ivashkevich, deputy head of the opposition Belarusian Popular Front, argues that the authoritarian regime of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka treats Chornobyl-related issues in pretty much the same way the Soviet-era government did 20 years ago. “Belarus is facing the same political problem as 20 years ago. The authorities show no consideration whatsoever for people, hide all problems, and broadcast mendacious propaganda, while the population is shrinking,” he said.

Belarus adopted a long-term program for dealing with the Chornobyl consequences in 1990. Mr. Ivashkevich says the Lukashenka government has backed down on some important measures envisioned by that program.

In particular, Mr. Ivashkevich says the government abolished checks for radioactivity of food products at most shops and markets, except for some major food retailers. But he doesn’t believe the checks stopped because there was nothing to find.

“Food products are grown in areas where radioactivity exceeds 15 curies per square kilometer. Then these contaminated products are mixed with pure ones to obtain products of medium purity, and subsequently they are shipped to all of Belarus,” Mr. Ivashkevich said.

Since 1989 the Belarusian opposition has managed to organize a “Chornobyl Way” march almost every year. Participants march to commemorate the Chornobyl anniversary and raise public awareness about unresolved problems related to the disaster. Although many of these marches have been dispersed or otherwise thwarted by police, another Chornobyl Way march was held in Miensk this year (on April 26).

Vladimir Chuprov, a chief nuclear-energy expert at Greenpeace Russia, believes the lasting consequences of Chornobyl in Russia are evident mainly in the environmental and social spheres.

Building a new sarcophagus

by **Julie A. Corwin**

RFE/RL Newline

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, top U.S. and Ukrainian officials focused on present and future threats that the plant still poses. Speaking at a hearing of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on April 25, U.S. and Ukrainian officials drew attention to the deteriorating condition of the sarcophagus, the steel-and-concrete shell built after the accident to contain the radiation from the ill-fated Reactor No. 4.

Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur told the commission that the legacy of Chornobyl consists not only in the health problems of the survivors, but also in the form of “200 tons of highly radioactive and melting substances.”

According to Dr. Shamshur, only the rapidly constructed sarcophagus separates these “substances” from the rest of the world. He called for the quick replacement of a more solid and safer construction.

“Let me remind you that only 3 percent of the reactor fuel was released into [the] atmosphere 20 years ago,” he said. “The rest of it still represents the most horrible explosive device undermining the safety of the whole of Europe.”

Warren Stern, senior coordinator for nuclear safety at the U.S. State Department, echoed Ambassador Shamshur’s anxiety.

“The greatest concern over the years has been and will continue to be that the structure could collapse,” Mr. Stern said. “It was built very hastily and many components weren’t actually formally attached together.”

Mr. Stern’s boss, acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-proliferation Stephen Rademaker, said the United States and the Group of Seven remain engaged in increasing safety at the Chornobyl site and pledged that a new sturdier shelter

will be in place before the end of the decade.

“Key elements of the SIP (Shelter Implementation Plan), including construction of auxiliary systems and preparatory works and stabilization of the sarcophagus, are complete or nearing completion,” Mr. Rademaker said. “The SIP has entered its final and most important stage – construction of the shelter itself. Review of bids for executing this complex task is in the final stages. Construction of the new safe confinement or shelter is expected to be complete by 2009.”

In the meantime, the existing structure will be reinforced, according to Mr. Stern. “Over the past several years and in the coming years, we have been and will be implementing structural upgrades at the existing shelter to help prevent any possibility or any significant possibility of collapse – that at the same time as we are building the new shelter,” he said.

U.S. Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.), the co-chairman of the commission, and Ambassador Shamshur emphasized that the full extent of the damage caused by the Chornobyl accident will only be revealed in the future.

“While numerous studies have furthered our knowledge of Chornobyl’s consequences, there is still much we don’t know including its long-term impact on human health and on the environment,” Rep. Smith said. “There is a need for further study and action.”

But Ambassador Shamshur said that full knowledge of the damage caused by Chornobyl will not come for another 70 years.

“I’d like also to stress the fact that is sometimes neglected and we should be aware that the period of the so-called half-life of radioactive strontium, for example, released in [the] atmosphere in 1986 is 90 years,” he said. “Therefore, however scary it might sound, the full story has not been told yet. The gravest implications of the catastrophe might be still ahead for Ukraine and other nations.”

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

THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHORNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

Columbia University conference focuses on 'the human experience'

by Matthew Dubas

NEW YORK — The Harriman Institute at Columbia University held a conference on Tuesday, April 25, titled, "Commemoration of the Chernobyl Disaster: The Human Experience 20 Years Later." Diverse presentations on the impact of the Chernobyl accident were given from the diplomatic, scientific, humanitarian, literary, film and academic perspectives.

Opening the conference with a general overview was Prof. Mark von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University. His opening question to the audience, "Where were you when Chernobyl happened?" reflected the significance of the events of April 26, 1986.

Chernobyl forever changed the fate of the Soviet Union, from a pre- to a post-Chernobyl society, which reminded its citizens of the dishonesty of the Soviet system and ultimately led to the break-up of the USSR.

Dr. von Hagen remarked that Chernobyl forever changed the fate of the Soviet Union, from a pre- to a post-Chernobyl society, which reminded its citizens of the dishonesty of the Soviet system and led to events like Ukraine's movement to relinquish nuclear weapons. He spoke also about the future of nuclear energy in Ukraine, which is dependent on nuclear power, and how the current energy crisis, with gas supplies controlled by Russia, contributes to Ukraine's need to develop alternative energy sources.

To highlight the diplomatic perspective, Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, the permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, presented the global impact, citing reports of heightened radiation levels across the entire Northern Hemisphere after the Chernobyl accident.

The first days after Chernobyl, according to Mr. Kuchinsky, were filled with panic fueled by rumors due to the secrecy of the Soviet regime. For days there was no official word on the events, and even then the accident was trivialized.

The disaster's effects were compound-

ed by Soviet refusal of aid, a lack of precautions issued by the government, iodine scares and the inhalation of radionuclides by unsuspecting citizens. Kyivans were on the streets observing the May Day holiday while the fires at Chernobyl burned, the ambassador recalled.

On a personal note, Mr. Kuchinsky commented how he reacted to Chernobyl. There was widespread fear that led to an exodus from Kyiv as parents tried to "save the children" by sending them to live in Moscow or the United Kingdom. Mr. Kuchinsky sent his own children to live with his brother in Moscow, away from the dangers of radiation exposure. Without media coverage, Mr. Kuchinsky

said, there was no outcry for international support and no aid arrived, at a time when lives could have been saved. It wasn't until after the break-up of the Soviet Union that Chernobyl was labeled a national catastrophe.

Regarding the lack of international support after Chernobyl was shut down, Mr. Kuchinsky stated, "the closing of the plant did more harm than good" as Ukraine lost support from the West and perpetuated its dependence on Russia for aid in the \$170 billion cost to Ukraine to "ensure that such a nuclear tragedy never happens again."

Mr. Kuchinsky capsulated the commemoration saying, "we have remorse for the past and resolve for the future."

The scientific perspective covered three main areas of medical concerns associated with the aftereffects of Chernobyl, including cataracts, heart defects and thyroid cancer. The first topic was addressed by Dr. Norman Kleiman, associate research scientist of the department of environmental health sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at

Columbia University, presented the work of his mentor and colleague, the late Dr. Basil V. Worgul, professor of radiation biology at the department of ophthalmology and radiology at Columbia.

The release of radiation at Chernobyl was equal to that of 270 Hiroshima bombs.

It was explained to the audience that the lens is the part of the eye that is most sensitive to ionized radiation and that the lens grows throughout a person's lifetime. Dr. Kleiman noted that exposure to radiation, even at low levels, causes cataracts and cancers. He said there is no minimum threshold for exposure, it is simply a matter of time before cataracts and cancers develop.

Findings by the Ukrainian American Chernobyl Ocular Study, made up of doctors from Ukraine, the U.S. and Germany, traced the time of onset with the rate of progression of these cataracts. The main focus group in the group's research was the "liquidator" population in cities all over Ukraine including Kyiv, Poltava, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernobyl and Donetsk. Their research found that the youngest subjects had various stages of cataracts after being exposed to low level radiation. Dr. Kleiman went on to say that the surgical procedures are not complicated and have become relatively routine in certain areas, but early diagnosis of at-risk persons remains a problem.

Dr. William Novick, founder and medical director of the International Children's Heart Foundation, who was seen performing corrective heart surgery in the highly acclaimed documentary "Chernobyl Heart," spoke on the conditions he observed during over 125 trips to Belarus and Ukraine, including scientific improvements in surgical techniques and the training of local doctors to use these new procedures. Citing his own experience and various reports on the subject, Dr. Novick noted that, of all the heart conditions reported, only 1 percent occur worldwide, regardless of environmental factors.

However, in Ukraine and Belarus, he said, there is a rise in cases of Ebstein's Anomaly and Multiple Ventricular Septal

Defects, — congenital defects that account for less than 1 percent of all cases of heart defects worldwide. As reported by the Amosov Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery in Kyiv, in its

entire 40 years of documented cases of the aforementioned two defects, only 250 patients were operated on. According to Dr. Novick that number has grown to 8.9 patients per year after Chernobyl, with a trend toward increased cases among younger patients. Dr. Novick called for increased awareness in these areas and said he looks forward to improvements in early diagnosis.

