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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko addresses World Affairs Council

by Andrea Fylypovych

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

PHILADELPHIA – First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine was the honored guest on May 30 at the annual meeting of the World Affairs Council (WAC) of Philadelphia held at the stately Union League Club.

The evening began with a traditional Ukrainian welcome of bread and salt on an embroidered ritual cloth. Mrs. Yushchenko was ushered onto the stage by WAC President Buntzie Ellis Churchill and Ukrainian Human Rights Committee President Ulana Mazurkevich. A pair of youngsters dressed in embroidered Ukrainian shirts greeted her with flowers.

Accompanying Mrs. Yushchenko were members of the Ukrainian diplomatic corps headed by Dr. Oleh Shamshur, ambassador to the U.S., and Mykola Kyrychenko, consul general in New York.

Congressman Curt Weldon (R.-Pa.) offered a spirited introduction. Referring to Ukraine's president, Viktor Yushchenko, he noted that "dynamic leaders need our support." He also praised Mrs. Yushchenko's "special commitment to children."

The program continued with a question/answer dialogue between Ms. Churchill and Mrs. Yushchenko.

Mrs. Yushchenko responded to questions on a variety of topics ranging from the after-

effects of her husband's dioxin poisoning to the elimination of corruption in Ukraine. Ukraine's first lady made it clear, however, that her main concern on this U.S. visit was to raise funds for improving health care in Ukraine, specifically for children.

The centerpiece of her program, called Hospital to Hospital, is to build a state-of-the-art children's hospital in Kyiv that includes a research center for neonatal and genetic testing. This pediatric center would aid in combatting the lingering health problems associated with the Chernobyl accident that occurred over 20 years ago. In addition, much-needed hospitals would be built in each of Ukraine's 25 oblasts.

A foundation has been set up in Ukraine to collect funds for this cause. Telethons and sales of bracelets also have been used raise money.

Mrs. Yushchenko noted that the concept of philanthropy in Ukraine had disappeared after the Soviet Revolution in 1917. She stressed that volunteerism needs to be revived and, in a barb tossed at Ukraine's new ultra-rich class, suggested that "possibly illegally gained profits" should be channeled to charity.

A non-profit foundation is also being set up in the United States. Ms. Churchill of the WAC offered to have her organization act as a necessary go-between for donors.

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Russophiles throughout Ukraine protest Yushchenko's domestic, foreign policies

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Russophiles have been rebelling against the domestic and international policies of President Viktor Yushchenko in recent months, posing a threat to the nation's long-term stability.

The revolt began in Kharkiv on March 6, when the City Council voted to grant the Russian language regional status. On May 29 thousands of Russophiles took to the streets of Feodosiya to protest the presence of U.S. troops.

The Crimean Parliament voted on June 6 to declare the autonomous republic a "NATO-free territory" in opposition to the military alliance created to defend Europe against the Soviet Union.

At a press conference the same day, President Yushchenko said the pro-Russian votes are anti-constitutional and voiced his suspicion that forces within the Russian Federation were stoking the revolt.

"Everyone understands that this is a mine placed with one goal: to stop our progress and to show that Ukrainians are unable to conduct themselves with solidarity," Mr. Yushchenko said.

"Groups are doing this well with foreign money," he later added. "I can't even name the political groups. But that's life, and I don't hold any illusions that Ukrainian politics will be easy."

Pro-Ukrainian leaders view the revolt against the Ukrainian language more seriously than the anti-NATO protests because they pose a more serious threat to the nation's stability and unity.

"The goal is to provoke instability in Ukraine, stop its democratic development and movement toward Europe, and create conditions to return Ukraine to the bosom of its so-called elder brother," said Yuriy Kliuchkovskiy, an Our Ukraine national deputy.

Following Kharkiv, the city councils of Sevastopol, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Luhansk voted to grant the Russian language regional status.

The oblast councils of Luhansk, Donetsk and Mykolaiv also followed suit, suggesting the revolt was a well-organized effort by Russian forces, with the help of their allies within Ukraine.

"Without a doubt, the Party of the Regions also was involved, along with separate forces that didn't make it into Parliament," Mr. Kliuchkovskiy said in an indirect reference to Natalia Vitrenko's People's Opposition Bloc.

"Unfortunately, it's quite well coordinated, which is obvious from how it's being done simultaneously," he added.

The legislation passed in the councils provides for use of the Russian language in government offices and on documents, street signs and outdoor business signs.

In early May, Justice Minister Serhii



Cutty Sark Co.

"I don't hold any illusions that Ukrainian politics will be easy," President Viktor Yushchenko told journalists on June 6, following a wave of pro-Russian acts by Ukrainian citizens.

Holovatyi announced that all attempts to declare a regional language were unconstitutional. They violate Articles 10 and 92 of the Constitution of Ukraine that make Ukrainian the exclusive language in all government dealings, both national

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National University of Ostroh Academy: a Ukrainian diaspora success story

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

OSTROH, Ukraine – Few diaspora projects in Ukraine have been as successful as the investment Americans and Canadians have made in the National University of Ostroh Academy.

Its 270,000-square-foot campus is among the most attractive in Ukraine, and its 2,500 students receive a liberal arts education that competes with the curriculum offered at universities in Kyiv or Lviv.

When becoming rector in 1994, Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk was surprised to see one of Ukraine's most historic sites had deteriorated from Soviet neglect.

"It was a ruin in the full understanding of the word, and nobody wanted to come work here," Dr. Pasichnyk said. "There wasn't a table, there wasn't a chair, there wasn't a book or a teacher. There was nothing."

In October, the National University at Ostroh Academy will open a three-story, 19,300-square-foot library that will house 370,000 books and hundreds of periodicals.

The first virtual library at a Ukrainian university will occupy the building's second floor, offering students access to a

huge global database of research sources.

The cylindrical library complements cozy cottages, where about 50 teachers currently reside, as well as the renovated classrooms and halls in the 22,800-square-foot renovated main building originally constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries.

How Dr. Pasichnyk was able to rehabilitate the historic Ostroh Academy into a top-rate Ukrainian university in a matter of 12 years is an example of how the Ukrainian diaspora can have a significant, positive influence in Ukraine.

Leaders of the Ukrainian diaspora interested in reviving Ukraine's oldest institution of higher education established relations with Dr. Pasichnyk, who was recommended for the university's top post by Shevchenko Literature Institute Director Mykola Zhulynskiy and Viacheslav Briukhovetskyi, the rector of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

In 1996 Dr. Myron B. Kuropas launched exchange programs for Ostroh professors to study at Northern Illinois University. Soon after, Dr. Lubomyr Wynar of Kent State University initiated

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Verkhovna Rada adjourns session until June 14

RFE/RL Newsline

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada gathered on June 7 to resume its first session, which opened on May 25, Ukrainian media reported. The Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party requested a recess in the session until June 14 in order to conclude their talks on forging a majority coalition.

The motion was endorsed by 227 votes, after which Our Ukraine lawmaker Mykola Katerynychuk, who presided over the sitting, closed the debate.

Lawmakers from the Party of the Regions and the Communist Party tried to prevent the vote by breaking the electronic voting system in the session hall but were not quick enough.

The three allies in the 2004 Orange Revolution had adjourned the session two weeks ago, citing the need to work out a coalition accord. It was hoped that the coalition agreement would be concluded by June 7.

ANALYSIS

U.S. Navy stopover sparks anti-NATO protests in Ukraine

by Jan Maksymiuk
RFE/RL Newsline

Ukrainian opposition lawmakers have demanded the dismissal of the foreign and defense ministers, blaming them for allowing a U.S. naval ship to enter the port of Feodosiya in Crimea last week without the required parliamentary authorization. Feodosiya residents have blockaded the port, protesting what they see as an unwelcome NATO intrusion into Ukrainian territory.

The U.S. cargo ship Advantage anchored in Feodosiya on May 27, bringing what Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko described as U.S. “technical aid.” Seamen offloaded construction materials to build barracks for Ukrainian sailors at a training range near the town of Saryi Krym, not far from Feodosiya.

Two days later, Feodosiya residents, mobilized by local chapters of the pro-Russia Party of the Regions, the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc as well as the Russian Community of Crimea, began to picket the port. Displaying anti-NATO slogans written in Russian, they are continuing to block the U.S. cargo from getting to its destination. The BBC reported that several hundred people were present at the demonstration.

Advantage has also reportedly left a group of U.S. servicemen in Feodosiya to guard the unloaded cargo, but their presence has not been officially confirmed.

The situation has angered many Ukrainians. According to the Constitution of Ukraine, the deployment of foreign troops on Ukrainian territory must be approved by the Parliament for each individual case. The Party of the Regions, led by former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, has said in a statement that the disembarking of the U.S. naval ship in Feodosiya was an example of “brutal contempt” for the Constitution manifested by the government. A group of opposition deputies has drafted a resolution to dismiss the Ukrainian defense and foreign

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ministers over the Feodosiya incident.

But Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk on May 31 denied that the government had breached the law. “The authors of this political provocation claim that there has been a violation of the law about foreign military units crossing into Ukrainian territory,” he said. “But there are no such units.”

The government is planning to hold six separate military exercises in Ukraine in 2006 with the participation of foreign troops, including the multinational Sea Breeze 2006 exercise with a sizable NATO contingent. However, an authorization of these exercises by the Ukrainian Parliament is still pending. In February, the previous Verkhovna Rada rejected a presidential bill on allowing foreign troops to take part in the maneuvers planned for 2006.

Mr. Tarasyuk assured journalists on May 31 that the government will obtain permission from the Verkhovna Rada. “The government will do everything necessary to ensure that the Parliament, when it resumes its work, considers a bill allowing foreign troops into the country for taking part in military exercises,” he said.

The newly elected Verkhovna Rada will resume its work on June 7, when the three allies in the 2004 Orange Revolution – the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party – are expected to come up with a coalition accord to form a new government. A potential parliamentary debate over the Feodosiya incident will most likely complicate the formation of a ruling coalition. It could create additional hurdles to approving the planned multinational military exercise in 2006, and exacerbate political divisions within the new legislature. There are commentators in Ukraine who clearly see a “Russian hand” behind what is taking place in Feodosiya. Historian Mykhailo Kyrsenko told RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service earlier this week that people in Feodosiya have been lured into anti-NATO protests by pro-Russian political forces to further Russian interests in Ukraine. “Those who reject or block this [U.S.] aid are opposing Ukraine’s interests and serving another

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FOR THE RECORD: U.S. Embassy statement on the situation in Crimea

Following is the text of a statement released on June 2 by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine regarding the situation in Crimea.

On June 1 a commercially chartered airplane arrived at the Symferopol airport, bringing a group of U.S. Marine reservists who are part of a construction and engineering unit invited to Ukraine by the Ukrainian government to assist with upgrading the Ukrainian training facility at Saryi Krym. They joined their colleagues who arrived on May 27 aboard the Advantage, a commercial cargo ship that, at the invitation of the Ukrainian government, entered the Crimean port of Feodosiya in Crimea and unloaded materials and equipment for the construction project.

There are currently approximately 200 reservists in Crimea. All have civilian jobs in the U.S. To maintain their proficiency, they leave these jobs for three

weeks each year to fulfill their military commitment. Once this annual obligation is met they return to their civilian jobs in the U.S. The reservists who arrived this week are not involved in any military training exercise.

The construction unit is scheduled to build sanitary facilities and other basic amenities for use by the Ukrainian military. In addition to the materials they brought with them they plan to buy additional materials on the local market in Crimea, boosting the local economy. Any enhancements that are constructed as part of the visit would remain at the disposal of the government of Ukraine for use by Ukrainian military units.

The reservists who arrived this week are anxious to begin the assistance work they were invited here to do. The U.S. Embassy is continuing to work with the Ukrainian government to clear the construction equipment from the port and to defuse tension caused by protests in Crimea.

NEWSBRIEFS

Orange allies still differ

KYIV – National Deputy Anatolii Matviyenko of Our Ukraine told journalists in Kyiv on June 7 that Our Ukraine has not agreed to the demand of the Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) that its leader, Oleksander Moroz, should become chairman of the Verkhovna Rada in a future coalition of both parties with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), UNIAN reported. “Our Ukraine should be represented in a democratic coalition in the two leading posts – those of prime minister and Verkhovna Rada head,” Mr. Matviyenko added. The YTB and the SPU have formerly announced that in a potential coalition with Our Ukraine, the YTB should be offered the post of prime minister and the SPU that of Rada chairman. Asked by journalists whether this disagreement over the two top posts may wreck the process of coalition-building, Mr. Matviyenko said, “Nothing can disrupt this process because it will be continued in one format or another.” Leaders of the YTB, Our Ukraine and the SPU held a meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko late on June 6. “They have agreed on main principles [of the coalition] and practically eliminated [their] list of disagreements,” Oleh Rybachuk, head of the Presidential Secretariat, commented on the meeting. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Turchynov comments on coalition

KYIV – Oleksander Turchynov of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) on June 5 urged the bloc’s negotiation partners, Our Ukraine and the Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU), to immediately sign a coalition accord and form a new Cabinet, the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported. Mr. Turchynov told journalists that Our Ukraine and the SPU do not oppose the idea of Ms. Tymoshenko heading the government. “There has been no opposition [to this idea] but, fearing Tymoshenko in the post of prime minister, [they] are looking for mechanisms to paralyze the work of the Cabinet of Ministers, and this is what we will never agree with,” Mr. Turchynov added. He noted that there are “15 to 17 diverging positions” in the coalition talks, but added that a meeting of the three forces

with the president could contribute to resolving major disagreements. He predicted that if the three forces signed a coalition accord by the planned resumption of the parliamentary session on June 7, a parliamentary recess would be prolonged for “working out other important issues.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Language policy unchanged

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said at a news conference in Kyiv on June 6 that the recent decisions of regional legislators to grant Russian the status of “regional language” in several eastern and southern regions are a “gross violation” of the Constitution of Ukraine, Ukrainian media reported. “The state language of the country is Ukrainian. ... Article 10 of the Ukrainian Constitution defines a common status of the state language, which is Ukrainian. And no regional or city council has the authority to change the status of any language,” Mr. Yushchenko said. He added that the Constitutional Court, once it resumes its functioning, will immediately examine this issue. The Constitutional Court is currently non-operational, because opposition parties in the Verkhovna Rada are refusing to swear in several judges for the court. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Crimea adopts anti-NATO stance

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko commented on June 6 on the decision of the Crimean autonomous legislature earlier the same day declaring Crimea a territory without NATO, Ukrainian media reported. “This is a political decision that will not change the principles that regulate relations between Ukraine and NATO. ... We have a plan of cooperation with the North Atlantic Alliance – I stress, just as Russia and other CIS countries do – which is based on several principles in the framework of an Action Plan. The Action Plan includes operational and tactical exercises,” Mr. Yushchenko said. The resolution to declare Crimea a “NATO-free zone” was supported by 61 lawmakers in the 100-seat Supreme Council of Crimea. The visit of a U.S. naval cargo ship to the

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National University of Ostroh Academy honors three Ukrainian American scholars

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

OSTROH, Ukraine – In honor of their immense contributions to Ukrainian culture, the National University of Ostroh Academy awarded honorary doctoral degrees to three Americans of Ukrainian descent on May 23 during its second international diaspora conference.