The third presenter, Dr. Daniel Igor Branovan, director of the Thyroid Center at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, traced the causes and the current situation in regards to reports of thyroid cancer in Ukraine. He explained that a lack of iodine in the Ukrainian diet makes people more susceptible to the absorption of radioactive iodine (I-131) in their thyroid (the body recognizes the radionuclide as normal iodine). In Homiel, Belarus, as reported by Dr. Branovan, there was a 500-fold increase in reported cases of thyroid cancer, with the greatest number being reported in children up to nine years of age.

Adults, he said, tend to show signs 20 years after exposure, with an estimated 30,000 reported cases in adults for this year alone. Dr. Branovan touched upon the fact that with 400,000 people from the Ukrainian immigrant population coming to New York City, he said he has seen an increase in cases of thyroid cancer. He went on to comment that "this is a treatable disease with rare morbidity rates, but an aggressive growth rate, which requires early diagnosis." Dr. Branovan further said, "This problem will be in the news for years to come."

On the humanitarian side, the first presenter, Lisa Milanytch of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF), outlined the long-term consequences of the nuclear disaster. The

(Continued on page 14)

Liquidators recall...

(Continued from page 10)

now just 6,000 left. According to the Almaty-based Union of Chernobyl, some 4,000 former liquidators die every year in post-Soviet countries.

Mr. Sasykulov is one of 4,500 Kyrgyz citizens who cleaned up the disaster in 1986-1989. There are some 1,750 left in Kyrgyzstan at present.

He says the children of the liquidators also are suffering from the consequences of the disaster.

"Over 85 percent of [those remaining] are disabled," Mr. Sasykulov said. "There are 1,650 children born from the liquidators. Of them, 15 percent are badly sick and disabled. Our task is to address their social needs and also provide medical assistance. Lack of medicine is a big problem. Many Chernobyl liquidators die, many of them and their children are sick."

Along with their ailing health, the former liquidators have fought another battle: receiving adequate financial compensation for their suffering.

Over the past few years, Chernobyl veterans have steadily been stripped of their benefits and privileges in all Central Asian countries. In Soviet times, liquidators were given free medicine, health care and holidays in health resorts and sanatoriums.

The amount of financial compensation depends on the salaries liquidators received before being sent to Chernobyl. But these monthly sums are usually too small to cover even medical expenses.

In a country with an average monthly wage of around \$60, Kyrgyzstan's Chernobyl liquidators get some \$15 to \$20 a month. In wealthier Kazakhstan, where the average wage is around \$150, Mr. Suyunbai gets \$110 a month. But he says it covers only utilities.

Russian liquidators are not much better off. Aleksandr Velikin, a 53-year-old liquidator from St. Petersburg, received as little as \$36 a month until he sued the authorities last year. Thanks to his court victory, his monthly payment was raised to the ruble equivalent of \$130.

Mr. Velikin has run the Leningrad Oblast's Chernobyl Union for the past 15 years. He has helped thousands of other

liquidators in his region increase their monetary compensation from the state.

The union — which comprises only himself, a fellow liquidator and a secretary — is currently assisting more than 1,700 liquidators in seeking damages in court.

Mr. Velikin says the government is violating Russian law by paying Chernobyl clean-up workers such paltry compensation.

"If my employer has caused me damage, he is obligated to pay me compensation in the form of lost salaries, pay for all my medical services, for sanatorium treatment and medicine," Mr. Velikin said. "The government has totally distorted the law and now they are trying to present these payments and privileges as 'benefits.' And 'benefit' means: 'I respect you, I have money today, I will give some to you. [But] sorry, tomorrow I won't have money so I won't give you anything.'"

Mr. Velikin spent three months in the fall of 1986 cleaning up Chernobyl's nuclear reactors and helping erect the concrete sarcophagus that seals off the collapsed reactor. But he says that was

the easy part.

Twenty years on, his eyes well with tears as he recalls his worst Chernobyl memory — clearing the belongings from the houses of the nearby ghost town, Prypiat, evacuated after the accident.

"I enter a two-room flat," he said. "Just try to imagine that you are in a rush for work, you run out quickly. The bed is unmade, you ate something on the run — there is a half-eaten sandwich and a cup of tea on the table. The flat had been left in such a state. All this was endurable, apart from one thing — I walked into the second room, a child's bed stood there, the bedspread was thrown off, and there was the imprint of a child's head on the pillow. My daughter was 4 years old at the time."

Mr. Velikin says the tragedy of Chernobyl has not yet ended for him.

What he is lobbying for, he insists, is not compassion or fame, but simply official recognition of the damage wrought by Chernobyl to the health and the lives of the liquidators.

"I'm not a hero," he says. "But I did my job honestly."

Ukrainian classical musicians perform concerts in Washington, D.C., area

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – It was a “first” for the Washington area: Ukrainian American classical music lovers had to choose between two conflicting concerts featuring Ukrainian artists.

It happened on Sunday afternoon, April 9, when two silver medalists of the last year’s Kyiv International



Paul Stetsenko

Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz – Antony Baryshevskiy of Ukraine and Alexey Kurbatov of Russia were performing at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, Va., and pianist and conductor Paul Stetsenko was the featured artist in a program at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, in a newer part of Alexandria less than two miles away.

The Horowitz Competition concert concluded the 2005-2006 Music Series of The Washington Group Cultural Fund,

which is conducted under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine. Mr. Stetsenko’s appearance was part of the Presbyterian church’s Palm Sunday “Service of Passion” centered around Mozart’s “Requiem” for choir and orchestra.

Mr. Baryshevskiy, 17, is a student at the Mykola Lysenko Kyiv Secondary Special Music School. In the 2005 Horowitz Competition he won second prize in the intermediate group. Performing first at the Lyceum concert, he played Mykola Lysenko’s “Elegy,” a ballad and mazurka by Frederic Chopin, the “Feux Follets” Étude and the Hungarian Rhapsody No. 1 by Franz Liszt, and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s “Liebesfreud” and “Liebesleid.”

The second-prize winner of the senior group, Mr. Kurbatov, 23, is a student of the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Moscow. He performed J.S. Bach’s Toccata in D-minor, selections from Igor Stravinsky’s ballet “Petrouchka” and Alexander Skriabin’s “Vers la Flame,” and concluded the concert with a rousing rendition of Horowitz’s arrangement of John Philip Sousa’s “Stars and Stripes Forever.”

“What wonderful times we live in,” TWG Cultural Fund Director Marta Zielyk commented as The Ukrainian Embassy’s cultural attaché, Natalya Holub, presented the performers with flowers. “A Russian, winning an international competition taking place in Kyiv, the capital of an independent Ukraine, ends his debut performance in the United States with a Horowitz-arranged rendition of ‘Stars and Stripes Forever’ in a venue within sight of the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument.”

In the audience were Volodymyr Ionov, who handles cultural affairs at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Horowitz Competition General Director Yuri Zilberman and Executive Director Iryna Polstyankina, and Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, Oleh Shamshur.

Messrs. Baryshevskiy and Kurbatov were among the winners of the sixth International Competition for Young



Antony Baryshevskiy

Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz, established in Kyiv in 1994. Since then, the competition has tested the skills of 473 young pianists from 25 countries.

Following the debut here, their U.S. tour schedule includes performances in New York City, Cleveland and New Jersey.

Pianist and conductor Paul Stetsenko’s performance that same afternoon was part of “The Service of Passion – with the Music of Mozart’s Requiem” at Westminster Presbyterian Church, a large parish in the suburban part of Alexandria where he has served as music director since 2003.

He launched the program at the piano in Mozart’s Concerto No. 20 in D-minor for piano and orchestra, and then ascended the conductor’s podium to direct the orchestra and combined choirs of the Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ in Mozart’s Requiem.

The program was a blending of sections of Mozart’s composition with calls to prayer, confession, offering, thanksgiving and benediction, and a short excerpt from Mikhail Bulgakov’s “Master and Margarita” and Leon Wieseltier’s “Kadish.”

Mr. Stetsenko was born in Kyiv, where he began his formal studies in choral conducting and piano and received a master of music degree at the Kyiv Conservatory. In 1990 he came to the United States to study church music and organ at the Juilliard School in New York, where he received his Doctor of Musical Arts in 2000.

Since coming to the United States he has performed as a recitalist and soloist at Alice Tully Hall and Paul Hall in Lincoln Center, the Organ Concert Series at Columbia University, the Keyboard Series at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, and at other recital venues and churches in the New York-New Jersey area. He also composes choral works.

Lemko organization boosts Ukrainian collection at Columbia libraries

by Diana Howansky

NEW YORK – Representatives from the Lemko Research Foundation Inc. recently visited the campus of Columbia University and donated an important collection of books on Ukrainian-Lemko issues, which will help develop the Ukrainian library collection at Columbia.

“We have chosen to donate these books to Columbia University because we support the mission of Columbia’s Ukrainian Studies Program, which includes the acquisition, processing and preservation of Ukrainian books and materials. Our wish is that these books pertaining to Ukrainian Lemkos be placed in the Columbia library system for students and others to be able to access,” read the statement provided by the Lemko Research Foundation, represented by President Steven Howansky and Board Members Vasyl Panchak and Steven Malyniak.

Columbia University’s Slavic book collection and archival holdings in the Slavic area are of international significance. They include much that is rare even in their countries of origin. The collections are notable for their breadth and represent an important part of the Slavic world’s intellectual heritage for the last 150 years. A number of valuable items have come to Columbia as gifts. Organizations and individuals who wish to donate Ukraine-related publications to Columbia’s collections may do so



Seen during the ceremony at which the Lemko Research Foundation presented books on Ukrainian-Lemko issues to the Columbia Library are (from left): Vasyl Panchak, Dr. David Magier, Diana Howansky (sitting), Prof. Frank Sysyn, Steven Malyniak, Steven Howansky and Jared Ingersoll.

through the Ukrainian Studies Program.

The selection of books donated by the Lemko Research Foundation included Eugeniusz Misilo’s “Akcja ‘Wisla’: Dokumenty,” a Ukrainian-language collection of rare archival materials pertaining to the 1947 forced resettlement of Ukrainians in Poland, as well as the late Petro Pyrtey’s recently published Short Dictionary of Lemko Dialects (Korotkyi

Slovnyk Lemkivskykh Hovirok), one of the few Ukrainian-Lemko dictionaries currently available.

Dr. David Magier, director of Area Studies Library Services; Jared Ingersoll, Slavic librarian; and Prof. Frank Sysyn, Petro Jacyk Visiting Scholar, accepted the books on behalf of Columbia University.

“Ukrainian studies is on the rise at Columbia, and the libraries are making

great efforts to keep up with the new demands of the growing program. Literature of the Lemko and similar regional and ethnic communities within Ukraine is important for our understanding of the country’s complex cultural fabric and is often difficult to collect. The gift of such unusual and valuable material is tremendously welcome and useful in creating a rich research resource for scholars today and tomorrow,” Mr. Ingersoll later said.

The Lemko Research Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes the study of the history, culture and traditions of people of Ukrainian-Lemko origin. The foundation’s mission involves providing assistance to students engaged in Ukrainian-Lemko studies; collaborating with academic institutions; and sponsoring the publication of books, magazines and other written materials on Lemkos and the Lemko region. These activities are funded by membership dues, publication sales, fund-raising events and individual donations. The foundation welcomes new members.

Information on ways to support Columbia University’s Ukrainian studies library collection is available by calling the Ukrainian Studies Office, 212-854-4697 or e-mailing ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu. For more information about the Lemko Research Foundation, please contact Steven Howansky at 203-762-5912 or howansky@optonline.net.

Ukrainian museum in Edmonton to receive \$3 million grant

EDMONTON – Over the next three years, the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA), will receive a very generous and much anticipated grant of \$3 million from the City of Edmonton to facilitate the relocation of the museum. The new museum will soon be moving to its new home in the historic Jasper East section of Edmonton.

“This is a wonderful vote of confidence,” said UCAMA President Krystyna Kohut, “I am so grateful to the City Council for their vision in their support of culture and the arts. We hope to be the catalyst for the revitalization of Jasper East and add to the diversity of the cultural fabric that exists in downtown Edmonton.”

The UCAMA is a not-for-profit organization that serves an important function within the Ukrainian Canadian community. It allows for the more than 80,000 Canadians of Ukrainian heritage living in Edmonton to access their family histories, while educating future generations and those who are outside of the heritage sphere.

The latest grant is a welcome addition to the successful campaign that has been waged to secure monies for the new museum. Edmonton's grant matches one from the Community Facility Enhancement Program of Alberta Gaming that was announced in October 2004.

Furthermore, the UCAMA is seeking a federal grant to match the funds secured through Alberta Gaming. The project includes a new public heritage museum, archive and community programming facility that will replace the existing project located on 110th Avenue. The current building is more than 90 years old and in poor condition.

Founded in 1972 by a group of 11 prominent professional business members in Edmonton, the UCAMA has sought to preserve Ukrainian Canadian history and culture. Unfortunately, the original building has been deemed functionally obsolete due to structural weaknesses and inappropriate conditions for the storage and display of the museum's archival collections.



An artist's rendition of the new Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta.

The new facility will be designed by the renowned architectural firms of HIP Architects and David Murray Architect. The project will be a rehabilitation of the Lodge Hotel and Brighton Block at 9662 Jasper Ave. in Edmonton. The sites were designated as Municipal Historic Resources several years ago, and acquired by the UCAMA three years ago.

In a workshop with local organizations, including members of the UCAMA board, the Ukrainian Folklore Center at the University of Alberta and members of the Edmonton Eparchy, an identity and mission were determined for the new building.

“The building should have a regional, national and international reputation, and strive to provide a facility that celebrates the urban contribution of Ukrainians in a new land,” said the architects.

The first phase of the construction is under way, and has been budgeted at over \$9 million (Canadian). However, all these funds have yet to be secured.

Due to the scope of this project, the UCAMA has realized that it cannot undertake this important project alone. Thus, the organization is actively seeking partners to support the endeavor. All branches of government, municipal, provincial and federal, have been approached to assist in the facilitation of a new and unique platform for educating the public about the Ukrainian Canadian experience.

Private and public foundations have also been a focal point for the fund-raising effort, along with corporate and individual donations.

With over 5,000 photographs depicting the unique experiences of Ukrainian Canadians in Alberta, the museum has always been a great way to share information about the difficult road traveled by the pioneers all the way to today's Ukrainians living in Canada's Prairie Province.

The UCAMA has an impressive list of other assets that will fill the many spaces

of the new facility. From rare and historic maps, unique instruments and an extensive library collection to historical documents and memorabilia that span various aspects of culture, the new project will be a destination for anyone eager to learn and experience the past.

It will have a great effect on the revitalization effort for the East Jasper block. With this project the local economy will gain more tourism and human traffic, with estimates hovering around the 50,000 per year range. Money spent in the area will be crucial to the local economy and the prosperity of businesses in the area.

UCAMA is currently seeking donations from the public to assist in the completion of this ambitious project. Contributions can be mailed to 9543 110th Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5H 1H3; for information call 780-424-7580; fax 780-420-0562; e-mail ucama@shaw.ca or log on to <http://www.ucama.ca>.

Ukrainian studies courses at Columbia open to students of other universities

by Diana Howansky

NEW YORK – Christine Emeran, a Ph.D. student in sociology at the New School in New York, found out the hard way that she could take Ukrainian courses at Columbia University.

With no ethnic ties to Ukraine, Ms. Emeran was working on her doctoral dissertation about social movements and their use of technology around the world – specifically the Orange Revolution and the youth group Pora's mobilization through text messaging – when she passed by a Ukrainian cultural center while riding a cross-town New York bus. A sign advertising the center's Orange Revolution photography exhibit caught her eye, so she got off the bus, talked with the center's front-desk person about her research, and asked where in the city she could take Ukrainian classes for her language requirement.

Later, with a bit more sleuthing on the Internet and guidance from her university professors, Ms. Emeran finally found and registered for beginner Ukrainian at Columbia for the 2005-2006 academic year.

“I would definitely encourage people to investigate [cross-registration], and I think people are busy and don't take the time. Columbia offers great classes, and it's a missed opportunity not to have

taken a class here at some point,” she said.

Ukrainian courses offered at Columbia, which include language, history, literature and other fields, are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area through cross-registration, as well as to individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies.

Because of existing agreements, undergraduate and graduate students from New York University can register directly with their school for Ukrainian language classes at Columbia, while Ph.D. candidates from universities which are part of what is called the “Columbia University Consortium” (including the New School, New York University, City University of New York, Rutgers University, Princeton University and others) can register for non-language courses by obtaining appropriate approval from both their home school and Columbia.

“For me, I've been able to expand beyond my immediate circle and encounter other people involved with my research. At the New School, we don't have the same resources,” said Ms. Emeran, who wants to use her new Ukrainian language skills to apply for a grant and do her dissertation research in Ukraine.

One of her fellow classmates, Ksenia Yachmetz, is an undergraduate freshman at New York University who is of Ukrainian descent and was raised in the Ukrainian diaspora in New York's East Village. After discontinuing Ukrainian Saturday school in the fourth grade, Ms.

Yachmetz only recently rediscovered the Ukrainian language.

“My baba [grandmother] would speak to me in ‘Uki,’ and I would respond in English – that whole spiel,” Ms.

(Continued on page 15)



Ksenia Yachmetz (left) and Christine Emeran, students from, respectively, New York University and the New School.

Ukrainian studies...

(Continued from page 13)

Yachmetz said. "I love the language. It's one of those things that, if you told me in the fourth grade that I would want to read Ukrainian poetry all the time, I'd laugh in your face."

As a student double-majoring in Slavic studies and journalism, Ms. Yachmetz plans to continue taking Ukrainian at Columbia even after her language requirement is completed. She is also considering pursuing an independent study project supervised by a Columbia Ukrainian studies professor.