In attendance was Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, who has been a leader of Ukrainian studies in U.S. during the last four decades and helped launch the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies at Ostroh Academy.

Other honorees were Dr. Myron B. Kuropas and Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, who were not present at the conference, where the announcement of their honorary doctorates was made.

In accepting the honor, Dr. Wynar called for Ukrainian diaspora studies to become an integral part of the curricula in Ukrainian universities.

“I think that the diaspora institute at Ostroh Academy, and the international conferences in this glorious academic establishment, contribute to the full rebirth of Ukrainian national culture,” Dr. Wynar said.

“I believe the study of diaspora has already been born, which will become part of the curriculum of Ukrainian universities.”

The National University of Ostroh Academy requires its students to attend two mandatory classes on the Ukrainian diaspora – “Historical Studies in the Diaspora” and “Culture of the Ukrainian Diaspora.”

Promotion of diaspora studies

The university should continue to cooperate with Western scholars in reconstructing the diaspora experience as a “multi-faceted phenomenon” of Ukrainian history, Dr. Wynar said.

Diaspora studies in the West are declining due to the limited inflow of fresh academic support, he explained. Therefore, “transferring the experience of the Ukrainian diaspora to Ukraine is a natural event,” Dr. Wynar said. “The diaspora is a part of the global Ukrainian historical process and a part of Ukrainian history.”

Dr. Wynar has written more than 60 books related to Ukrainian studies, and more than 1,500 published articles.

Since 1969 he has taught at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, where he launched the Center for the Study of Ethnic Publications and Cultural Institutions and the Ethnic Research Center, which published the Ethnic Forum academic journal.

A leader in the Ukrainian academic community, Dr. Wynar founded the academic journal Ukrainian Historian in 1963 and launched the Ukrainian Historical Association in 1965.

He was among the founders of the Association of Ukrainian University Professors in 1961. He was twice selected to lead the World Scholarly Council of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians in 1983 and 1989.

Dr. Wynar was born in Lviv in 1932 to parents who were both teachers. His family fled Ukraine in 1944.

He earned degrees from the University of Munich, Ukrainian Free University in Munich and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

He has taught classes in history, methods of academic research, library studies and cultural studies.

In the mid-1990s Dr. Wynar began discussing ideas for establishing a diaspora studies institute in Ukraine, similar to the Ethnic Research Center he established at Kent State.

He approached Ostroh Academy because of its historical legacy as

Eastern Europe’s first institution of higher education, founded in 1576 by Prince Kostiantyn Ostrozky.

“It was brainstorming from different directions,” Dr. Wynar said. “They enthusiastically welcomed the idea.”

By 2002, the Institute for Ukrainian Diaspora Studies was up and running, “and now they want to develop it further,” he said.

Dr. Wynar helped coordinate the donations of books and journals to the institute, including his own collection. “Very many people have been sending research materials,” he said.

Other honorees

Dr. Kuropas, a leader in the Ukrainian American community for the past four decades, and Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky, a former rector of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, also received honorary doctorates.

Dr. Kuropas and his wife, Lesia, have been collecting Ukrainian diaspora donations for Ostroh Academy, raising \$290,000 for the university since 1999.

Rector Ihor Pasichnyk has used these funds towards capital improvements, construction of a modern library, creation of the Institute of Ukrainian Diaspora Studies and other projects that have made the university among the most respected in Ukraine.

Dr. Kuropas first visited Ostroh University in 1995 with two colleagues from Northern Illinois University, where he has been teaching for 21 years.

“We were very impressed with what we saw,” Dr. Kuropas said.

Dr. Kuropas has taught at Ostroh Academy in the summers of 1996, 1998 and 2002, when he was a senior Fulbright scholar.

Dr. Kuropas earned a bachelor’s degree from Loyola University in Chicago and master’s degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago. He earned his multi-disciplinary doctorate in educational foundations from the University of Chicago in 1974.

Dr. Kuropas, who is an honorary

member of the Ukrainian National Association’s General Assembly, wrote two books, “Ukrainian-American Citadel: The First Hundred Years of the Ukrainian National Association” and “The Ukrainian-Americans: Roots and Aspirations, 1884-1954.”

He published academic articles related to his experience as a special assistant to President Gerald R. Ford and legislative assistant to Sen. Robert Dole, as well as papers on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine and Soviet attempts to cover it up.

He is also the author of curriculum guides on the Famine-Genocide that have been used at teachers’ seminars throughout the United States and have been dis-

Official Website of the President of Ukraine

KYIV – At a Journalists Day press conference, on June 6, President Viktor Yushchenko said he wants to establish an international media forum. It would be held annually on November 22, Freedom Day, to discuss Ukraine’s role in the international media market.

Speaking about media priorities of his government, Mr. Yushchenko said, “Our government believes the essence of our activity is modern and ‘capacious’ information policies and freedom of the press.”

He then outlined a program to resolve the most pressing problems in that area. Mr. Yushchenko said it is important to pass several laws to make journalists truly independent and ensure better protection of their rights. He also insisted it is vital to introduce so-called editorial statutes.

The president said the current situation still is unacceptable. “I think all journalists can agree with me,” he added. “I believe journalists should more actively demand that media owners should sign editorial statutes with them,” he said.

Mr. Yushchenko characterized the media market in Ukraine as vulnerable.

“The State Television and Radio

tributed by the Ukrainian National Association.

The third recipient of an honorary Ph.D. from the National University of Ostroh Academy was Dr. Rudnytzky, president of the World Council of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

Dr. Rudnytzky is a full member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, president of the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics – USA, professor of Central and Eastern European studies at La Salle University (Philadelphia) and adjunct professor of Ukrainian at the University of Pennsylvania.

The Weekly was unable to reach Dr. Rudnytzky for comment on his recognition by Ostroh Academy.

Yushchenko to set up media forum

Committee (STRC) is particularly responsible for its failure to formulate information policies,” he said. “We do not have public television. There are very few private media. These issues are still unsettled because there is no effective management center. Last year, we spoke about relevant programs [to develop the media market], as well as a national media concept, but nothing has been done yet,” he added.

The president said the STRC functions “ineffectively and unsatisfactorily.” He reminded his audience that he had earlier asked the Verkhovna Rada to dismiss STRC Chair Ivan Chyzh, and expressed his hope that the newly elected Parliament will vote for his dismissal and then politically evaluate the committee’s performance.

Mr. Yushchenko promised to renew the Presidential Council for Information Policy and also to appoint new members of public councils at the National Television Company of Ukraine and the National Radio Company of Ukraine.

The president said public television must become “a tool of mass communication unaffected and uninfluenced by government.” He also said it is important to develop digital television and Internet technologies in Ukraine.

50 Cent brings his rap music to Ukraine

by Dmytro Zezyulin
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Ukrainian rap fans welcomed crack dealer-turned-international star 50 Cent at a June 3 concert, shelling out at least \$100 each to watch the muscle-bound tough wax about life on the streets of New York City.

Before the outdoor pavilion in the Arena City complex, hundreds of Kyiv youths threw on baggy clothes, tipped their baseball caps sideways and converged on the city’s main boulevard, the Khreschatyk, to drink beer, rap and indulge in hip hop culture.

“Homie, wassup!” and “Respect, yo!” were phrases the young teens used to greet each other as they shook hands and hugged, mimicking the gestures of American rappers such as Eminem that they see on Ukrainian music video channels.

The scene didn’t startle Kyiv residents, who had seen enough billboard and even text-message advertising to become well aware that an American rap star was soon arriving.

The fur coats, thick diamond-studded necklaces and gold rings of 50 Cent amuse Ukrainian teenagers, many of whom yearn for the romanticized version of street life that consists of quick money, luxury cars, beautiful women and guns.

When asked what appeals to them about 50 Cent, Ukrainian hip hop fans said they were drawn to his music and his image more so than the personal stories of his drug-dealing life and misogynistic lyrics.

“His lexicon isn’t normative, particularly towards women,” said Nazar Martynenko, a 23-year-old architect. “It doesn’t portray him very well as a gentleman. But it doesn’t ruin the entire aspect of his work.”

Olha Ponomarchuk, a Kyiv DJ, said 50 Cent’s music is sexy and igniting. His voice’s timbre is pleasant, she said.

“He sings about drugs, sex, criminality,” said Ms. Ponomarchuk, 27. “I don’t really listen to his music for the words, but more for his rhythms.”

50 Cent also won over a fan in Ms. Ponomarchuk’s mother, Svitlana, 47, who said his voice is truly masculine and pleasant.

“But I would change a lot in African American culture – the aggression, the drugs and the guns,” her mother said. “I know this is a result of many years of degrading black-skinned people. Now they are saying, ‘We don’t need you, we have our own life.’ But they’re better off working with their creativity.”

Hip hop themes aren’t entirely foreign to Ukrainians, many of whom listen to “shanson,” a Russian style of music in which singers romantically sing about poor upbringing, a life of crime, the prison culture and life’s tragedies.

50 Cent grew up in Queens, N.Y., without his parents, and eventually turned to crack dealing, which landed him in jail.

“The motives behind his lyrics are similar to ‘shanson,’ ” Mr. Martynenko said. “He went through all of that.”

Many of those arriving at the Arena City complex in central Kyiv merely came to drink beer and take a look at the muscular dude with many tattoos, and had nothing in common with the life 50 Cent raps about.

“I don’t understand his views on the world and don’t always agree with him,” said Yurii Chushkin, 18. “But knowing his biography and his life, I can understand why he refers to women with insolence.”

Ukrainian rap has emerged in the past decade, led by Vkhid u Zminnomu Vzutti, Vova zil Vova and Oleksander Polozhynskyi, who raps about Ukrainian youth, society and culture.

They needn’t imitate gangsta rap, Mr. Chushkin said.

“In rap, you need to be talented in rhyming,” he said. “But Ukrainians don’t need to rap on the same topics as 50 Cent. Rap is the personal music of the performer. Our world is a bit different.”

OBITUARY: Omeljan Pritsak, scholar of Ukrainian, Turkic studies, 87

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Prof. Omeljan Pritsak, internationally noted scholar of Ukrainian and Turkic studies, died of complications from heart disease on Monday, May 29, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston at the age of 87.

An eminent historian and linguist, Dr. Pritsak maintained that Ukrainian studies were crucial to a true understanding of Western culture and history because Ukraine straddled the fault line between European and Eastern cultures, philosophies, religions and world views, and events that transpired in Ukraine impacted all of Europe and the world.

As a result, he continually pushed for the inclusion of Ukrainian studies as a legitimate field of academic endeavor in Western higher education, particularly in light of Soviet tendencies to subsume all things Ukrainian as a subset of Russia.

Beginning in 1968 and continuing for a period of six years, Dr. Pritsak, working in conjunction with noted Harvard Byzantinologist Prof. Ihor Sevcenko, oversaw the establishment of endowed chairs of Ukrainian history, philology and literature at Harvard University and the founding of Harvard's Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI). These moves came after more than 10 years of intensive fund-raising work within the Ukrainian American community co-sponsored by the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organization of America (SUSTA) and a national fund-raising committee.

Dr. Pritsak not only served as the institute's first director for almost 20 years but was the first Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History, taking over the chair in 1975. In 1977 Dr. Pritsak helped to launch the journal *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*. He was instrumental in organizing a weekly seminar series, building up the Ukrainian library collections, and developing a new series of publications that made primary texts, facsimile editions and translations of important works of the Ukrainian past available to scholars worldwide. He also organized Harvard's Ukrainian Summer Institute.

Through his inspired teaching and energetic example, Prof. Pritsak helped to train and influence several generations of students who have gone on to fill important academic posts in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia.

As a result of the academic activities and publications at Harvard inspired by Prof. Pritsak, the Soviet academic establishment was forced to confront issues such as the concept of Kyivan Rus' as the proto-state for Ukraine and not Russia, and even the Ukrainian Famine, which it had chosen to distort or suppress.

Born on April 7, 1919, in Luka (now Ozerne), Sambir Region, Lviv Oblast, Ukraine, Prof. Pritsak was a son of Boykivschyna. Although his parents, Oryp Pritsak and Emelia Kapko Pritsak, lived in Sambir, they opted to have their child born in his maternal grandparents' home in Luka. His parents were Ukrainian patriots, and his father served in the army of the Western Ukrainian Republic after the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was captured by the Poles and was incarcerated in Bereza Lytovska, where he died in September 1919.

Prof. Pritsak's mother married again in 1920 and with her new husband, Pavlo Saramaha, moved to Ternopil. Mr. Saramaha was also a veteran of Ukraine's war for independence and had



Dr. Omeljan Pritsak

seen action in eastern Ukraine. He returned to Halychyna suffering typhus and infected his first wife and son, who died a short time later.

Because both families had been actively involved in the independence movement, they suffered the confiscation of all their property by the new Polish government. As a result, they decided that their son shouldn't be penalized for their activities and elected to raise him Polish. He attended grammar school in Ternopil and then was sent to Polish Gymnasium No. 1 in Ternopil, where he completed his secondary education. He was the only student of Ukrainian ancestry attending the school and, although thinking of himself as Polish and speaking Polish, he found it strange that he attended the local Greek-Catholic Church.

Prof. Pritsak attributed his conversion to Ukrainianism and the Ukrainian cause to a Polish physics teacher who went out of his way to belittle him as a bandit, a Kozak and a potential murderer on a regular basis in front of his classmates. He also said that talks with the many Ukrainian villagers who came into Ternopil to protest the Polish pacification of Halychyna in 1930 had a profound impact on him. At that time he went into the Buduchnist Ukrainian bookstore and purchased books on Ukrainian history and language, as well as a Ukrainian-Polish dictionary. He also changed his name from the Polish Emil to the Ukrainian Omeljan.

His higher education – with a concentration in Ukrainian and Ukrainian history, and also, increasingly over time, Turkic history and philology – took place at the University of Lviv, then under Polish control. With the Soviet occupation, the university was closed, but his professor, Ivan Krypyakevych, took him as a secretary for the newly created affiliate of the Institute of Ukrainian History, which was part of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv and which was located in the Basilian Monastery of St. Onufrius. For almost a year he lived in the building and conspired with the professor and the ihumen to save the monastic library housed there.

In 1940 he was invited to the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine by Prof. Ahatanhel Krymsky where he continued his studies. After a short time he was drafted into the Red Army and saw service in Central Asia. Escaping from the Red Army, he made his way back to then-German-occupied Kyiv and found that the academy was closed and the professors scattered. He returned to Halychyna and soon wound

up in Berlin as an "ostarbeiter." A German professor, Richard Hartman, with whom he had previously corresponded, took an interest in him and was able to get him legal documents that allowed him to continue his studies at the Oriental Institute of the University of Berlin.

With the fall of Berlin, professors and students scattered and it was some time before he learned that his professors had been given positions at the University of Goettingen. He matriculated there and he received his doctorate in 1948.

Prof. Pritsak's dual interests in Ukrainian history and Eastern, primarily Turkic, linguistics came about because during the course of his studies, he had noticed that historical work dealing with the emergence of the east Slavs and the first east Slavic state of Kyivan Rus' relied largely on Slavic and Byzantine materials with minimal reliance on the rich Norse and Middle Eastern source materials.

Working with these virtually untapped Oriental sources became one of the major focuses of Dr. Pritsak's professional endeavors for his entire academic career, resulting in the ongoing publication of a multi-volume work on the various existing sources dealing with origins of Rus'.

Upon receipt of his doctorate, Prof. Pritsak started teaching at the University of Goettingen and in 1952 became a docent and then professor (1957) of Turkology at the University of Hamburg. In 1954 he spent a year at Cambridge University as visiting professor, in 1959 at the universities of Krakow and Warsaw, and in 1960 at Harvard University. In 1961 Dr. Pritsak moved to the United States, eventually becoming a naturalized citizen, and became a professor of Turkology at the University of Washington at Seattle. In 1964 he joined Harvard University as a professor of linguistics and Turkology.

At Harvard Dr. Pritsak quickly became known for his exuberant energy. He was called the "tornado" by his devoted staff. His protégé and current associate director of HURI, Lubomyr Hayda, said, "his attitude was always one of 'if that's impossible let's do it.'" His successor as professor of Ukrainian history at Harvard, Roman Szporluk, emphasized that in addition to enormous energy and drive Dr. Pritsak was "a scholar, an organizer and a statesman."

In pursuing his scholarly research Prof. Pritsak regularly used dozens of languages and was fluent in 12 of them. When Harvard was considering creating a graduate program in inner Asian studies, and the faculty was considering the inherent difficulties of getting such a project up and running, Dr. Pritsak was quoted as saying, "there are no real problems. Most of the scholarly literature is in English, German, French and Russian texts, but every educated person already knows these languages so that the only thing still necessary is the acquisition of the knowledge of Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Tibetan, Armenian, Georgian, Chinese and possibly Japanese to be able to deal with the original sources. The whole process should take a minimum amount of time."

One of Dr. Pritsak's classmates at the Ternopil Gymnasium was Wladislaw Rubin, who later became a Polish cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, and close personal friend and advisor to Pope John Paul II. At Cardinal Rubin's request, Dr. Pritsak hosted the then Cardinal Karol Wojtyla at the newly established HURI in 1976 and the two became fast friends. Over the years Dr. Pritsak was regularly

invited to the Vatican to brief Pope John Paul II on developments in Central and Eastern Europe and particularly Ukraine.

Dr. Pritsak retired in 1989 as the Soviet Union was disintegrating and quickly became immersed in revitalizing higher education in the humanities in Ukraine, spending three months of each year in Kyiv. He pushed for the reintroduction of Near, Middle and Far Eastern studies which had been eliminated by Stalin in Ukraine and in 1990 founded the Ahatanhel Krymsky Institute of Oriental Studies in Kyiv with a branch in Crimea. The institute was named in honor of Krymsky who headed the institute in the 1930s and 1940s and who was Dr. Pritsak's mentor, and who had disappeared in the Soviet gulag.

Dr. Pritsak also became the first holder of the chair of historiography at the University of Kyiv, insisting that it follow traditional academic norms and totally break with Marxist Leninist academic conceptions that had been forcibly imposed in the 1930s. In 1997 Dr. Pritsak became the first foreigner to be named to the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. He also received numerous academic awards and government honors, most notably from both Ukraine and Turkey. He took particular pride in receiving honorary Turkish citizenship from the president of the Republic of Turkey.

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister and Orange Revolution leader Yulia Tymoshenko, commenting on Dr. Pritsak's death said, "Prof. Pritsak contributed so much to furthering our understanding of early Ukrainian history and the appreciation of the multi-cultural aspects that continue to forge the identity of modern Ukraine. The nation is indebted to his academic achievements and enduring legacies."

"I include myself as one of the many beneficiaries of his scholastic endeavors," Ms. Tymoshenko concluded, "as several of my closest advisors benefited from studying at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute."

Prof. Pritsak was a prolific writer and during the course of his career penned more than 500 books, articles and scholarly works.

Prof. Pritsak is survived by his wife Larysa Hvozdk Pritsak; his daughter, Irene Pritsak, by his late first wife Nina Moldenhauer Pritsak; and two grandchildren, Lailina Eberhard and Michael Wissoff.

A divine liturgy was celebrated at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston, and it was followed by a memorial gathering of friends and colleagues presided over by HURI's current director, Prof. Michael S. Flier, Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology. Prof. George Grabowich, one of Prof. Pritsak's students and a former director of HURI, also made remarks. A memorial liturgy was celebrated by the papal nuncio to Ukraine, Archbishop John Yurkovich, for the academic community of Ukraine at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Donations in Prof. Pritsak's memory may be made to the publications fund of the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. Checks should be made out to the Ukrainian Studies Fund, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. (When making out checks, indicate on the memo line that the donation is in memory of Omeljan Pritsak.)

A memorial service for Dr. Pritsak, and a celebration of his life and scholarly achievements, is planned by the Ukrainian Research Institute to take place at Harvard University in the fall.

New ambassador to Ukraine meets with newly formed coalition

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation

WASHINGTON – The Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine met with the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, William B. Taylor Jr., on June 6 to discuss ways to strengthen the U.S.-Ukraine partnership.

U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia McConnell began the meeting with an overview of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's work, which was followed by Ambassador Taylor's introductory remarks.

Ambassador William Green Miller, co-chair of the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine, and Mark Levin, NCSJ executive director, spoke about the coalition's planned work.

With over 30 representatives of member-organizations and potential member-organizations present at the meeting, issues such as promoting the U.S. Congress-Verkhovna Rada partnership, supporting Ukraine's integration into the Euro-Atlantic community, and promoting Ukraine's market reform and democratic development, as well as encouraging Ukraine's energy efficiency were discussed.

The Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine has been created to support steps to further strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations. Co-chaired by Ambassadors Steven Pifer and Miller, former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, the coalition will build on the success of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition.

Member-organizations in the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine include the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, NCSJ, SigmaBleyzer, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian-American Environmental



Members of the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine gather around the new U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, William Taylor Jr. (standing, center), following their discussion.

Association, The Bleyzer Foundation and the Ukrainian Federation of America.

The coalition intends to engage on an array of issues. It has assigned early priority to promoting the establishment of a closer institutional relationship between the U.S. Congress and Ukraine's Parliament. Such a link will promote interaction and mutual understanding between the two legislative branches. The coalition also will work to foster the integration of a democratic, market-oriented Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic community.

The Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine is the successor to the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, which promoted Ukraine's removal from the provisions of the Jackson-Vanik amendment and extension of permanent normal trade relations status to Ukraine.

By March, when Congress passed legislation to accomplish this, the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition had faxed, emailed and delivered nearly 1,000 letters to Congress, met with members of Congress and key Congressional staff,

held a press conference on Capitol Hill, wrote numerous newspaper articles and mobilized countless constituents throughout the United States to contact their congressional representatives. The Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition represented more than 250 businesses and Ukrainian American, Jewish American and other non-governmental organizations.

Those interested in joining the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine may contact Marta Matselioukh at martam@usukraine.org or 202-223-2228.

First Lady...

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Yushchenko also requested help in the areas of technology and training to bring Ukrainian hospitals up to world standards. Specifically, she asked that doctors from the West come to Ukraine in order to help develop its health care system.

Other topics included the creation of a free market society and judicial reform in Ukraine. Mrs. Yushchenko, who holds an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, believes that the top economic priority is the establishment of small and medium-sized businesses. She said that the change to a more stable economic environment is more of a psychological hindrance for the Ukrainian people than a tangible one. She hopes that people begin to look for long-term business benefits rather than for short-term profits. Judicial reform also is considered a must for businesses, as court integrity has been difficult to maintain under post-Soviet conditions, she added.

Most importantly, Mrs. Yushchenko emphasized the need for human contact between Americans and Ukrainians in order to develop stronger ties between the two nations – a lesson she said she learned from former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey more than 20 years ago.

She mentioned a recent poll conducted among residents of the eastern Ukrainian city of Artemivsk which sought to determine which nation the local populace would most like to have as a "partner" in the future. Seven percent replied "Europe," 13 percent identified Russia, and a surprising 80 percent indicated the United States. Interestingly, many Ukrainians in Artemivsk had already been corresponding with Americans in Omaha, Neb., as part of the sister city program. As Mrs. Yushchenko pointed out, positive interpersonal relations clearly have a

strong influence on public perception.

Responding to questions from the audience, the first lady demonstrated her mettle by quickly dispensing specific economic development statistics, including the fact that bank deposits in Ukraine are up 80 percent over the prior year, a development that indicates a growing confidence by the local populace in their own financial markets.

Mrs. Yushchenko also addressed an important concern of charities who find it difficult to ship humanitarian goods into Ukraine because they are often charged import duties. She explained that this was a result of authorities targeting all charities due to the abuses of certain organizations. Mrs. Yushchenko noted that "religious organizations in neighboring countries" have used foundations for the purpose of smuggling in liquor and tobacco products, and this is causing the Ukrainian authorities to be overly cautious.

One questioner wanted to know which regions of Ukraine would be most interesting to Western tourists. After a pause and an explanation that she did not want to offend any region of Ukraine by excluding it from the list, Mrs. Yushchenko declared that Kyiv, the Carpathians and Crimea are the three "must see" destinations. She eloquently noted that Kyiv is "not only a city with parks, but a park with a city in it." The Carpathians offer a glimpse into the simple life and organic foods, while Crimea, "like California," offers the sea, forests and desert, with the "added allure of sultans' palaces and ancient Greek ruins."

After the conversation, Mrs. Yushchenko joined guests for a dinner reception.

As the event drew to a close, Ukraine's first lady was presented with a small replica of the Liberty Bell with the inscription "Presented to Kateryna Yushchenko from the Mayor of Philadelphia, John F. Street." Referring



First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko (right) receives a replica of the Liberty Bell from Ulana Mazurkevich, who made the presentation on behalf of Philadelphia Mayor John F. Street.

to the Liberty Medal presented award to her husband last September in the same city, Mrs. Yushchenko laughed that he would surely be jealous because "he got the medal, but I got the bell!"

Before leaving the Union League Club, Mrs. Yushchenko briefly met with Ukrainian Human Rights Committee members to discuss joint service projects for the future.

Mykola Kolessa, patriarch of Ukrainian music, dies

As The Weekly, was preparing to go to press, word came from family members in the United States that Mykola Kolessa, patriarch of Ukrainian music, died in Lviv on Thursday, June 8. He was 102.

The world-renowned composer, conductor and educator, was born in the Lviv region on December 6, 1903. He

was the son of Filaret Kolessa, noted musicologist, folklorist and composer.

Mykola Kolessa was a laureate of Ukraine's Shevchenko State Prize and recipient of the Hero of Ukraine Award. He will be remembered for his inestimable contributions to Ukrainian culture and as the founder of the Ukrainian conducting school.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The UNA moves on

This week's Weekly contains a wealth of materials about the just concluded 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association. Yes, it's a lot of material, but such conventions are held only once every four years and they are the highest decision-making body of the UNA, one of our community's most important institutions.

Last week's issue carried a succinct news story about the convention and who was elected to which office. This week, readers get all the details about how the convention went. Our intent: to let our subscribers – more than half of whom are UNA members – get a flavor of the convention and find out what was said and by whom. In addition, we strive to give UNA members a sense of what the delegates, who were elected to represent them at the convention, achieved and what their consensus was on the main issues confronting the UNA.