"The trouble with [cross-registration] is the processing, but it's worth it," she said. "I love coming up here. I don't mind the travel. It's kind of the best of both worlds. NYU and Columbia are both really different. When I come to Columbia, I sometimes feel like I'm in a different world. I'm impressed; I don't know another university with such a young program that's so enthusiastic. It's definitely the right direction in terms of the Slavic studies movement, and all the events that are plentiful. I've become so

aware. You know, my baba's on Second Avenue, but I'm 10 times more aware because I'm here."

Gennady Poberezny, a graduate student at Rutgers University's geography department, meanwhile, opted to register for Columbia's interdisciplinary course on language, culture and identity issues in contemporary Ukraine, taught during the spring 2006 semester by leading Ukrainian publicist and Petro Jacyk Visiting Scholar at Columbia Mykola Riabchuk.

"I know [Riabchuk's] reputation academically and politically," Mr. Poberezny said. "You have quite prominent people teaching here. I was specifically interested in people who come as a visiting professor, because that's my opportunity to meet them, to learn from them, since they're not always available. I'm not coming to learn as much about Ukraine, but what I'm really looking for is maybe a different angle or perspective about something I already know. And that's what visiting scholars usually offer."

Mr. Poberezny, who was born in Kyiv but left when he was 2 months old and

now holds Russian and Canadian citizenship, said he became interested in Ukraine from an academic point of view when he came to the United States.

"This is an opportunity for someone who does not live in Ukraine to understand how they think, since I'm an outsider and they're an insider," Mr. Poberezny said. "I'm taking this course, not because I need it [for credit], but because it's a great opportunity. So why

not? Even if I would not be able to qualify to take it as a graduate student, I would have come to sit in anyway."

For information about registering for or auditing Ukrainian courses at Columbia University, contact Diana Howansky at 212-854-4697 or ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu. The Columbia Ukrainian Studies Program webpage is located at http://www.harrimaninstitute.org/programs/ukrainian_studies_program.html.

The entire community of the UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, along with the UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION, expresses their deepest sympathy to the Gudziak family on the occasion of the death of

Dr. Alexander Gudziak

of blessed memory.

The husband of Mrs. Yaroslava, and the father of Dr. Marko and our dear Rector Rev. Borys Gudziak, Ph.D., Dr. Alexander passed from this life as the first "Khrystos Voskres!" was being proclaimed in Ukraine at Resurrection Matins on Easter Sunday morning.

Dr. Alexander was a great friend and generous benefactor of our University and all the efforts of UCU and the UCEF to make a positive difference in the life of his Ukrainian homeland. His visits to UCU, usually with his wife Yaroslava, were a time of happiness and inspiration for members of the University community.

Grant him Eternal Memory, Lord, and may his family and friends in the US and Ukraine and all of us at UCU find hope in the Easter message that "Christ is Risen...and has granted us all eternal life!"

On the 20th anniversary of the passing of

Ihor Olshaniwsky

THE EAGLE THAT IS FORGOTTEN

Sleep softly...eagle forgotten...under the stone,
Time has its way with you there and the clay has its own.
Sleep on, o brave-hearted, o wise man, that kindled the flame –
To live in mankind is far more than to live in a name,
To live in mankind, is far, far more...than to live in a name.

Vachel Lindsay

Even though 20 years have gone by since your passing, we who are left behind and who knew you and loved you, did not forget you. We regret that you did not survive to see the independence of Ukraine and the Orange Revolution. To continue your legacy we pledge to follow in your footsteps, to uphold the ideals of human rights and to work in their defense.

Executive Board of AHRU and UNCHAIN



With deepest sorrow we announce that on Friday, April 14, 2006 at the age of 59 passed away in Worcester, Massachusetts, our beloved husband, father, brother, the distinguished neurosurgeon



Dr. Alec Danylevich

Funeral Services were held on April 18, 2006, in Worcester, MA, with interment following on April 19, 2006, at St. Andrew's Cemetery Mausoleum in South Bound Brook, NJ

In deepest sorrow,

Wife	Louise Feldhaus Danylevich
Daughter	Laryssa Danylevich
Daughter	Natalia with husband Anthony Ruiz
Sister	Irene with husband Slavko Billon and children
Sister	Angelina with husband George Grundhoff and children
Twin Brother	Very Rev. Wladimir with wife Anna and children

And extended family scattered in the U.S. and Ukraine

Eternal Memory !



With deep sorrow we announce that on Saturday, April 29, 2006, our beloved aunt and great-aunt

Lubov Artemivna Drashevskaya

a geologist and journalist entered into eternal rest.

Born on September 12, 1910, in Kharkiv.
Requiem Divine Liturgy was celebrated at St. Andrew's Memorial Church, South Bound Brook, NJ on Wednesday, May 3, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. followed by burial at the cemetery.

Survived by:

niece	Tatiana Fedoroff
great-nephew	Vladimir Fedoroff with wife Debra and son Mikhey
great-nephew	John Fedoroff

Relatives in Detroit, MI, Canada, France and Ukraine.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in The Ukrainian Weekly – in the Ukrainian or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

Deadline: Tuesday noon before the newspaper's date of issue.
(The Weekly goes to press early Friday mornings.)

Rate: \$7.50 per column-inch.

Information should be addressed to the attention of the Advertising Department and sent to: The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280 (NB: please do not include post office box if sending via courier), Parsippany, N.J. 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510; telephone, (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040; e-mail, adsukrpubl@att.net.

Please include the daytime phone number of a contact person.

DIRECTV launches Ukrainian channel in the United States

NEW YORK – On April 3, the satellite TV provider DIRECTV announced the addition of the first 24/7 Ukrainian channel in the United States, Studio 1+1 International, to its list of international programming. In the short interview below, DIRECTV Vice-President Aaron McNally discusses the new channel and its future.

Why did DIRECTV decide to add Studio 1+1 International to its list of programming?

This is not our first experience with multicultural programming. We started with Latin-American DIRECTV Para Todos packages in 1999. This was a very

successful experience for us, which solidified our interest in multicultural media markets. Now we are running the comprehensive WorldDirect programming packages, which include international channels and programming in Chinese, Vietnamese, Hindi, Korean, Russian, Italian and now Ukrainian.

Continuing to grow our international platform with quality programming that enhances the lives of our customers remains a priority for DIRECTV, and we look forward to adding more international channels throughout the year.

Why did DIRECTV turn to Ukrainian market, specifically? How

did you select the channel to be added?

Our choice is not accidental – the channels we picked have the best programming with the highest quality content, that is the most popular among viewers. Studio 1+1 International is a national Ukrainian-language television channel that is the leader in production of original Ukrainian programming and one of the most popular channels for Ukrainian viewers.

The channel will offer up-to-the-minute Ukrainian news, entertainment and political programming to Ukrainians living in the U.S., including “Novyny TSN,” which offers news and informa-

tion about what is happening in Ukraine and around the world; “Idu Na Vy,” a talk show that focuses on sensitive issues of modern times in Ukraine; “Smachna Krayina,” a cooking show hosted by Oleksander Ponomaryov, who offers his view on how to cook Ukrainian food, and many others.

We feel this is an important and historic time for Ukraine, and Studio 1+1 International will be a valuable resource for the more than 800,000 Ukrainians living in the United States and will help connect them to their home country.

How can readers subscribe to DIRECTV and the Ukrainian channel?

Just like any other satellite provider, we use several distribution channels. You can buy our service in such stores as Best Buy and Circuit City. We also use several independent dealers, use direct sales and other alternative sales options, like Telco’s. You can subscribe to our service, including Studio 1+1 International, by calling 1-800-378-3309.

We offer a great subscription – free installation of our standard system in up to four rooms in your home – that includes a dish and up to four receivers. The system lease is free, you pay only \$4.99/month for the second receiver and each additional one. We offer our subscribers a free lease of the DIRECTV DVR (with a \$100 mail-in rebate). This digital videorecorder allows viewers to program in advance and record up to 40 hours of their favorite shows in digital quality. Right now we also offer a free three-month subscription to HBO, Showtime Unlimited, Starz Superpack and Cinemax. More information is available online at www.directv.com/international.

Does DIRECTV plan to expand its Ukrainian package? Do you plan to add any other channels?

We always seek new channels that would organically fit our existing packages. This goes for the Ukrainian package as well. Our goal is to include the channels of the highest quality, popularity and demand by viewers. We will gladly listen to our subscribers’ opinions on this issue.

Shvydko chain in Kyiv to expand

WASHINGTON – The Overseas Private Investment Corporation’s (OPIC) president and CEO, Robert Mosbacher Jr., announced in late December 2005 that it will grant of a loan of \$6.8 million to the closed joint stock company Shvydko-Ukraine for the opening of 17 new fast food restaurants in Kyiv, the implementation of a new computer management system and the construction a new commissary.

The addition of the new restaurants will bring the number of Shvydko outlets in Kyiv to 28.

Shvydko, the second-largest fast food restaurant in Ukraine next to McDonald’s, offers traditional Ukrainian cuisine and is owned by Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) and Twenty-First Century Holdings (Overseas) Ltd.

WNISEF was formed out of the Support for East European Democracy Act of 1989, and funded primarily through grants committed by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

It is expected that the new restaurants will generate approximately 900 new jobs for Ukrainians.

OPIC was created in 1971 as a development agency of the U.S. government.