Clearly, the delegates did not always agree with UNA officers. Thus, they rejected several by-laws proposals, opting to give the UNA's Canadian operations another chance in view of the potential membership in that country and telling the UNA's officers that the board of advisers, instead of being downsized, should be better utilized. As regards Soyuzivka, delegates delivered passionate statements indicating just how important the UNA estate is to our community. And, in discussions and resolutions, the delegates also expressed their appreciation for the UNA's publications and the significance of their roles for the UNA and the community at large.

In addition, the delegates expressed their need to be better prepared for serious discussions at UNA conventions. That is why they want to see the minutes of the previous convention before the next convention convenes, and want proposed amendments to the UNA By-Laws to be published in advance, with full disclosure, i.e., who proposed what and why. As well, the delegates requested training and sales tools for branch secretaries and organizers to better equip them for enrolling new members – the key to the UNA's well-being.

The 36th Convention brought much change to the UNA if one looks at the people elected to the General Assembly. The six-member Executive Committee includes three returning officers and three new ones, including one neophyte and an auditor and an advisor who have moved up in the ranks. The Auditing Committee's composition is all new, with one newcomer to UNA office and two former advisors. Among the 11 advisors are six new faces and one advisor who was elected to her own four-year term after having served the remainder of a deceased advisor's term. Among them are a young branch secretary who channels her UNA efforts into helping Soyuzivka and a former Soyuzivka camper who cares deeply about the UNA thanks to decades of work by his parents, both extremely active branch officers. The latter, we should point out, was not even a delegate to the convention, but a most engaged observer. There were others, too, who are worthy of note, including young delegates who did not run for office but made valuable contributions to the 36th Convention.

With new blood, there is hope for new ideas and fresh beginnings. With experience, there is wisdom and knowledge of institutional history. Thus, the new General Assembly has the best of both worlds.

Newly re-elected President Stefan Kaczaraj's concluding words to the delegates at the 36th Convention, as he looked ahead to tackling the urgent tasks that lie ahead, were: "Let us be together for the next four years – I with you, and you with me."

To that we can add the sage words of the Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka, the first editor-in-chief of Svoboda and founding father of the Ukrainian National Association: "Unity is a strength that is difficult to defeat."

We greet the new General Assembly and wish its members unity of purpose.

June
15
1946

Turning the pages back...

It was sixty years ago on June 15, 1946, that The Weekly carried an article that was featured in the Toronto Evening Telegram on the secret Ukrainian Army's clashes with the Red Army.

The article begins by telling of the approximately 500,000 men and women who have been fighting for an independent Ukraine – apparently a reference to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). The article cited the Rev. Leo Buchak, representative of the Presbyterian Church, who said, "The Russian government knows about this 'secret' army, but they are unable to prevent its growth."

Ultimatums were presented for the surrender of the Ukrainian army to the Russian government, underlining that they were not going to be punished, arrested or sent to concentration camps.

The article continues by noting the spy networks that were on the rise at the time. Surprisingly, the article noted that young Russian men, dissatisfied with the Russian form of government, had joined the Ukrainian effort as spies in the Red Army.

The Rev. Buchak was optimistic that the success of the Ukrainian effort, but knew it would take time for things to change. He also commented that, if the Russians wanted to, they could have exiled the entire western Ukrainian population to Russia and Siberia, and replaced the Ukrainian population with ethnic Russians, but it would be a difficult task.

The progress of the Ukrainian army was briefly mentioned in the article, mostly about its seizure of government-controlled farms and its nighttime maneuvers. In addition, the Rev. Buchak could not explain how the Ukrainian Army was getting financing and equipment, but said that the army was growing into something very powerful, with its expansion into Poland.

The Rev. Buchak, who had come to America with his family approximately one year earlier, said that conditions in Ukraine were completely controlled by the Russian government, with only the bare essentials being provided. This has fostered an active black market, where people sell their furniture for food; when the furniture is gone, the people may face famine, he commented.

Source: "Secret Ukrainian Army Fighting Reds," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, June 15, 1946, Vol. XIV, No. 22.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukraine's HIV/AIDS epidemic focus of Columbia presentations

by Diana Howansky

Ukraine has one of the fastest-growing HIV/AIDS epidemics in the world, but social stigma and ineffectual officials hamper adequate treatment, said speakers at two events organized by the Columbia University Ukrainian Studies Program.

With 25 years having passed since the AIDS virus was first reported in 1981, the Ukrainian Studies Program focused attention on Ukraine's HIV/AIDS crisis by organizing a panel discussion and then a roundtable during the 2005-2006 academic year.

These events featured representatives from such institutions as the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS, American International Health Alliance, the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and Human Rights Watch.

HIV/AIDS is being transmitted at such a high rate in Ukraine – which is populated by approximately 47 million people – that the country's approximately 260,000 cases of people living with HIV/AIDS could grow to almost 1.4 million cases and over 450,000 AIDS deaths by the end of 2010, said Stephen Massey, vice-president of Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS. This would mean that Ukraine's prevalence rate, or number of infected, would grow from over 1 percent to approximately 8 percent of Ukraine's adult population (compared to over 40 percent in some sub-Saharan countries).

Ukraine's epidemic, moreover, hits a young and productive segment of its population, as 80 percent of Ukrainians living with HIV/AIDS are individuals between the ages of 20 and 39, Mr. Massey added.

The country's crisis can also be viewed as part of a regional epidemic that is also affecting Ukraine's neighbors, such as Russia, as HIV is being transmitted at higher rates per capita in the so-called Eurasia region than any other region of the world, Mr. Massey explained.

The factors that contributed to the growth of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine, particularly after the fall of the Soviet Union, include economic decline, which lured people into drug use and the sex trade, the erosion of Church and moral authority, and general chauvinism that perpetuates unprotected sexual intercourse, stated Alex Kuzma, executive director of Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

"All the ingredients were there. It was just a matter of time before the current problem exploded," Mr. Kuzma said, illustrating that the number of Ukrainians at risk from HIV/AIDS rivals the mass number of demonstrators who packed into the maidan, the main square of Ukraine's capital, during the height of the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Statistics show that most Ukrainians living with HIV/AIDS acquired the disease from non-sterilized syringes during drug use. And because people with or at high risk of HIV/AIDS are most often marginalized groups like injection drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men or prisoners, human rights abuses against them occur, said Rebecca Schleifer, a researcher at Human Rights Watch.

Drug and law enforcement officials

discriminate against those with or at risk for HIV/AIDS by subjecting them to violence and mistreatment, and preventing them from receiving services, like clean needles, according to recent Human Rights Watch reports. Such drugs as methadone can also be used to treat dependence on opiates, which are injected through needles, but law enforcement officials argue that this practice helps drug users.

People know how to stop the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine, Ms. Schleifer stated. "Ukraine should be instituting a major substitution therapy program," she said.

Additional barriers to treatment, however, include Ukraine's economy and insufficient budgetary allocations for AIDS centers by policy-makers who consider it a lower priority than democracy-building, terrorism or other issues.

In fact, as a result of under-funding, an estimated 45,000 out of 47,000 Ukrainians will have been denied life-saving treatment in 2005, said Mr. Massey of Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Ukraine is also becoming more critical because it has reached the general population. The number of children with HIV/AIDS is rising steadily in Ukraine, and two-thirds of all children born to HIV-positive mothers in the region are born in Ukraine, said Kate Schecter, a program officer at the American International Health Alliance.

Prenatal programs targeting "prevention of mother-to-child transmission" may be a more palatable way for Ukrainian authorities to begin tackling the epidemic, though, and such a pilot program at the Odesa Oblast Hospital has shown a 75 percent decrease in the number of HIV-infected babies born to HIV-positive mothers there, Ms. Schecter stated.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is going to require a massive response from the new Ukrainian government, the speakers at the Columbia Ukrainian Studies Program's events agreed.

The HIV/AIDS crisis is a national security issue for Ukraine, which must be fought not only by government, but also by mass media and other organizations that can help educate the public, said Andriy Nikitov, a counselor at the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations.

President Viktor Yushchenko has only begun taking steps to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis, such as reforming health care to coordinate AIDS and tuberculosis hospitals, said Ms. Schleifer of Human Rights Watch.

Ukraine's Ministry of Health also signed a deal in November 2005 with former President Bill Clinton and the William J. Clinton Foundation, which promises training for Ukrainian medical professionals who treat HIV patients, as well as help for Ukrainians in getting HIV medications at reduced prices. Ukraine has the opportunity to become a leader in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in the region, Ms. Schleifer added.

* * *

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation

Dear Editor:

I urge all Ukrainians to consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation. The Ukrainian National Association has set up the charitable foundation, because we, as Ukrainians, are proud to have a Soyuzivka, but not proud enough to support Soyuzivka throughout the year.

If Soyuzivka is to remain a 100 percent Ukrainian resort, it needs our support.

First, consider staying there. Second, through a tax-deductible contribution, you can continue to provide needed capital. Personally, I have attended camps and vacationed at “Suzy-Q” and have sent my children there as well. It afforded me the opportunity to be immersed in Ukrainian culture while staying in the U.S.

Our resort in the Catskill region is truly a gem. Please contribute to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation if you want Soyuzivka to continue to exist and flourish not only for our generation, but for future generations as well.

Eugene Serba
Mount Laurel, N.J.

The relevant facts on Russia’s actions

Dear Editor:

Economic and political relations among countries are too complex to allow one to draw conclusions on the basis of the price and sales volume of a single product/service. A realistic, valid conclusion must be based on a comprehensive analysis of relevant facts. The conclusion by Yuri V. Ushakov, Russia’s ambassador to the U.S., in his essay “Don’t Blame Russia” (The Wall Street Journal, February 13) that Russia is subsidizing Russia’s neighboring countries and their “entire industries” by selling to them natural gas at “heavily subsidized prices” ignores certain significant relevant facts.

Under the agreement signed by Russia and Ukraine in 1997, Russia is to pay to Ukraine \$93 million per year for stationing Russia’s navy in the Crimean port of Sevastopol through 2017. Under real market conditions the price should be 20 times that amount, or \$1.8 billion per year, which results in a \$1.7 billion annual subsidy by Ukraine to Russia. In addition, contrary to the 1997 agreement, Russian military forces have taken control of many lighthouses and other hydrographic objects in that area (Associated Press, Kyiv, February 14), although in May 1997 Russia confirmed Ukraine’s property rights to real estate and land that is in use by the Russian

Black Sea Fleet (The Ukrainian Weekly, January 22).

Under the January 2 agreement, Ukraine’s 2006-2030 transit charge of Russia’s gas to Europe is fixed at \$1.60 per 1,000 cubic meters compared to an average European charge of \$2.50 (Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 16), i.e., at a 36 percent discount.

In 2006-2030 Ukraine is to annually store 15 billion cubic meters of gas belonging to RusUkrEnergo for a fixed charge of \$2.26 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas per year, “... an extremely low rate compared to those charged in most European countries” (Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 16).

While Russia claims that the \$230 price to Ukraine per 1,000 cubic meters of gas is equal to the market price, in fact it is “some \$60” above the price paid by Germany and France (speech by Yulia Tymoshenko, former prime minister of Ukraine, at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Action Ukraine Report Monitoring Service, February 15).

Russia continues to maintain military bases in several former Soviet republics, and also supports and arms separatists in Georgia.

Mr. Ushakov also claims that Russia was subsidizing former Soviet republics in the same manner. However, extensive research on the status of the economy of Ukraine within the USSR, based on official Soviet documents, reveals that the opposite was true at least in the case of Ukraine. Comprehensive analysis of capital formation and its disposition in Soviet Ukraine indicates that Russia – via the central government of the USSR and its related institutions, withdrew from Ukraine in 1959-1980 without compensation 264,216 million rubles worth of capital, which was equal to 23.3 percent of Ukraine’s national income, 96.2 percent of total capital investments in Ukraine’s economy and 251.7 percent of investments in Ukraine’s industry in that period.

Using the then official exchange rate of 10 rubles per one U.S. dollar, Ukraine lost on account of the rest of the USSR, \$26.2 billion. Including the 1928-1932 period, Ukraine lost \$26.9 billion. Adjusted to the current price level, Ukraine’s loss would be two to three times that amount.

While Mr. Ushakov objects to the claim that Russia is using its energy resources as an instrument of political pressure, he confirms it by stating that Russia’s pricing policy with respect to former Soviet republics was “inherently transitional” and that it was shaped by Russia’s “... hopes for [their] expanded integration with Russia.”

Z. Lew Melnyk, Ph.D.
Cincinnati

The letter-writer is professor emeritus, University of Cincinnati.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



It’s DP, not PTSD. Remember?

I always admired my in-laws, Michael and Olympia Waskiw. They were DPs, displaced persons, refugees from the “workers’ paradise” once known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

They were from the Berezhany area of western Ukraine. They had lived under the Soviets for a brief period, long enough to become intimately familiar with the Soviet “soft touch.”

Michael was a school principal; Olympia was a teacher in his school. They were Ukrainian patriots and intellectuals and, as such, a danger to Soviet rule. On the eve of the German retreat from Berezhany, Michael inadvertently overheard some old-line Communists preparing for the Soviet “liberation.” They were preparing a list of people that needed to be “dealt with.” Michael’s name was on the list. That was all he needed to hear. He went home, roused his family, and the next day they left, on foot, heading west. Lesia was 3 years old. They continued on, living for a time in Bratislava, finally ending up in a displaced persons camp in Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps.

On the way they hitched rides on railroad box cars, trucks and buses. Lesia remembers hugging a tree and her doll, Halusia, as Soviet planes strafed the train they had been on. In Germany, the family endured American air raids. Olympia gave birth to Myron, Lesia’s brother, during one particular air raid. The newborn was wrapped and handed to Olympia as the German doctor and assisting nurses ran to the air raid shelter. She took the baby, got off the delivery table and walked down four flights of stairs to safety.

In the displaced persons camps where they lived for almost four years, Michael taught in the provisional school established for Ukrainian youth, while Olympia took care of the children.

I heard bits and pieces of this story from Lesia and from her parents. I questioned Michael and Olympia about their journey but they preferred to talk about other things.

Did their experiences scar them for life? I never thought so. Lesia’s father arrived in the United States at age 50, ignorant of the language, with no employment prospects. A man who I swear never weighed more than 110 pounds, he eventually went to work in a perfume factory performing manual labor for 25 years. He learned to drive a car and surprised the family one day by driving home in his newly purchased used Dodge. Did he complain? Was he angry or morose about the cards dealt him by fate? On the contrary, he often mentioned how lucky he was to be in America. His concern was more with relatives he left behind.

Olympia became a teacher in a Ukrainian Catholic school, where she worked for many years. She and Lesia sang in the choir. Olympia was active in the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America.

The Waskiws were able to send both their children to college, and eventually built a home and retired to Kerhonkson, N.Y., near Soyuzivka, where Lesia and I, and our boys, spent many an enjoyable summer vacation. Mr. Waskiw was the local UNA branch secretary.

All of this came to mind as I was reading about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in “One Nation Under Therapy: How the Helping Culture is Eroding Self-Reliance” by Christina Hoff Sommers and Sally Satel. If anyone should have suffered from PTSD, I thought, it was certainly the Waskiws, who had endured Polish discrimination, as well as Nazi and Soviet terror; they left their whole life behind – family, friends, profession, possessions – to walk, run, ride, some 1,000 miles through foreign countries to sit in a displaced persons camp not knowing, from day to day, what lay ahead. They were originally scheduled to emigrate to Brazil, but Myron became sick so they stayed behind. Later, Lesia’s aunt, affectionately called “Teta Lala” by family, managed to emigrate to the United States a few months before the rest of the family and became their sponsor.

As I read the Sommers/Satel book, I learned that PTSD began as the Vietnam Syndrome. In 1972, it was assumed that all Vietnam veterans suffered from it. Those who didn’t have symptoms were told they were repressing their feelings and would suffer grave consequences years later. By the 1980s, the federal government ordered studies and PTSD was born. Today, a veteran fully disabled by PTSD collects \$2,100 per month. Although only 15 percent of Vietnam vets served in combat, some 50 percent were diagnosed with PTSD.

Today, write the authors, numerous longitudinal studies have determined that the Vietnam Syndrome was greatly exaggerated. Some vets did suffer trauma but many of this group had serious mental and emotional problems prior to military service.

There was a time when following every catastrophe – Columbine, Oklahoma City, 9/11 – it was assumed that PTSD would kick in sooner or later. And the advice to victims was always the same: “share your feelings, don’t hold back, let it all out, do it now or suffer worse symptoms later on.”

Although some people undoubtedly do suffer from PTSD, the numbers are nowhere near those predicted earlier by mental health professionals. Therapists now believe that dwelling on one’s trauma in prolonged therapy sessions actually postpones healing and makes it difficult to move on. Three cheers for common sense!

It has also been learned that traumatized people who have support systems to rely on – family, friends, religious beliefs – as well as something to live for, usually recover. They’ll never forget what happened, of course, but they’ve moved on.

And that explains why the Waskiws – and thousands of other Ukrainians who endured horrors that most of us can only imagine – survived intact, stronger for the experience. Their ordeal was shared with others just like them, and there was a support system they could count on. Pathos doesn’t always lead to pathology. Nor is all suffering meaningless.

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THE 36th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

UNA Convention discusses pressing concerns of 112-year-old fraternal society

Last week's issue of The Ukrainian Weekly provided a succinct report on the major news from the Ukrainian National Association's 36th Regular Convention. In this week's report: details on the day-to-day deliberations.

by Roma Hadzewycz

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Ukrainian National Association's 36th Convention held at Soyuzivka on May 26-29 elected a new General Assembly and discussed a variety of pressing concerns for this 112-year-old fraternal organization active in the United States and Canada.

Over the course of four days, the convention delegates, and members and honorary members of the General Assembly, focused on the UNA's operations, as well as those of its subsidiaries, the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp., the Ukrainian National Foundation, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and Soyuzivka and the recently established Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

The convention officially got under way on Friday morning, May 26, with a brief ceremony at the foot of the Taras Shevchenko monument led by Roman Hawryluk, a member of the Convention Committee. A color guard composed of Mathew Koziak, Myron Groch and Vasyl Luchkiw displayed the U.S., Canadian and Ukrainian flags, and the national anthems of the three countries were sung by Sviatoslava Kaczaraj.

The traditional Ukrainian greeting with bread and salt was offered by Luba Yablonska. In turn, UNA President Kaczaraj welcomed all to Soyuzivka for the historic first UNA convention ever to be held at the UNA estate. Afterwards, the women of the UNA General Assembly laid a wreath in front of the statue of the Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka, the first editor-in-chief of Svoboda and the founding father of the Ukrainian National Association.

Once in the session hall, delegates were welcomed by Mr. Kaczaraj, and the Rev. Myron Kotch offered an invocation. The UNA president read the names of UNA activists who had passed away since the 35th Convention (the list appeared in last week's issue) and called for a moment of silence in their honor.

Next, Credentials Committee Chair Myron Kuzio (Branch 277) reported that his committee, which included Julian Kotlar (Branch 42), Stefanie Hawryluk (Branch 88), Anna Slobodian (Branch 88) and Paul Fuga (Branch 269), had reviewed the credentials of delegates and alternates. He announced that as of the convention opening there were 17

General Assembly members and honorary members, 84 delegates and two alternates registered, for a total of 103 mandates.

The agenda was adopted as proposed, and the minutes of the previous convention were accepted.

Elected to conduct the convention were Taras Szmagala Sr. (honorary member of the General Assembly), chairman, and Vasyl Kolodchin (Branch 94) and Michael Sawkiw Jr. (Branch 57/16), respectively, first and second vice-chairmen. The chair tapped attorney Andrij V.R. Szul as convention parliamentarian.

The Elections, Petitions and Secretaries committees were then elected, and a five-member Press Committee was appointed. Previously appointed were the Finance and By-Laws committees. Michael Bohdan (Branch 133/338) and Donald Horbaty (Branch 414 alternate) were named sergeants-at-arms.

With the opening formalities completed, the next item on the agenda was the reports of General Assembly members.

As most of the reports had been submitted beforehand and published for distribution to all convention participants, UNA officers, auditors and advisors, as well as the editors-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly for the most part offered either the highlights of their reports or addenda. (National Secretary Christine E. Kozak pledged that the full texts of all reports will be published along with the convention minutes within six months of the convention.)

Last to speak was the UNA president, who noted that the UNA simply "cannot spend more than we earn." He pointed to the large expenses associated with the UNA's fraternal benefits, primarily its estate and its two official publications, while underscoring that "percentage-wise, the UNA gives more to our community than credit unions because we support things that are for the entire community, like the newspapers and Soyuzivka."

Mr. Kaczaraj said that, according to the UNA's actuaries, "until we reduce significantly our expenditures related to the resort and publications, it will not be possible to put in place a marketing plan to build a block of profitable new business that will be significant to guarantee a healthy financial future for the UNA."

He also reported that the Ukrainian Fraternal Association has once again expressed interest in merging with the UNA, explaining that it has three conditions: one member on the executive, two advisors and one auditor. The UFA, he noted, has dropped its insistence on a name change.

Mr. Kaczaraj concluded his report by

noting that the UNA must: attract recent immigrants from Ukraine as members; continue efforts to establish a professional sales force; convert Canadian policies into U.S. policies and thereby eliminate expenses related to Canadian business regulations; end its very costly financial support of Soyuzivka as this endangers the UNA's future; and reduce subsidies to its publications.

A discussion of the reports followed, with numerous delegates expressing their opinions and posing questions. The following were among the comments offered.

Bohdan Odezynskyj (Branch 216) suggested that an endowment fund be established for the UNA's publications, while Wolodymyr Kozicky (Branch 8) underscored that the newspapers need more advertising.

Lev Bodnar (Branch 131/472) emphasized the need for Ukrainian-language applications if the UNA is to attract new members among the most recently arrived Ukrainian immigrants.

Tymko Butrej (Branch 164/162) asked, "Who gave you the authority to destroy the UNA by liquidating branches?" His comments were supported by George Soltys (Branch 327/17), who said the UNA "should not reduce its branches because this is counterproductive," adding "Who wants to join an organization that is going down?"

Volodymyr Bakum (Branch 172) expressed congratulations to The Ukrainian Weekly for its excellent reports from Ukraine, while Michael Koziupa (Branch 76) underscored that the UNA's newspapers, though they are deficit-producing, are "its marketing tool" – one that "should be used better."

Stefan Lysiak (Branch 283/355) said new secretaries need to be trained and encouraged in order to be successful, and Vera Krywyj (Branch 174) suggested that the UNA needs better advertisements targeting the younger generations "to attract our children to the UNA."

Bohdan Kukurudz (Branch 399) asked if the UNA could institute term limits for its officers. "We need new people with new ideas," he said.

NFCA president's address

Addressing the convention session during its first day was Frederick Grubbe, president and CEO of the National Fraternal Congress of America, who spoke on the state of the fraternal benefit system. "The fraternal benefit system is like a 747: it's big, slow and lumbering, yet it's also strong and reliable. When a 747 turns, it's a slow, gradual turn. It doesn't dart up or down, right or left, like a fighter jet, because if the pilot tried to turn the 747 too quickly, it would stall and crash. As the fraternal benefit system changes its culture, like the 747, it will be slow and gradual, but always in the capable hands of a skilled pilot," he said.

He noted that fraternalists are by nature "modest" – "they keep quiet and do their work." Thus, they do not do enough to promote themselves, to tell others about their great work. That is why, he continued, the NFCA has initiated the "Fraternalists in Action Program" to spotlight the work of individual fraternalists – the core of all fraternal societies.

Public awareness of fraternalists' good work is especially needed these days, Mr. Grubbe explained, as the U.S. Congress is looking to increase revenue in order to counter large deficits. Therefore, the 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status of fraternalists is

threatened. "We need to look for ways to highlight the good that we do and to emphasize our relevance in today's changing society," he underscored.

Also during Friday's deliberations, a five-member Resolutions Committee was named, and National Secretary Kozak conducted a brief awards ceremony to recognize top organizers and the longest-serving branch secretaries. (The full list of awards presented appears on page 10.)

The session on Saturday, May 27, began with General Assembly members responding to questions posed to them during the previous day's discussion.

Responding to a question about the UNA's former Director of Publications Walter Prochorenko, President Kaczaraj explained that the UNA had severed its relationship with him after he sent a number of unauthorized letters promoting himself and his candidacy for the UNA presidency using UNA stationery and postage, as well as company time and personnel. The letters were sent in the days leading up to the 36th Convention to UNA delegates and branch secretaries, using proprietary mailing lists.

Amendments to UNA By-Laws, Manuals

Reporting for the By-Laws Committee, which included Bohdan Doboszczak (Branch 59), Oksana Lopatynsky (Branch 194), Nicholas Bobeczko (Branch 102) and Alexander Kisak (Branch 465), was Mr. Staruch.

The committee had received 11 proposals for amendments to the UNA By-Laws, four of which it recommended to the convention.

The first amendment presented would eliminate the position of director for Canada. The argument for this proposal was that, since UNA business in Canada is so small, there is no need to maintain this high-level position on the UNA Executive Committee.

A heated discussion ensued, with delegates speaking out against the proposal. Lev Bodnar (Branch 131/472) asked: "Why eliminate this position if it is an unpaid position?" Ihor Kobil (Branch 412/498) decried the move as a mistake, as "there is much potential in Canada and there are many active UNA'ers."

Roma Hadzewycz (Branch 287/340) questioned why this proposal was being brought up if the agenda item "Status of the UNA in Canada" had not yet been discussed. She also pointed out that eliminating the Canadian director's position would leave only one mandatory position for a representative from Canada, that of advisor.

Advisor Myron Groch of Founthill, Ontario, asked "Is this a question of money?" and added, "Your approach is liquidate and eliminate; it's time to stop this sort of approach." He explained that previously one advisor and one auditor had been eliminated and that all that was left for the UNA's Canadian members was the Canadian director and one advisor. Another delegate added, "We might as well eliminate the Canadian flag from the UNA emblem."

Roman Kuropas (Branch 20/86) advised, "If it's not broke, don't fix it. We have potential in Canada with 1 million Ukrainians." He added that the UNA has to consider the possibilities of increasing membership instead of eliminating the director's position.

The current director for Canada, Al Kachkowski of Saskatoon, argued: "This is not about my ego, as I am fully open to the idea of the director to be from Ontario,"

(Continued on page 9)



Roma Hadzewycz

A lighter moment during deliberations at the 36th Convention of the UNA.

THE 36th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

UNA Convention...

(Continued from page 8)

where there is a larger concentration of Ukrainians. However, “It is also important how many members the Executive Committee has.” At present, he explained, there is a balance between the three paid executives and three volunteers. “This balance would be upset if this proposal passes and all the power would be given, to the three paid executives.”

Earlier, Mr. Kachkowski had noted in the addendum to his written report that “Canada is suffering from neglect” and that “the effort and time spent on Canada by the executives is minimal.” He had made the case that there is potential for the UNA in Canada, since there are 1 million Ukrainians in that country. What is most important, he said, “is the political will of the leadership and the endorsement of the convention ... to get serious about Canada.”

The proposal to eliminate the Canadian director’s position was defeated by a vote of 96 against and five for.

The next proposal was to reduce the number of advisors on the General Assembly from 11 to seven, based on the argument that, since the UNA has fewer members, there should be fewer advisors.

Maria Oscislawski (Branch 234) advised against such a move, noting that advisors should help secretaries organize members in their communities. Mr. Kachkowski seconded this idea, pointing out that the advisors can be “empowered” to help the UNA on the local level.

Advisor Vasyl Luchkiw cautioned that by reducing the number of advisors the UNA “is hastening its own demise.” Advisor Gloria Horbaty argued that advisors should be given tasks and more responsibility, and said she was against the proposal.