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Retired Coast Guard reservist authors book

GREENVILLE, N.C. – Dan Kozak, a retired U.S. Coast Guard Reservist and author, has published a book titled, "Ice Fire – N.Y. Harbor: What Happened Beneath the Verrazano Bridge," based on Mr. Kozak's article about actual events involving a container ship and an oil tanker in New York Harbor on June 2, 1973.

This is an adventure story about a collision between a drug-smuggling freighter and a Russian liquid nitrogen gas (LNG) tanker in New York Harbor. The consequences of the mishap threaten the City of New York with acts of terrorism.

The book was stimulated by the premise that people must always be mindful of the inherent dangers of handling, transporting and storing dangerous cargo like LNG.

Mr. Kozak began his career aboard federally owned vessels in 1945, moving through the ranks over the course of 12 years from apprentice seaman to captain. Almost 22 years of his service was spent on New York City fireboats, with eighteen of those years in the uniformed rank of pilot (a promotion from fireman 1st grade). He

gained further experience from 1954 to 1957, when he served as a city correction officer. Mr. Kozak retired from the USCGR in 1990 with the rank of lieutenant.

During his career, Mr. Kozak and two other Marine Co. 6 members were decorated by the Fire Department of New York in 1978 for capturing a rapist in the act of attacking a woman near their fireboat headquarters in lower Manhattan's FDR Park.

In addition, Mr. Kozak has authored a 3,000-word article, "Heroism At Sea," in Firehouse Magazine, which was adapted into the curriculum of the United States Coast Guard/ United States Air Force Search and Rescue School and other maritime institutions in 1980.

Many of his over 100 poems have appeared in national and international periodicals.

The author is now working on a sequel to "Ice Fire" titled, "Don Evins, CGI," depicting the USCG's search, rescue, drug interdiction and homeland security adventures in the southern Florida area.

For more information on this book, (ISBN: 1-4208-6898-5) which sells for \$18.49, or to order, readers may contact Ingram's Books in Print Database, or contact AuthorHouse publishing by calling (888) 280-7715; or logging on to www.authorhouse.com.

Colorado dermatologist aids colleagues in Lviv

PARSIPPANY, N.J. - Dr. John J. Schmidt, a dermatologist from Pueblo, Colo., was recently highlighted by the American Academy of Dermatology in its magazine, Dermatology World, in December of 2005. Dr. Schmidt was on a genealogical trip to Ukraine in 1996 when he was first introduced to an English-speaking dermatologist Dr. Andriy Horodylovskiy of Lviv. It was then that Dr. Schmidt was made aware of the lack of equipment at local clinics.

In 1998 Dr. Schmidt accepted an invitation to return to Lviv, where he had been searching for his family's roots, to lecture to dermatologists at Lviv's main dermatology clinic. Since then, he has returned three times each year to Lviv for three to four weeks at a time. In addition to his lectures, Dr. Schmidt offers hands-on training at the

affiliated hospital on surgical techniques.

Each time he goes to Lviv, Dr. Schmidt assesses the needs for equipment and determines what he could affordably obtain, safely transport and train dermatologists to use. Out of this need, in 1999 Dr. Schmidt established The Veselka Foundation, a non-profit corporation that provides equipment and supplies to dermatology clinics and hospitals in Ukraine. Much of the equipment is donated from local dermatologists in the U.S. with some pharmaceutical representatives donating samples.

In 2002 Dr. Schmidt was elected a fellow in the Ukrainian Academy of Dermatology and Venerology in recognition of his contribution. An exception to their by-laws had to be enacted for a "foreign" member to be admitted.

Currently, Dr. Schmidt is working on translating a dermatology textbook into Ukrainian.

For more information on Dr. Schmidt and The Veselka Foundation, readers can log on to www.veselkafoundation.org.

Canadians...

(Continued from page 4)

will only undermine the beneficial potential of projects such as this one. Indeed, a human rights project that fails to respect either or both of these principles would likely have the unfortunate effect of actually promoting racism through the suggestion that there exists a hierarchy of human suffering," said Mr. Gregorovich. "This institution should serve all Canadians."

Canadians for a Genocide Museum stated that it would support the Asper project only if it adhered to the following five points listed.

The museum's name, mandate and mission statement will be generic, inclusive and equitable.

The museum will not suggest that any one case of human suffering is more important than others by providing it with permanent strategic positioning, disproportionate display space, or other devices to focus special attention on it by visitors.

The museum's displays, funding and support for research and publication will be weighted toward lesser-known cases of human rights abuses and genocide that

have been historically marginalized or neglected so that those episodes may be fully recognized, documented and presented to Canadians.

The museum's governance and staffing will be inclusive and equitable. Its board of directors, officers and employees will reflect the full demographic diversity of Canada's peoples.

The museum will be fully independent of the Asper foundation, other corporations and institutions, excepting the government of Canada.

To date, CGM pointed out, the Asper family's foundation and those associated with this project have been unwilling to commit to these five fair principles.

Among the 47 member-organizations of Canadians for the Genocide Museum are the following Ukrainian groups: Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society, League of Ukrainian Canadians, League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ukrainian National Federation of Canada and Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada.

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Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

when tragedies occur, here and around the world, Americans and others respond with concern and compassion."

"The private voluntary organizations, including those represented in this room, have supplied well over 1,000 tons of medicine and medical equipment and supplies to people in affected areas. Those donations alone are worth more than \$100 million," the first lady observed. "Today, these efforts convey a message of compassion and healing that tells the victims of Chernobyl that the world will not forget them or the tragedy they have endured."

The first lady turned to Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak of Ukraine and said: "Ambassador Shcherbak, we are particularly indebted to you. You were one of

the first medical doctors to respond to the tragedy at Chernobyl. And in the years since, few have done as much as you, Mr. Ambassador, to educate people around the world about the medical and scientific realities of the Chernobyl disaster and what they portend for humanity's future."

Vice-President Gore spoke about the lingering effects of the 1986 accident which, he said, "are measured in the anxiety of young Ukrainian and Belarusian and Russian parents who hope and pray that their newborns will grow healthy and whole. The effects are measured by the degraded natural resources that trace a poisoned arc across Ukraine, through Belarus, into Russia, and reaching as far as Scandinavia. They are measured by the uncertainty that we all share as we wonder whether one day another Chernobyl might once again unleash its fury."

The vice-president went on to speak of President [Bill] Clinton's determination "to do whatever our nation can to overcome this tragedy, and to help ensure that all reactors everywhere are safer, cleaner and forever free from the sort of catastrophe we remember on this important anniversary."

Vice-President Gore also hailed Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's "courageous decision" to close down the Chernobyl plant by the year 2000.

Finally, Mr. Gore reflected on "the most enduring lesson of Chernobyl": "that only in freedom can people claim their rightful destiny to live in safety and security. Only in freedom can people insist on public health systems that work and on natural resources that are safeguarded and clean. Only in freedom can people hold bureaucracies accountable for how they manage potentially dangerous technologies."

Source: "First lady hosts Chernobyl commemoration at White House," by Roma Hadzewycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 12, 1996, Vol. LXIV, No. 19.

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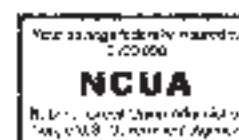
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Ukrainian Nationals win two Pennsylvania soccer championships

by Taras Kozak

HORSHAM, Pa. – The Ukrainian Nationals soccer team captured the Men's Amateur Eastern Pennsylvania Championship on Sunday, April 30, in a thriller over Phoenix SC that was won 7-6 on penalty kicks, after a torrid overtime period tied 4-4.

A week earlier the Ukrainian Nationals had won the final of the U.S. Open Cup Eastern Pennsylvania Championship.

Thus, Tryzub continues its undefeated season.

On April 30, both Phoenix and "the Nats" (as the Tryzub team is known) were perfect from the penalty spot after the first six shooters. Ukrainian Nationals' goalkeeper Jason Rostovkis made a great diving save to stop Phoenix's seventh shot. Defender Mike Clay, not normally known for his shooting prowess, hammered his penalty kick into the back of the net to break the deadlock and give Tryzub a well-deserved win.

Petro Boretskii scored two goals in the first half from direct kicks, and Juri Suskin added another to give the Ukrainian Nationals a 3-1 lead at halftime. Phoenix SC clawed back with two goals in the second half, the last with 10 minutes of play, to tie the game.

In overtime, Tryzub briefly went ahead as Leon Cleary headed in a goal on a cross from Mark Franek. Since the golden-goal rule is no longer in affect, the teams continued playing the 30-minute overtime period. Phoenix tied the match with 5 minutes left to set the stage for the Nats' exciting win on penalty kicks.

On April 23, the Ukrainian Nationals, powered by three goals from Cleary, beat the United German-Hungarians (UGH) 3-1 in the U.S. Open Cup Eastern Pennsylvania Championship. Cleary scored his first goal midway through the first half, overpowering a defender just outside the penalty area before going in alone on the goalkeeper and scoring.

Ten minutes later, player/coach Boretskii almost scored on a free kick from 25 yards out. The blast was barely deflected wide by the goalie. Tryzub had control throughout most of the first half but was unable to convert any chances to increase its lead. The



The 2006 team of the Ukrainian Nationals.

half ended 1-0.

UGH scored immediately at the beginning of the second half to tie the score, before Cleary scored again in the 55th minute to regain the lead for Tryzub. UGH pressed for an equalizer the rest of the game, but Tryzub's defense, led by goalkeeper Rostovsky and Boretskii, held firm. With 10 minutes remaining in the game, Cleary again beat UGH's goalie one-on-one to secure the win.

Next up for Tryzub is a visit to play the Maryland state champion, the Baltimore Colts, for the U.S. Amateur Cup on May 7. The following week, on May 14, they travel to Washington to meet the D.C./Virginia champions, the Aegean Hawks, in the U.S. Open Cup. If the Ukrainian Nationals defeat one or both of these opponents, they will return for a home stand in their pursuit of the Region 1 and U.S. championships.



The star of the April 30 game, Ukrainian Nationals' Leon Cleary (No. 3) drills a beautiful header on goal.

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- August 19, Sorochynsky Yarmarok
- August 20-27, travel by train to Kyiv, to hotel Dnipro for seven nights, including breakfast each morning and sightseeing
- August 21-23, World Congress of Ukrainians
- August 24, 15th Independence Day of Ukraine
- August 25, Kyiv Cave Monastery, lunch at Tsarske Selo, open-air museum at Pyrohovo, dinner at Kulishna, 1 hour cruise on Dnipro River
- August 26, full day bus tour to Chornobyl
- August 27, full day bus tour to Chernihiv, including lunch and then travel by train to Poltava and transfer to hotel gallery
- August 28-30, SFULT Congress in Poltava
- August 31, train to Kyiv to hotel Dnipro
- Sept 1, transfer to Boryspil Airport for flights to U.S.

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Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: Editorial Staff, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



TENNIS CAMP AGES 10-18

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

June 25- July 7, 2006

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

EXPLORATION DAY CAMP AGES 7-10

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

Session #1: June 26- June 30, 2006

Session #2: July 3- July 7, 2006

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

DISCOVERY CAMP AGES 8-15

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

Session #1: July 9- July 15, 2006

Session #2: July 16- July 22, 2006

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

CHILDREN'S UKRAINIAN HERITAGE DAY CAMP AGES 4-7

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

Summer Camps 2006

Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Session #1: July 16- July 21, 2006

Session #2: July 23- July 28, 2006

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

SCUBA DIVING COURSE AGES 12-ADULTS

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

July 16- July 22, 2006

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

UKRAINIAN "SITCH" SPORTS CAMP AGES 6-18

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

Session #1: July 23- July 29, 2006

Session #2: July 30- August 5, 2006

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

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

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

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

July 31- August 4, 2006

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

TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP AGES 8-16

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

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

Session #2: August 6- August 19, 2006

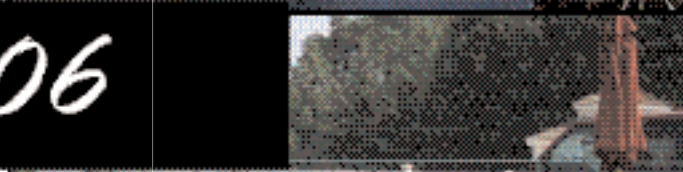
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OUT AND ABOUT

- May 13
Chicago

Fund-raising Auction, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522
- May 13
Ottawa

Lesia Ukrainka School Graduation Ball, University of Ottawa, 613-836-7920 or 613-825-7460
- May 13-14
Washington

UNWLA Branch 78 hosts Jacques Hnizdovsky art exhibit and sale, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 703-271-9672
- May 14
Ottawa

Pysanka Exhibit, designs by Oksana Yarosh, The Nepean Museum, 613-829-1161 or 613-723-7936
- May 16
New York

Brooklyn Ukrainian Group/Ukrainian Congress Committee of America evening with filmmaker Amy Grappell, Pioneer Theater, 212-228-6840
- May 18
Washington

The Washington Group and UCCA present Ambassador Oleh Shamshur on U.S.-Ukraine relations, The Army and Navy Club, 703-548-8534 or 240-381-0993
- May 20
Chicago

Day of Reflection: Call to Discipleship, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 773-227-3970
- May 23
Ottawa

The Ukrainian Genealogy Group meeting, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine hall, 613-731-1870
- May 27-28
Ottawa

Ottawa Ukraina Royals Soccer Team, Pat O'Kane Preseason Tournament, www.ottawaukraina.com
- May 28
Ottawa

Ottawa School of Ukrainian Dance and Svitanok Ukrainian Dance Ensemble present "Lost and Found," Carleton University, 613-692-5243 or 613-825-2948
- May 28
Ottawa

Pyrohy Dinner and Concert, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Hall, 613-728-0856

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



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

effect. He added that the Parliament made a mistake in rejecting a proposal for a recount of the March 26 vote. (Lyvtyn's People's Bloc got only 2.44 percent of the vote and failed to cross the 3 percent election barrier.) Thus, he said he believes that the next Verkhovna Rada's validity is questionable. (Ukrinform)

Commemorative coin honors Lviv

KYIV – On April 26 the National Bank of Ukraine put into circulation the “750 Years of Lviv” commemorative coin, which has a face value of 5 hrv. The coin is dedicated to one of the leading scientific, cultural, educational and industrial cities of western Ukraine. Lviv is mentioned for the first time in historical records dating to 1256. It was founded by King Danylo Halytskyi and named after his son Lev. The commemorative coin is made of white copper, weighs 16.54 grams and was minted in 60,000 copies. The coin is adorned with the image of a lion's head, the small national emblem of Ukraine on the left and the date of issue, 2006, on the right. The reverse side of the coin depicts the panorama of Lviv of the early 17th century with the inscription “Lviv/750.” (Ukrinform)

Sevastopol adopts regional language

SEVASTOPOL – Deputies of the Sevastopol City Rada on April 26 passed a resolution that makes Russian a regional language and promised to preserve it and develop so that it would not contradict development of the Ukrainian national language. From now on, Sevastopol citizens can use the Russian language on par with Ukrainian. The Sevastopol City Rada also stated its intentions to perform an analysis of the Russian language's functioning conditions and problems related to its teaching. Thus, on the basis of the results, a local program of development of the Russian and Ukrainian languages is supposed to be elaborated. The Sevastopol deputies intend to pay special attention to the language situation on TV, which is marked by domination of the Russian language over Ukrainian. On April 25 the Luhansk Oblast Rada gave Russian the status of second state language. On March 6, the Kharkiv City Rada resolved to make Russian a regional language. (Ukrinform)

President questions “regional language”

RIGA – While on a visit to Latvia, President Viktor Yushchenko told journalists in Riga on April 28 that he has asked the Justice Ministry and the Procurator General's Office to look into the legality of recent local government decisions granting Russian the status of a regional language, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Last month such decisions were made in the Luhansk Oblast and the city of Sevastopol. Both regions have a predominantly Russian-speaking population. “I think that I will receive opinions from these [central-government] bodies very soon and we will act in strict accordance with national and international laws,” Mr. Yushchenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Zvorych: no coalition with Regions

KYIV – According to Roman Zvorych, chief of the Our Ukraine bloc's juridical department, Our Ukraine will never become engaged in coalition talks with the Party of the Regions. When that party was in power in Ukraine it did everything to destroy democracy, which is why, though our programs may contain similar points, our fundamental differences are so wide that these rule out any talks, Mr. Zvorych underscored. In the meantime, as Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich told the party's Political Council session on April 27, he views a Regions-Our Ukraine coalition as one that would be most efficient and would solve many problems in the country. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko expects coalition in June

RIGA – Meeting with students and teaching staff of the Latvian University in Riga on April 27, President Viktor Yushchenko expressed his opinion that in June a parliamentary coalition will be created and a new government will be formed. The president explained that, in keeping with Ukrainian legislation, the newly elected Verkhovna Rada's maiden session should be held within 30 days after the election returns were officially made public. After that the parliamentary majority must be formed within the next 30 days. The nation's new government will have to be formed within the following 30 days. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko on state visit to Latvia

RIGA – Within the framework of President Viktor Yushchenko's state visit to Latvia, Ukrainian-Latvian talks largely dealt with promoting bilateral relations

and bipartite cooperation in the energy sector. The talks also dealt with implementing regional projects and Ukrainian-Latvian cooperation in the context of Ukraine's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. President Yushchenko expressed his appreciation of Latvia's open support of Ukraine's Eurointegration aspirations. The president said the two states agreed to shortly resume proceedings of the mixed Intergovernmental Commission for Trade-Economic Cooperation. The commission's most immediate task will be to draft a joint action program for the coming two years, which will incorporate concrete projects, including those in the energy sector. Intergovernmental agreements were signed on cooperation in the information sphere and in preventing emergencies and eliminating their consequences. (Ukrinform)