Advisor Andrij Skyba stated that the proposals seem to be focused on decreasing the UNA and its influence. “We should use the advisors and heed their advice,” he added.

Many other speakers voiced the opinion that reducing the number of advisors does nothing to help the UNA and that, in fact, it hurts the organization as it cuts down on the number of its representatives throughout North America.

At this point, the Credentials Committee reported that there were 113 authorized voters. In order for a by-laws amendment to pass, two-thirds approval, or 76 votes were needed.

The proposal to reduce the number of advisors from 11 to seven was supported by nine votes and opposed by 84; seven voters registered their abstentions.

An alternate proposal to reduce the number of advisors to nine also did not pass as it received 47 votes for and 49 against, with three abstentions. However, Auditor Alexander Serafyn called for a recount of the vote, stating that he was not certain the vote was properly taken, and the chairman ruled that the revote would be done via written ballot. The result was 50 votes in support of the proposal, 54 against and 5 abstentions.

Next, the By-Laws Committee presented a proposal that would grant the Executive Committee the power to replace advisors who do not fulfill their duties, specifically those who fail to attend two meetings of the General Assembly without a valid excuse. A discussion ensued about how it would be determined what exactly a valid excuse is and the extraordinary power that would be granted to the executives.

The proposal was later modified to read that advisors who fail to attend two such meetings without a valid excuse would be asked to resign. The Executive Committee

would then appoint the next person in line in terms of the votes received at the previous convention; otherwise, the General Assembly would appoint the new member by a 75 percent vote. Nonetheless, the proposal failed to pass, as it received 48 votes for, 59 against and three abstentions.

The final by-laws amendment proposed changing the title of the UNA’s treasurer in Ukrainian from “kasyr” to “skarbnik.” Though the amendment received 66 votes for, one against and 13 abstentions, it failed to pass the two-thirds threshold required for it to be adopted.

Development of Soyuzivka

On Saturday afternoon, May 27, Treasurer Roma Lisovich gave a Power Point presentation about development plans for Soyuzivka. She presented the situation at the UNA estate as it stood in 2002, at the time of the last convention, and as it stands now, four years later.

There has been marked improvement, Ms. Lisovich reported, in terms of rooms income (up 62 percent) and total income (up 38 percent). However, fixed costs, such as insurance, also went up (total expenses increased by 19 percent) and capital improvements had to be made. Thus, high deficits continue to plague Soyuzivka, she acknowledged.

Ms. Lisovich also noted the “most inspiring work” of young volunteers who have stepped up to the plate, working on clean-up projects at Soyuzivka and conducting fund-raising.

Discussion of Ms. Lisovich’s report was moved to the next day, as delegates later insisted that a special session be called for Sunday, though none was scheduled, in order to cover the topic of Soyuzivka.

The Saturday session also included a very brief discussion of changes to the UNA Manuals. The By-Laws Committee reported that four proposals were made and that it was recommending three of them. Changes to the Manuals require a simple majority in order to pass.

All three proposals were adopted. They were:

- to change the requirement for branch meetings from once a month to once a year;
- to lower the requirements for a quorum at branch meetings to five members for branches having up to 60 members, and to 10 percent of the membership for branches having more than 60 members; and
- to alter branch forms that are filed once a year after the elections meeting to list the bank accounts held by each branch.

The session ended with the scheduled discussion on “Status of the UNA in Canada.” President Kaczaraj explained that the UNA’s actuary is advising the UNA to pull out of Canada by either converting Canadian policies to U.S. policies or turning over the UNA’s Canadian policies to a Canadian company.

Director for Canada Al Kachkowski reiterated his earlier remarks that the Executive Committee must pay more attention to Canada and asked “How can the Canadian director, a volunteer, be charged with finding all the solutions?”

Advisor Myron Groch cautioned that if the UNA leaves Canada it would lose members and prestige.

The discussion ended with the delegates’ consensus being that there is indeed a potential for increasing membership in Canada and with Canadian delegates noting that UNA’ers in Canada must redouble their efforts to revive UNA activity in their country.

Another major agenda item that day was the primary vote for members of the

General Assembly, that is, six executive officers, three auditors and 11 advisors, which is conducted via a write-in ballot. That morning, the Credentials Committee announced that Walter Prochorenko, formerly the UNA’s director of publications, is not a member in good standing of the UNA and, therefore, is not eligible to run for office. Mr. Prochorenko, who had intentions of running for president, had attempted to distribute his campaign materials to convention delegates that day.

The results of the primary voting, in which 110 ballots were cast, were announced on Sunday afternoon, May 28, immediately before the special session convened to discuss the development of Soyuzivka as a follow-up to the presentation the day prior by Treasurer Lisovich.

The voting results were presented by the Elections Committee: Roman Kuropas (Branch 20/86), Christine Brodyn (Branch 27), Andrew Hrechak (Branch 76), Nadia Salabay (Branch 155), Oksana Koziak (Branch 47), Bohdan Odezynskyj (Branch 216), Jaroslawa Komichak (Branch 96), Cecilia Kachkowski (Branch 444/441), Ihor Kobil (Branch 412/498), Bohdan Doboszczak (Branch 59), Stefan Lysiak (Branch 283-355) and Oksana Lew (Branch 5). (Complete results were published in last week’s issue.) The final balloting took place the next morning.

During the discussion about Soyuzivka, Longin Staruch (Branch 172) asked his fellow delegates if they were satisfied with their stay at Soyuzivka – their rooms, their meals and the special dinners held on Friday and Saturday evenings, respectively, the Hutsul-theme dinner with entertainment by the Cheres folk ensemble and the “Tastes of the World” dinner featuring the cuisines of France, Italy, Greece and the Caribbean. The answer was a resounding yes. Mr. Staruch then replied: “Go home and tell your friends, and spread the good word about Soyuzivka.”

Auditor Alexander Serafyn stated that Soyuzivka is losing more than \$600,000 per year and that “something must be done as soon as possible, otherwise the UNA’s future is at risk.”

The Rev. Myron Kotch (Branch 39) exhorted: “How can we tell Ukrainians we want to sell Soyuzivka? ... Let’s get to work.”

Volodymyr Bakum (Branch 172) suggested, “We need to find 5,000 people to donate only \$100 each year” and this will go a long way to help Soyuzivka.

President Kaczaraj responded by explaining that, “in the end, if you can’t cover costs [of Soyuzivka], there still is a problem. Even collecting \$1,000 a year from 500 people would cover only the costs of operations.”

Lev Bodnar (Branch 131/472) commented, “It would be a sin if we sold Soyuzivka to non-Ukrainians. ... We helped Ukraine, now we need to focus attention on ourselves.”

The rest of the day was taken up by divine liturgy in the morning, the convention concert in the afternoon and the convention banquet in the evening.

Convention committee reports

The sessions on Monday, May 29, the final day of the 36th Convention, began with reports by convention committees, with Slavko Tysiak (Branch 13) reporting for the Finance Committee, Julian Pishko (Branch 385/386) for the Petitions Committee, Motria Milanytch (Branch 450/241) for the Secretaries Committee, and Wasyl Szeremeta (Branch 247/347) and George Soltys (Branch 327/17) for the Resolutions Committee. (The full texts of the reports and names of all committee members appear on pages 11-12.)

Each of the reports was open to discussion by the delegates, with the resolutions and recommendations of the Resolutions Committee – covering items as diverse as the erection of a monument to Patriarch Mstyslav at Soyuzivka, the creation of a Publications Endowment Fund to ensure the future of the UNA’s newspapers, the participation of Svoboda and The Weekly editors-in-chief in deliberations of the General Assembly, and the publication of complete information about proposed by-laws changes well in advance of the convention – eliciting the most reaction.

Once the Resolutions Committee had completed its report, Auditor Alexander Serafyn questioned why a proposed resolution regarding Soyuzivka that had been submitted by the Detroit District had not been presented. Copies of the proposal were distributed to delegates, who then proceeded to discuss the proposal that the UNA “cease its support of Soyuzivka by June 30, 2007, and publish a bimonthly progress report commencing in August 2006.”

Most speakers objected to the negative tone of the proposed resolution, which stated that “A transfer of Soyuzivka to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation Inc. will not make it self-sufficient. It will only hide the problem.” Delegates from near and far noted that keeping Soyuzivka is important to them and that what is needed is a new approach to the problem.

Luba Keske (Branch 257-307) of California protested: “I did not come for a funeral. We have a moral obligation to keep Soyuzivka.”

Director for Canada Al Kachkowski of Saskatoon called on all “to think out of the box” in seeking solutions to Soyuzivka’s very real financial problems.

President Kaczaraj pointed to the continuing serious deficits at the resort, while Auditor Zenon Holubec noted that “the resolution does not speak of ending the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation, but of ending the UNA’s support for the estate.”

In the end, the proposed resolution was defeated.

Speaking for the Press Committee, Roma Hadzewycz reported that the committee members – Vasyl Kolodchin (Branch 94), Omelan Twardowsky (Branch 214/353), Zenon Wasylkevych

(Continued on page 21)

Thank you, Soyuzivka!

The Executive Committee of the UNA would like to express our appreciation to the entire staff of Soyuzivka for a job well done. The UNA Convention was a great success due to the extraordinary efforts of the house-keeping, wait, maintenance, front desk and kitchen staffs along with the volunteer “goodwill ambassadors” who made sure our delegates and guests had

a truly wonderful stay at Soyuzivka.

It was truly a memorable experience for all and we have received nothing but praise from the attendees.

The director of hospitality, Nestor Paslawsky, Chef Andrij Sonevtytsky, and administrators Sonia Semanyshyn and Olesia Guran are to be especially complimented for their efforts.

Thank you!

THE 36th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Distinguished guests present at UNA Convention banquet

- Ukrainian Fraternal Association: Jaroslaw Gawur, president, Christina Shablowsky, secretary
- Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford: Bishop Paul Chomnycky
- Ukrainian National Women's League of America: Iryna Kurowyckyj, president
- Ukrainian Orthodox Church: the Rev. George Bazylevsky
- Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union: Myroslaw Shmigel, chairman of the board
- Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, N.Y.: the Rev. Volodymyr Piso, pastor
- Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM): Bohdan Harhaj, president
- Self Reliance Association, New York: Natalia Duma
- Ukrainian Institute of America: Jaroslaw W. Kryshchalsky
- Ukrainian Sports Club: Jaroslaw Kurowyckyj
- Ukrainian American Coordinating Council: Zenon Wasylkevych
- Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine: Michael Kozziupa, president
- SUMA Credit Union: Wolodymyr Kozicky, president
- Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union: George Fedoriw
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America: Michael Sawkiw Jr., president
- Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America: Kvitka Semanyshyn, vice-president
- Embassy of Ukraine: Dr. Viktor O. Nikitiuk, minister-counselor

Greetings received by the UNA on the occasion of its convention

- George W. Bush, president of the United States of America
- Charles E. Schumer, senator, U.S. Congress
- Hillary Rodham Clinton, senator, U.S. Congress
- Maurice D. Hinchey, representative, U.S. Congress
- Dr. Oleh Shamshur, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States
- Valeriy Kuchinsky, ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations
- Mykola Krychenko, consul general of Ukraine in New York
- Michael J. Wade, chairman of the board of the National Fraternal Congress of America
- Cardinal and Archbishop Major Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church
- Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
- Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford
- The Rev. Dr. John Kovalchuk, All-Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Fellowship
- Ukrainian Fraternal Association: signed by Jaroslaw Gawur, president, and Christina Shablowsky, executive secretary
- Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America: signed by Kvitka Semanyshyn, vice-president
- Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Inc.: signed by Michael Sawkiw Jr., president, and Marie Duplak, executive secretary
- Ukrainian National Women's League of America Inc.: signed by Iryna Kurowyckyj, president; Maria Tomorug, secretary; and Marianna Zajac, vice-president
- Shevchenko Scientific Society: signed by Dr. Orest Popovych, president
- Ukrainian Institute of America Inc.: signed by Jaroslaw W. Kryshchalsky, president
- The Ukrainian Museum: signed by Olya Hnateyko, president of the board, and Maria Shust, director
- Dr. Eugene Fedorenko, president of the Ukrainian Educational Council
- Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine Inc.: signed by Luba Siletsky, president, and Maria Lozynskyj, secretary
- Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy

UNA recognizes its leading activists

During the convention session on Friday, May 26, UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak presented a series of awards to the organization's top organizers and activists. The following persons were recognized. (The names of branch secretaries are followed by their branch numbers.)