“Orange Love” at Cannes festival

KYIV – According to the Kommersant-Ukraine, the film “Orange Love” about the Orange Revolution in Ukraine has been entered in the program of the Cannes Film Festival. The film's producer, Volodymyr Khorunzhyi, told the newspaper he cannot forecast whether the film has chances for success, but the team did its best to make a quality film. “Orange Love” is the brainchild of Ukrainian and Hollywood producers. The film's events unfold against the backdrop of developments in Ukraine in late 2004, particularly in Kyiv and its main square, Independence Square, known as the Maidan. The film's main character, Roman, who is an American of Ukrainian extraction, happens to arrive in Kyiv at the peak of the Orange Revolution, hoping to find his uncle. Captivated by the Orange Revolution, he starts filming the events with his videocamera. While attending a rally, he meets a young Kyivan girl, Katya. The film, which cost \$6 million, is said to have been the biggest Ukrainian capital investment in Ukraine's cinematography. Kiev-Donbas Co. Vice-Presidents Aleksandr and Vyacheslav Konstantynovskiy were the film's major sponsors. (Ukrinform)

Solzhenitsyn praises Putin

MOSCOW – Prominent Russian writer and former Soviet-era dissident Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn said in a rare media interview on April 27 that Western countries are unfairly trying to encircle Russia and praised President Putin for restoring a strong Russian state, mosnews.com reported. “Though it is clear that present-day Russia poses no threat to it, NATO is methodically and persistently building up its military machine in Eastern Europe and [by] surrounding Russia from the south,” Mr. Solzhenitsyn added. He stressed that “this involves open material and ideological support for ‘colored revolutions’ and the paradoxical forcing of North Atlantic interests on Central Asia. ... All this leaves no doubt that they are preparing to completely encircle Russia and deprive it of its sovereignty.” He hailed Mr. Putin, noting that “foreign policy ... is being conducted sensibly and in an increasingly forward-looking manner.” Mr. Solzhenitsyn said that, “owing to the heavy burden left by [Putin's] predecessors, ... the overall state of people's lives remains difficult and chaotic.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Chornobyl anniversary marked in Miensk

MIENSK – An estimated crowd of 7,000 to 10,000 mainly young people took part in the Chornobyl Way rally organized by the Belarusian opposition in Miensk on April 26, Belarusian and international news agencies reported. The rally was permitted by the authorities who, however, warned demonstrators to stay away from October Square, which was the site of protests last month against President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's re-

election. “If we stay together, we can defeat a dictatorship that denied the Belarusian people a choice and kept them from electing the president legally,” Mr. Milinkevich told the crowd from the steps of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences building. “We will destroy this regime through acts of peaceful disobedience. We will not wait for the next election in five years. We can overcome the dictatorship in the next two years, perhaps sooner.” Mr. Milinkevich called on people to join the newly created civic movement For Freedom. Belarusian Television reported in its main newscast in the evening that the rally was attended by “several hundred regulars for whom going to meetings is a favorite hobby.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarus opposition gets jail terms...

MIENSK – United opposition leader Alyaksandr Milinkevich and Syarhey Kalyakin, manager of Mr. Milinkevich's presidential election campaign, were sentenced on April 27 to 15 and 14 days in jail, respectively, RFE/RL's Belarus Service and Belapan reported. A judge found the politicians guilty of taking part in the previous day's unauthorized rally that took place in front of the Academy of Sciences building in Miensk on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster. “It was not an unsanctioned rally. We took part in an absolutely authorized event. ... They are scared. They want to scare us but they themselves are trembling,” Mr. Milinkevich told RFE/RL's Belarus Service after the verdict. Another judge on April 27 sentenced Belarusian Popular Front leader Vintsuk Vyachorka and Labor Party leader Alyaksandr Bukhvostau to 15 days each, finding them guilty of violating regulations governing “mass events” during the April 26 Chornobyl Way rally in the Belarusian capital. Mr. Vyachorka was arrested immediately after the rally, while Messrs. Milinkevich, Kalyakin and Bukhvostau were detained on April 27. (RFE/RL Newsline)

...as the West protests

MIENSK – European Union External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner on April 27 expressed her concern about the arrest and jailing of four opposition leaders in Miensk earlier the same day, Belapan reported. “I call for the immediate release of all those arrested and detained because of their opinions. I once again call upon the Belarusian authorities to respect their commitments in the OSCE and U.N. frameworks, and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression and of the media, and the freedom of assembly and political association,” Ms. Ferrero-Waldner said. U.S. State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said on April 27: “These actions are outrageous and reprehensible, and, unfortunately, they are only the latest in an ongoing series of acts against the citizens of [Belarus] who are only attempting to exercise their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. We condemn these actions and we call on the authorities to immediately release those detained and drop the charges against them.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

NATO: Ukraine to be encouraged

SOFIA – NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer suggested in Sofia on April 27 that Ukraine and Georgia can expect encouragement at the alliance's November summit in Riga on its hope to join NATO, Reuters reported. “I think it is also clear that there will be a signal in Riga, but the actual invitations to join cannot be expected already at the Riga summit,” he told a news conference. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice evad-

(Continued on page 23)

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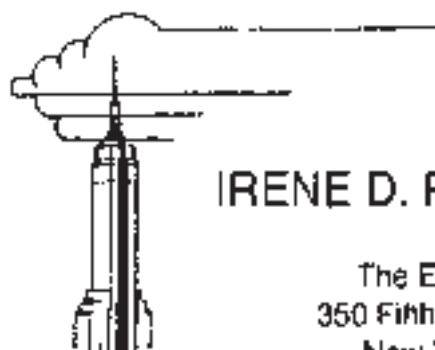
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 22)

ed a question at the same news conference about when Ukraine could expect a membership plan. "The Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people will have to decide whether or not this is something that they wish to pursue. And they will also have to work very hard, I think, to meet the criteria," she said. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said in Riga on April 27 that he believes it is likely for Ukraine to secure a Membership Action Plan at the Riga summit. He noted that an anti-NATO campaign stirred up by some political forces during the recent parliamentary election campaign in Ukraine was an attempt to score political capital. "The anti-NATO policy that was promoted during the election campaign does not reflect the belief in our society," Interfax-Ukraine quoted him as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko declares his income

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko's income in 2005 amounted to about \$57,000 (U.S.), according to the income declaration he filed on April 14. Mr. Yushchenko declared an income of 288,020.20 hrv, including wages of 273,060.28 hrv. The combined income of members of Mr. Yushchenko's family was 384,975 hrv. Mr. Yushchenko also declared land plots with a total area of 79,319 square meters, a residential building with an area of 618 square meters, and an apartment with an area of 371.9 square meters. Mr. Yushchenko and members of his family did not declare any private automobiles. According to Mr. Yushchenko's press secretary, Iryna Heraschenko, the president was awarded two prizes but the accompanying monetary payments were not included in Mr. Yushchenko's declaration for 2005 because they were received in 2006 and will be included his declaration for 2006. Mr. Yushchenko's family plans to use this money for philanthropic purposes. (Ukrinform)

Ministers file income declarations

KYIV – Ukrainian government ministers have disclosed their income declarations for 2005, as stipulated by the law on fighting corruption. Economy Minister Arsenii Yatseniuk, Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty, Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yuri Pavlenko and Emergency Situations Minister Viktor Baloha all disclosed their income declarations for 2005. Mr. Baloha declared an income of 105,146 hrv for 2005. According to his declaration, he has no bank accounts and owns a VAZ-2109 automobile. His family had an income of 915,989 hrv in 2005. His family also owns a land plot with an area of 2,747 square meters, two apartments and two automobiles. Mr. Pavlenko declared an income of 288,482 hrv for 2005. Mr. Pynzenyk declared an income of 238,687 hrv, a RAV-4 automobile, and 315,327 hrv in bank accounts. Mr. Holovaty declared an income of 292,997 hrv for 2005. He also declared an apartment and 1,195,527 hrv in bank accounts. Mr. Yatseniuk declared over 3 million hrv for 2005. (Ukrinform)

Cinematographers launch joint project

KYIV – Ukrainian director Oles Sanin on March 16 presented a new international movie project in Kyiv. Code named "The Kobzars," the project will be jointly implemented by Ukrainian cinematographers and the U.S.-based Hollywood Trident Foundation. Financial support for its implementation will be rendered by the Ukrainian government, the Industrial Union of Donbas (ISD) and the international charitable fund Ukraine 3000, which is chaired by First Lady Kateryna

Yushchenko. Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Vice Prime Minister Viacheslav Kyrylenko commented on the project as sure to give a fresh and potent impetus to Ukraine's cinematography and mark a major contribution to Ukrainian movies' arrival on the international scene. Importantly, Mr. Kyrylenko noted, one of the future film's major topics will be the devastating Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933. According to Mr. Sanin, the film's shooting will involve state-of-the-art digital equipment and technologies. The film will be released in both English- and Ukrainian-language versions. Ukrainian, American and British actors will be engaged, with American actor Jack Palance, who is of Ukrainian extraction, expected to star. The film's shooting will begin in New York in May. The film should be available to movie-theaters in early 2008. (Ukrinform)

Gymnast sets up HIV-AIDS foundation

KYIV – Liliya Podkopyayeva, Olympic all-around champion in gymnastics and United Nations goodwill ambassador for HIV/AIDS in Ukraine, has established an international charitable foundation, called Health of Generations, that is aimed at aiding HIV/AIDS-affected children. Ukrainian Minister for Family, Youth and Sports Yuri Pavlenko and UNICEF's representative to Ukraine, Jeremy Hartley, attended the presentation of the foundation, it was reported on April 10. Together with the foundation a project was launched with the aim of attracting society's attention to the problem of the health of the future generations and the HIV/AIDS problem. According to Mr. Pavlenko, the foundation project is very necessary and topical nowadays, even more so as the year 2006 was proclaimed as the Year of Protection of the Rights of Children. According to the Health Ministry's official data, 103,572 HIV-affected citizens were registered in Ukraine in February 2006, 13,753 of whom are children. (Ukrinform)