Best organizers for 2002-2005

Myron Pylypiak, Branch 496, most policies sold
Christine Brodyn, Branch 27, most accumulated face amount
Christine Brodyn, Branch 27, most annual premium collected
Steven Woch, most annuity premium collected

50 or more years of service

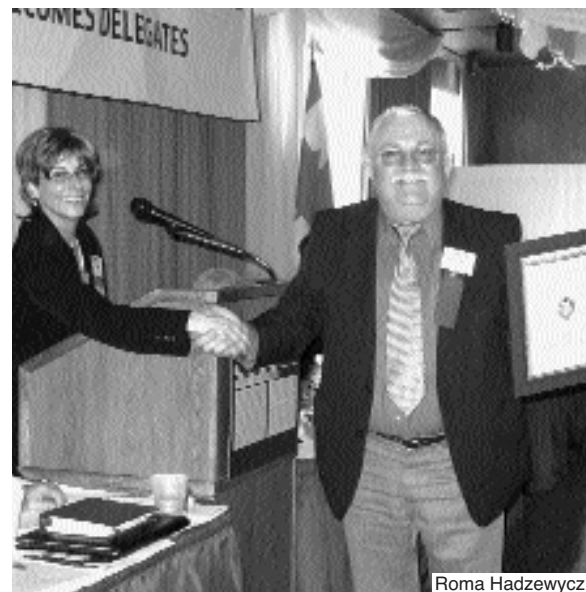
Mary Pelechaty, Branch 165, 71 years
Nicholas Bobeczko, Branch 102, 60 years
Oleksa Prodywus, Branch 356, 53 years
Wlademyr Wladyka, Branch 364, 53 years
Helen Slovik, Branch 7, 52 years
Peter Serba, Branch 173, 52 years
Lew Bodnar, Branch 131, 51 years

Special Service Award

Stefan Hawrysz
Anne Chopek

Winners of the Pre-Convention Sales Blitz

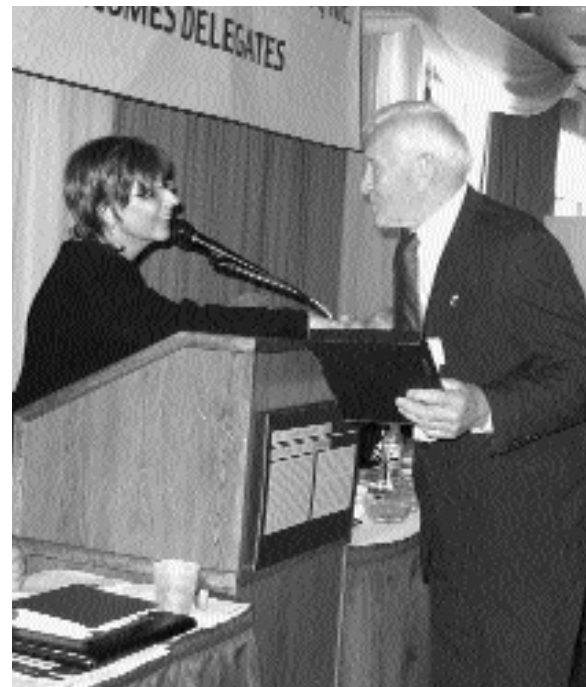
1st place, Joe Chabon, Branch 262
2nd place, Joyce Kotch, Branch 39
3rd place, Stefan Hawrysz, Branch 83



Roma Hadzewycz
UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak presents awards to Myron Pylypiak...



Christine Brodyn...



Peter Serba...



Stefan Hawrysz...



and Joe Chabon.

Visit the websites of the UNA's publications:

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THE 36th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Report of Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee members were: George Soltys, Branch 327/17; Maya Lew, Branch 5; Wasyl Szeremeta, Branch 247/347; Olya Czerkas, Branch 381; Edward Melnychuk, Branch 234.

The committee reported the following proposals as resolutions and recommendations.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Whereas the 33rd, 34th and 35th Conventions resolved that the bust of the late Patriarch Mstyslav be erected and dedicated at the UNA estate; and

Whereas the General Assemblies after all three conventions refused to follow the resolutions of the convention body, which is the supreme legislative body of our association; and

Whereas resolutions that are passed by the conventions are binding on the subsequent General Assembly,

Be it resolved, that 36th UNA Convention directs the General Assembly as a priority item to erect and dedicate a bust of the late Patriarch Mstyslav at the UNA estate Soyuzivka as soon as possible from the conclusion of this convention.

Passed as a resolution

2. Whereas the official publications of the Ukrainian National Association – Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly – represent a crucial public image for the Ukrainian National Association and are indispensable for the organization in the Ukrainian community at large,

Be it resolved, that a UNA Publications Endowment Fund be created to ensure the future of the UNA’s official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, via a permanent reserve fund.

Passed as a resolution

3. Whereas the official publications of the Ukrainian National Association – Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly – represent a crucial public image for the Ukrainian National Association and are indispensable for the marketing of the organization and its activities,

Be it resolved, that the editors-in-chief or their designated staff editors, of the UNA’s official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, may attend all meetings of the General Assembly and have the right to participate in discussions at those meetings in an advisory capacity.

Passed as a resolution

4. Whereas the survival of the Ukrainian National Association depends on the continual recruitment of new members and the continued selling of new insurance and annuity policies; and

Whereas the branch secretaries represent the local presence in existence of the Ukrainian National Association in our communities,

Be it resolved, that branch secretaries will be required to sell a minimum of three policies per year to remain in good standing as branch secretaries. If the branch secretary feels that, in good conscience, he/she is unable to meet this annual quota, he/she will be permitted to petition the General Assembly for a waiver of that requirement.

Be it further resolved that the UNA Executive Committee is directed to provide marketing and sales tools to all branch secretaries so that they can compete on a more level playing field with competing products. These marketing and sales tools are to take advantage of all media, both electronic and non-electronic.

Passed as a recommendation

5. Whereas the Constitution and By-Laws of the UNA represent the governing rules for the Ukrainian National Association; and

Whereas the convention body represents the supreme legislative body of our association; and

Whereas the convention body is asked to change by-laws on a quadrennial basis,

Be it resolved, that the By-Laws Committee shall provide full disclosure concerning all recommended by-laws changes, including authorship and key supporting arguments, regardless of whether the committee shall recommend certain recommendations and not others.

Passed as a resolution

6. Whereas presenting the proposed by-laws changes for the first time at a convention does not allow enough time for a thorough discussion, consideration and consultation,

Be it resolved, that the 36th Convention directs the General Assembly to formulate a motion for a by-laws change that would require all proposed by-laws changes to be published in the UNA’s official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, not less than 60 days prior to the UNA convention at



Wasyl Szeremeta (right) and George Soltys report for the Resolutions Committee.

which the proposed by-laws changes would be considered for adoption.

Passed as a resolution

7. Whereas the Convention By-Laws Committee and Convention Financial Committee fulfill important roles in the life of the Ukrainian National Association; and

Whereas the convention body represents the supreme legislative body of our association; and

Whereas the advisors elected by the convention body have asked for a greater role,

Be it resolved, that the General Assembly assigns all interested advisors to be members of either the Convention By-Laws Committee or the Convention Financial Committee.

Passed as a recommendation

8. Whereas the year 2008 will mark the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-33; and

Whereas a National Committee to Commemorate the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 was formed in 2005, whose mandate was to promote knowledge of the Ukrainian Genocide to the general American society, including government officials, media and the public, and

Whereas specific projects include:

- building a monument in Washington to honor the memory of the victims of the Ukrainian Genocide,
- revoking the Pulitzer Prize awarded to The New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty,
- introducing the history of the Ukrainian Genocide into the history and social studies curricula of American high schools,
- creating a traveling photo exhibit to rent throughout the United States, and
- advocating official recognition by the United States Congress of the Ukrainian Famine as a genocide against the Ukrainian people; and

Whereas it is our duty as a Ukrainian fraternal organization to ensure that the past needs to be remembered in order that such atrocities will not be repeated in the future,

Be it resolved, that the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association supports the activity of the National Committee to Commemorate the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 and calls upon the UNA Executive Committee, the UNA General Assembly, UNA branch secretaries and all UNA members to support the measures and projects, and to participate in an active

fashion in all events to be held on the national, state or local level.

Be it further resolved that the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association calls upon its official press organs, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, to promote the greater knowledge of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 on their pages, as well as promote the activities of the National Committee.

Passed as a resolution

9. Whereas there is a need to encourage and facilitate enrollment of new members,

Be it resolved, that appropriate training programs and activities be conducted by an accomplished organizer to enhance the sales skills of other members and that a separate section of the UNA website be devoted to information, suggestions and advice for all secretaries.

Passed as a recommendation

10. Whereas time is limited at the convention and many reports need to be reviewed in detail to ensure the continued good of the organization,

Be it resolved, that all General Assembly reports be sent to all delegates at least 30 days in advance of the convention in order to give delegates time to review reports in a timely fashion.

Be it further resolved that the minutes of the current convention of the Ukrainian National Association be distributed to all delegates within six months of the conclusion of this convention, and that the minutes be published in both Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly as soon as possible.

Passed as a recommendation

11. Whereas it is our duty as a Ukrainian fraternal organization to promote and foster a love of the Ukrainian heritage and culture, organizing and educating Ukrainians, especially the youth, providing them with leadership to make them aware of their national origin and cultural heritage,

Be it resolved, that we must continue the Cultural Courses for middle and high school students, similar to the ones that were held in previous years at Soyuzivka, which would teach them language, heritage, geography, history and the arts, and be consistent with the mission of the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation.

Passed as a resolution

12. Whereas it is very important that

(Continued on page 12)

Report of the Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee was made up of the following selected members from the delegates present at the 36th UNA Convention: Luba Keske, Branch 257/307; Julian Pishko, Branch 385/368; Ulana Prociuk, Branch 397; Irene Pryjma, Branch 292; and Zynowia Serafyn, Branch 175.

Julian Pishko was chosen as the chair of the committee from the five members listed above. The Petitions Committee met a total of five times, and requested petitions to be submitted by the delegates. The following list contains the petitions submitted, and the amounts recommended for each.

1) Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) of Canada – \$350

2) Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization of Canada – \$350

3) Ukrainian American Veterans. To help fund the Ukrainian American

Veterans memorial monuments to be erected in South Bound Brook, N.J. – \$300

4) The Ukrainian Museum in New York – \$200

5) Ukrainian Museum in Detroit – \$250

6) Ukrainian Gold Cross (Children’s Camp), Lehighnton, Pa. – \$250

7) Immaculate Conception School, Michigan – \$350

8) Cheremosh Dance School, Philadelphia – \$150

9) California Association to Aid Ukraine – \$400

10) Cheremosh Dance Ensemble, Minnesota – \$150

11) Ukrainian Community/Event Center, Minnesota – \$250

Total – \$3,000

– Presented by Chairman Julian Pishko

THE 36th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Report of Finance Committee

The Convention Finance Committee consists of the following members: Walter Kozicky, Branch 8; Gerald Tysiak, Branch 13; Gloria Paschen, Branch 125/220; Michael Hrycyk, Branch 161; and Joseph Chabon, Branch 242.

The Convention Finance Committee was charged with the responsibility to make recommendations to convention delegates of the General Assembly on the following matters:

- consider if an increase in compensation was warranted for salaried members of the General Assembly Executive Committee;
- determine the per diem reimbursement level for convention delegates;
- review the level of fraternal fees to be levied on policyholders; and
- consider if a donation would be given by each delegate and for what purpose.

The Convention Finance Committee held a meeting to discuss the items listed with President Stefan Kaczaraj and Treasurer Roma Lisovich on Sunday, May 28. The Convention Finance Committee considered and reached decisions on each item listed above. The decisions are as follows:

- No salary increase is recommended for salaried members of the General Assembly Executive Committee.
- The per diem rate for convention delegates is recommended to be \$170 per night. The per diem rate covers meals and lodging, including gratuities and applicable taxes, to attend the 36th Regular Convention. In addition, convention delegates will be reimbursed for use of personal automobiles to attend the convention at the rate of 48.5 cents per mile. Tolls and other necessary transportation expenses will be allowed as well. Public transportation and parking fees will be reimbursed based on actual cost as claimed.



Slavko Tysiak delivers the Finance Committee report.

- The Fraternal Fund fee levied on each UNA policyholder is recommended to be raised to \$5 per year from the current level of \$3 per year.
- Recommend convention delegates approve a \$25 donation by each convention delegate to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation. The \$25 donation is to be deducted from the total combined per diem reimbursement that will be received by delegates for attending the UNA's 36th Regular Convention.

These recommendations were made and accepted by the delegates to the 36th Regular Convention on Monday, May 29.

– Report filed by Convention Finance Committee Chairman Slavko Tysiak.

Report of Resolutions....

(Continued from page 11)

the delegates of the UNA convention understand and are well-informed of who the candidates are for elected offices,

Be it resolved, that for the primaries all candidates running for elected office must present themselves to the Elections Committee chairperson with their intention to run. The Elections Committee will then print a primary ballot with all names printed. Write-in ballots would still be permitted.

Passed as a resolution

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Soyuzivka should offer a senior citizen discount for meals.
Did not pass

2. The Executive Board should continue to monitor insurance and annuity products to maintain competitive products and prices with competing insurers. This information should be disseminated to the branch secretaries to assist them in selling UNA products to future and present clients.
Passed

3. Since energy costs account for a large portion of Soyuzivka expenses, the management and staff of Soyuzivka should continue to take all steps possible to make sure the operations and buildings at Soyuzivka are as energy-efficient as possible.
Passed

4. When geographically feasible, advisors of the General Assembly should be

assigned active roles and responsibilities on the Convention Committee.

Passed

5. During the active summer months at Soyuzivka, a staffed UNA kiosk should be created to disseminate pertinent information regarding the UNA and its products.
Passed

6. All rooms and conference areas at Soyuzivka should have contemporary telecommunication abilities, including phone service, cable television and Internet access.
Did not pass

7. The UNA Convention should not be held over a holiday weekend.
Did not pass

8. The manager of Soyuzivka shall have an opportunity to have meaningful participation in all discussions during the meetings of the General Assembly.
Passed

9. Because a transfer of Soyuzivka to the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation will not make it self-sufficient, but will only hide the problem, it is strongly recommended that the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association cease its support of Soyuzivka by June 30, 2007, and publish a bimonthly progress report commencing in August 2006.
Did not pass

– Presented by Wasyl Szeremeta and George Soltys

Report of Secretaries Committee

The following delegates were elected to the Secretaries Committee: Anna Buriy, Branch 402/466; Eli Matiash, Branch 120; Judith Hawryluk, Branch 360; Motria Milanytch, Branch 450/241; and Oksana Trytjak, Branch 25.

The committee is proposing four resolutions and eight recommendations.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The 36th UNA Convention expects secretaries to dedicate much of their time to organizing new members.
2. The 36th UNA Convention expects secretaries, where possible, to find new secretaries/organizers to replace them, if they no longer can carry out their responsibilities, and recommend them to the national secretary and the District Committee.
3. The 36th UNA Convention calls for 5 percent reimbursement of expenses in 2006 to active secretaries who organized a new member in 2005 and the 5 percent reimbursement to continue in 2007 to secretaries who organize three new members in 2006.
4. The 36th UNA Convention emphasizes the importance for new secretaries to attend orientation courses and for all secretaries, at least annually, to attend a one-day seminar or a refresher course organized by the UNA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Home Office should periodically include with the dues notices a change-of-information form to remind members to keep the names and addresses of their beneficiaries up-to-date, as well as the information about themselves.