Polish president visits Ukraine

KYIV – Ukraine and Poland signed a joint declaration of development of cooperation in the energy sphere on February 28. The document was inked by Presidents Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine and Lech Kaczynski of Poland, who was on a two-day official visit to Ukraine. President Yushchenko assessed the visit by his Polish counterpart as a new stage in the development of Ukrainian-Polish relations. The two countries discussed their relations in the context of European integration; economic and humanitarian issues, as well as energy security. Also discussed, as President Yushchenko put it, was "continuation of a tradition of historical reconciliation between the two

peoples." President Kaczynski noted that Poland will always render political assistance to Ukraine in its European and Euro-Atlantic drive, and that Poland will remain Ukraine's advocate in Ukraine and "guide" on the way to the European Union and NATO. (Ukrinform)

Istanbul chosen over Kyiv

KYIV – Jeremy Isaacs, chairman of the international expert jury, told a press conference at the European Commission on April 11 that Kyiv has been defeated by Istanbul in the competition for being named Europe's Cultural Capital 2010. Both cities participated in the contest as capitals outside the European Union. (Ukrinform)

Camry presented in Crimea

KYIV – The new Toyota Camry has debuted in Ukraine. Senior Toyota managers came to Crimea to attend the new car's presentation at Yalta's Livadia Palace on April 11. The automaker intends to sell over 1,000 Toyota Camry cars in Ukraine in 2006 through the Toyota-Ukraine dealer network. The car's price is 29,800, euros. (Ukrinform)

Skrypka to organize "Rock-Sich"

KYIV – Popular Ukrainian rock-star Oleh Skrypka said on April 11 that he intends to organize a new festival, dubbed Rock-Sich, in Kyiv. The festival involves special preparations of a citadel on Trukhaniv Island, the venue of a rock festival slated for May 6-7. The citadel will include three stages for different musical genres: ethnic rock, hard rock and hip-hop/metal. The frontman of the rock-band VV also said he intends to hold the festival annually to promote development of rock music in Ukraine. The festival is noted for the participation of Ukrainian bands only. (Ukrinform)

Church, state mark Ukrainian unity

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was joined by numerous state officials and religious leaders in a ceremony dedicated to the start of construction of a monument to the unity of Ukraine. The event occurred on April 8 near the Mariinskyi Palace, the official residence of the president of Ukraine. Religious leaders present included Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate; Metropolitan Mefodii (Kudriakov), head of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church; Archbishop Mytrofan (Yurchuk), who is responsible for managing affairs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP); and Tamim Achmed Mohammed Mutakh, head of the Spiritual Direction of the Muslims of Ukraine. Outgoing Kyiv Mayor

Oleksander Omelchenko noted that the ceremony commemorated events starting with January 22, 1919, when western Ukrainian lands, which had been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, on January 22, 1919, announced their "everlasting" union with central and eastern Ukraine. The monument will honor those who fought for Ukrainian unity and independence until it was declared on August 24, 1991. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

UCU to offer social pedagogy program

LVIV – Social pedagogy, a new academic discipline, was presented at the Day of Open Doors at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv on April 8. Starting in September, approximately 30 students of the university's Humanities Faculty will be enrolled in the program. The program will prepare students for social work, for teaching Christian ethics in public schools and for related professions. No similar program is offered anywhere in Ukraine. Dr. Maria Shved, head of the Social Pedagogy Department, said, "In Ukraine, when people hear about social pedagogy, they shrug their shoulders. But there is nothing strange about it. In Ukraine it is a relatively new educational branch, unlike in Poland, where society's demand for social pedagogues is constantly increasing and, therefore, this profession is becoming more and more popular. During Soviet times all people were 'happy' and 'equal.' The existing problems of separate layers of the population, like drug addiction, alcoholism, orphaned children and homelessness, were concealed. Today it is hard to talk about the prospect of Ukraine in Europe without a developed network of social centers and services." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ukraine's population still shrinking

KYIV – According to the State Statistics Committee, as of March 1, Ukraine was populated by 46.85 million people, of whom 31.84 million were urban residents and 15.015 million lived in the countryside. During the first two months of this year 69,270 babies were born, and 142,838 persons died, including 770 babies under the age of 1. In 2005 426,085 babies were born and 781,964 died. In January-February of this year 39,785 marriages and 26,649 divorces were registered. In 2005 there were 332,100 marriages and 183,500 divorces. During the first two months of this year 6,967 persons arrived in Ukraine and 3,871 persons left. In 2005 39,580 persons came to Ukraine, and 34,997 left the country. According to the latest census of December 5, 2001, Ukraine's population was 48,457,100. The Institute for Social Studies under the National Academy of Sciences predicts that by 2050 Ukraine's population may shrink to 35 million. (Ukrinform)

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May 14, 2006 Mother's Day Brunch	June 11-16, 2006 UNA Seniors' Conference
May 20, 2006 Wedding	June 16-18, 2006 3rd Annual Adoption Weekend
May 21, 2006 Communion Luncheon Banquet	June 17, 2006 Wedding
May 26-29, 2006 UNA Convention	June 18, 2006 Father's Day Luncheon and Program
June 2-4, 2006 Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz	June 23-24, 2006 Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada
June 3, 2006 Wedding	June 24, 2006 Wedding
June 5-9, 2006 Eparchial Clergy Retreat	June 25-July 2, 2006 Tabir Ptashat Session #1
June 10, 2006 Wedding	June 25-July 7, 2006 Tennis Camp
	June 26-June 30, 2006 Exploration Day Camp

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 7

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States invites the Ukrainian public to a lecture by Prof. Frank Sysyn to take place at 2 p.m. The title of the lecture is "From the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to the Ukrainian Hetmanate: Evolution of Early Modern Ukrainian Political Culture." Prof. Sysyn is the director of the Peter Jacyk Foundation for Ukrainian Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta and currently is a visiting professor at Columbia University. The academy is located at 206 W. 100th St.; telephone, 212-222-1866.

Thursday, May 11-Wednesday, May 17

NEW YORK: The documentary "Light from the East" will premiere in New York as part of the Brave New Europe: new films from and about Central and Eastern Europe series at the Pioneer Theater, East Third Street between avenues A and B. The film, written by Amy Grappell, and produced by Ms. Grappell and Christian Moore, chronicles a tour of the Yara Arts Group to Kyiv during the August 1991 putsch that dissolved the Soviet Union. "Light from the East," in English and Ukrainian (with English-language subtitles) screens at 9 p.m. For tickets visit www.twoboosts.com or call 800-595-4849.

Saturday-Sunday, May 13-14

WASHINGTON: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 78 of the District of Columbia invites the community to the opening reception of an exhibit of works by the late Jacques Hnizdovsky. Prints will be available for purchase. The reception begins at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE. The exhibit and sale continues on Sunday until 3 p.m. Admission: \$10, includes refreshments. For information contact Tania Terleckyj, 703-271-9672.

Sunday, May 14

ELGIN, ILL.: In observance of Mother's Day, the Iskra School of Ukrainian Folk Dance presents "Attic Treasures" at 4 p.m. at the Visual and Performing Arts Center, Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive. Tickets may be purchased in

advance for \$11, or at the door for \$13. Tickets are available online at www.elgin.edu/arts; via phone, 847-622-0300; or at the ECC Arts Center box office. For information call the Palatine branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), 847-358-3582.

TRENTON, N.J.: The Ukrainian National Home will celebrate Mother's Day with a special concert to be held at 477 Jeremiah Ave. The program starts at 2 p.m. with performances by children from all of the local Ukrainian parishes, plus an adult choir under the direction of Ruslan Romaniuk. Food and drinks will be served. Admission is \$5. For more information call Wasyl Turetskyy, 609-396-0186, or Roman Kuzyk, 609-809-7533.

Tuesday, May 16

NEW YORK: The Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will sponsor an evening with filmmaker Amy Grappell and a screening of her film "Light from the East" at the Pioneer Theater, East Third Street between avenues A and B, at 9 p.m. The film, written by Amy Grappell, produced by Ms. Grappell and Christian Moore, chronicles a tour of the Yara Arts Group to Kyiv during the August 1991 putsch that dissolved the Soviet Union. For discounted tickets contact the UCCA, 212-228-6840.

Sunday, May 21

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The School of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is hosting its annual Spring Festival at St. Michael's Ukrainian Church, 1013 Fox Chase Road. The festival begins at 1 p.m. with a performance by the Voloshky School at 2:30 p.m. Admission: adults, \$5; children age 3-12, \$3. All are invited for an entertaining day on the beautiful grounds of St. Michael's. For addition information contact Andreja Kulyk, 215-917-1263.

IRVINGTON, N.J.: Branch 86 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America is sponsoring a concert marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko. The program begins at 4 p.m. at the Ukrainian Center, 140 Prospect St. Admission is \$15; refreshments will be served following the concert. For information call 973-379-7340.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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