2. There is a need to provide visual aid materials to secretaries to assist them in organizing new members. Visual aids would include a booklet, as well as a CD for laptop use, illustrating products offered and advantages to each product, photos, etc. Also, the power point presentation should be made available to all secretaries for a presentation in their area.

3. Conserve policies by helping suspended members (whose policy lapse is within the three-year limit) to become members in good standing. Retained members would earn credit for the secretaries, which would count toward the members organized. Two retained members would be equivalent to one new member organized.

4. Secretaries, who obtain a pour-irider (single paid-up additions to life policies) should get a commission for their efforts.

5. It is recommended that the national secretary give special attention to secretaries, who have difficulties organizing new members with the goal of reviewing their difficulties and assisting in their resolution.

6. To reinstate an insurance column in Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which would not only provide information to the readers but could also be used as a training tool for secretaries.

7. To reinstate the bilingual UNA application and rate book.

8. To help secretaries get new members, efforts should be made to increase UNA advertisements in newspapers, on radio and on TV, especially in Canada.

– Presented by Motria Milanytch

FOR THE RECORD: Consul general's greeting to Ukrainian National Association

Below is the text of the greeting to the UNA's 36th Convention delivered by Mykola Kyrychenko, Ukraine's consul general in New York, on Sunday, May 28, during the convention concert.

I sincerely greet all delegates of the 36th Convention of the Ukrainian National Association, the oldest, most active and largest, in terms of membership, Ukrainian organization in the United States and Canada. I wish you all strength, good health, good fortune and productive work at this year's deliberations.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I want to thank all the members of the Ukrainian National Association for many years of devoted work for the good of our homeland.

It is difficult to describe all the achievements and successes of your renowned organization. For more than 100 years, the Ukrainian National Association has conducted so many cultural, humanitarian, artistic and scholarly activities, exhibits, conferences and concerts that it is impossible to count them all.

The history of the Ukrainian National Association is to a large degree the history of Ukrainianism abroad, of Ukrainians of the emigration.

That is why it is no surprise that the true and genuine reflection of this life can be seen in the newspapers published by the UNA – Svoboda, founded in 1893, and The Ukrainian Weekly,

founded in 1933.

At the same time, the most significant achievement of the Ukrainian National Association, in my opinion, was and is its ability to unite Ukrainians abroad. Today, just as 100 years ago, thousands of Ukrainians are united around the UNA. Having joined together, they do not become lost in foreign lands and, most importantly, they do not lose contact with their historic homeland, but nurture its historical and cultural heritage.

Thanks to the Ukrainian National Association, not only the Ukrainian community in the U.S.A., but also American society as a whole learned and continues to learn about the land described by Ivan Bahriany:

Amidst the Slavic flatland,
Between Siberia and the ridge
Of the Carpathian Mountains – like
a winding ridge –
Under the sun flows
Ukraine.

Dear Friends:

In concluding my brief remarks, allow me to thank you for all the efforts you have made to boost the image of Ukraine, for your dedication to the all-important priorities of statehood, spirituality, national awareness and cultural identity.

I thank you also for the invitation to be present at your convention, and I wish all of us sunny skies over our dear Ukraine.

– Translated by The Ukrainian Weekly

THE 36th CONVENTION OF THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Ukrainian leaders participate in UNA's convention banquet

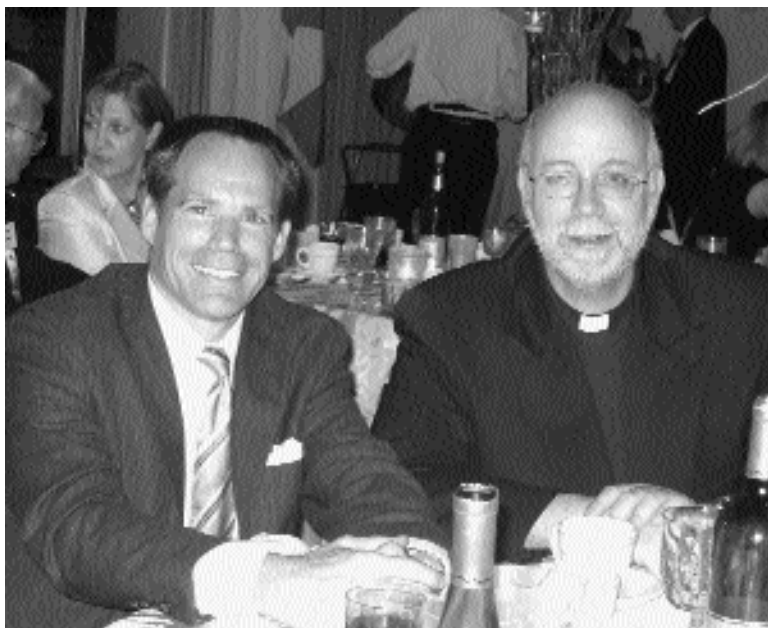
by Roma Hadzewycz

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – In keeping with Ukrainian National Association tradition, a banquet was among the highlights of the UNA convention program. And, as is customary, the banquet was attended by representatives of many Ukrainian community institutions and organizations, among them Church leaders and heads of national organizations. (A list of distinguished guests attending the convention banquet appears on page 10.)

Also present was Dr. Viktor O. Nikitiuk, minister-counselor of the Embassy of Ukraine, who delivered the keynote address in the absence of Ambassador Oleh Shamshur.

The invocation at the banquet held on Sunday evening, May 28, was delivered by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, recently installed eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford; while the benediction was offered by the Rev. George Bazylevsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. The "UNA Anthem" was sung by Sviatoslava Kaczaraj, wife of the UNA president.

President Stefan Kaczaraj opened the banquet by welcoming everyone to



Bishop Paul Chomnycky (right) of Stamford with Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.



Minister-Counselor Viktor O. Nikitiuk with UNA First Vice-President Martha Lysko.

Soyuzivka, which he characterized "as a bit of Ukraine's Carpathian mountains," and to the UNA's 36th Convention. He then turned the running of the banquet program over to mistress of ceremonies Martha Lysko, out-

going first vice-president of the UNA.

Mrs. Lysko introduced former President Ulana Diachuk and former Vice-President Nestor Olesnycky, with their spouses, who were among the long-time UNA activists present that evening.

In his address, Dr. Nikitiuk conveyed greetings to the UNA and its convention delegates from Ambassador Shamshur, noting that the UNA is "the oldest and most well-known organization of Ukrainians in America." He stated: "You do much to guarantee that the flame of Ukrainianism is not extinguished on American land. You do much to support Ukraine. For this we extend sincere thanks."

Dr. Nikitiuk went on to speak about the victory of the Orange Revolution, adding that Ukrainian Americans, too, contributed to this victory. "The moral strength that sprouted, grew and blossomed in today's Ukraine always lived in your hearts," he continued. "Without it you would not have been able, during the course of the last century, to maintain your language and culture, and memory of the homeland."

"You safeguarded this illustrious Ukrainian spirit. ... The maidan, which

was a creation of the Ukrainian nation, was also your creation," he added.

The Ukrainian diplomat concluded his remarks with a call to diaspora Ukrainians to actively support Ukraine: "Ukraine needs your experience, your knowledge, your inspiration and your contacts. ... Let us demonstrate that we are one nation that can turn its victory into something unique, beautiful and unforgettable. May Ukraine arise and blossom as it has never before blossomed."

Also addressing the banquet was the chair of the Convention Committee, Oksana Trytjak, who thanked her committee members for all their hard work and "complete dedication" to ensuring the success of the 36th UNA Convention. (The names of committee members appeared in last's week editorial titled "Rolling the credits.")

The musical interlude during the banquet was provided by singer Olya Fryz, with piano accompaniment by Andrij Stasiw. Ms. Fryz performed a variety of musical selections, including the retro hits of Bohdan Wesolowsky (1915-1971), a popular composer of Ukrainian tangos, foxtrots, waltzes and rumbas.



Olya Fryz during her performance at the banquet.

Convention concert features performances of music and dance



Roma Hadzewycz



Russ Chelak

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – A concert featuring performances by the Ukrainian Chorus Dumka of New York (above, left), the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble (right), baritone Oleh Chmyr and violinist Marian Pidvirny was on the agenda of the UNA's 36th Convention on Sunday afternoon, May 28. Delivering a greeting to the UNA was Mykola Kyrychenko, Ukraine's consul general in New York. (The full text of his remarks appears on page 12.)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Crimean port of Feodosiya last month has
sparked continuing anti-NATO protests on
the peninsula. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia warns Ukraine re: NATO

MOSCOW – Russian Foreign Minister
Sergei Lavrov told the State Duma on June
7 that possible NATO membership for
Ukraine or Georgia would lead to a shift in
the global geopolitical balance, RIA
Novosti reported. “We are trying to foresee
the consequences of [membership], prima-
rily from the viewpoint of Russia’s nation-
al security and economic interests and rela-
tions with these countries,” he added. For
its part, the Duma sent a letter to the
Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in a similar
vein. “With due respect for Ukraine’s sov-
ereignty, the deputies of the State Duma
cannot but confirm their extremely nega-
tive attitude towards such plans and
believe that Ukraine’s joining NATO con-
tradicts the agreement on friendship, coop-
eration and partnership between Russia
and Ukraine dating from 1997 that [out-
lines] the strategic nature of Russian-
Ukrainian relations,” the statement said. It
also noted that “close interregional rela-
tions unite [Russia] with the Autonomous
Republic of Crimea.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Socialists seek Hrytsenko’s dismissal

KYIV – The Socialist Party of Ukraine
has requested that President Viktor
Yushchenko dismiss Defense Minister
Anatolii Hrytsenko over what they consider
the unauthorized visit of a U.S. naval cargo
ship in the Crimean port of Feodosiya last
month, Interfax-Ukraine reported on June 5.
The SPU also wants the president to deter-
mine the responsibility of other officials
involved in the Feodosiya incident. “[Senior
officials] have overstepped the legal frame-
work, discredited state institutions, and
become an additional source of tension in
the region,” the SPU said in a statement,
adding that the ensuing anti-NATO protests
in Crimea were provoked by “violations of
the law on the presence of foreign troop in
Ukraine.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. Navy...

(Continued from page 2)

country. Which country? It is not difficult to guess, once you see in what language they write their posters with,” Mr. Kyrsenko said. “Therefore, I would make a distinction between these hapless, deceived people and the organizers of this provocation.” Foreign Minister Tarasyuk suggested that the anti-NATO demonstration in Feodosiya may be a cover for problems connected with the deployment of a Russian naval force in another Crimean port, Symferopol. “I have one piece of advice for the initiators of this provocation – they should turn their attention to the disgrace of the free use of land plots and buildings by units of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in violation of Ukrainian law and bilateral agreements,” Mr. Tarasyuk said.

In a broader perspective, the Feodosiya protest may impair Ukraine’s chances for a significant advance this year on its path toward NATO membership. Some officials in Kyiv, including Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk, hope that, at the NATO summit in Riga in November, Ukraine will be offered a Membership Action Plan. Such plans are usually the last step before receiving an official invitation to join the alliance. The outburst of anti-NATO sentiments in Feodosiya will hardly make NATO members more supportive of this advancement idea.

Sociological surveys in recent years show that Ukraine’s official aspirations to join NATO are firmly supported by some

Putin comments on NATO expansion

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin told reporters in Novo-Ogaryovo on June 2 that Russia does not understand the reasons for further NATO eastward enlargement, domestic and foreign news agencies reported. “When the military structure of NATO comes close to our borders, we react [and ask why this is necessary]. ... It’s no longer a world of two systems.” Mr. Putin also advised the Atlantic alliance to improve its “credibility” rather than expand its weapons programs. Referring to Ukraine, he argued that those who support the changes under way there should support them with their own money and not expect Russia to subsidize them with cheap energy supplies. He told a German journalist: “Why should German consumers pay \$250 per 1,000 cubic meters [of gas] and Ukrainians \$50? If you want to present such a gift to Ukraine, pay for it [your-selves].” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv denounces demonstrations

KYIV – Ukraine’s Foreign and Defense ministries have said in a joint statement that the continuing blockade of the cargo brought by the U.S. ship USS Advantage to Feodosiya is a politically motivated action and testifies to “destructive moves under pseudo-patriotic mottoes,” Ukrinform reported on June 2. “The cargo is aimed not at the construction of a mythical ‘NATO base’ in Crimea, but at the accommodation of participants in the [Sea Breeze 2006] exercises, first of all Ukrainian officers and soldiers. There were no foreign troops on board [as some provocative reports say],” the statement reads. Noting that the USS Advantage is a commercial vessel, both ministries stressed that its docking in Feodosiya did not require any parliamentary authorization, as is the case with the deployment of foreign troops on Ukrainian territory. The organizers of anti-NATO protests in Crimea – the Communist Party of Ukraine, the Party of the Regions, the Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine and the Social Democratic Party (United) –

(Continued on page 15)

15 to 20 percent of Ukrainians and firmly opposed by some 55 to 60 percent of them. There seems to be an informal consensus at present between the administration of President Viktor Yushchenko and the opposition that Ukraine’s potential NATO entry should be approved in a nationwide referendum. But opinions differ on when such a plebiscite should be held.

The Russia-leaning opposition forces would like to stage it as soon as possible, when Ukrainians are more likely to say “no” than “yes.” Mr. Yushchenko says the referendum should be held in “due course,” but does not specify any date.

Moscow, which officially does not object to Ukraine’s NATO aspirations, would hardly remain unmoved if Kyiv was actually accepted by the alliance. Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin was quite explicit about this on May 30. “When a neighboring country becomes a member of the North Atlantic military bloc, then, I’m sorry – then this strategic partnership [with Russia] should be viewed from a different angle and [it should be reviewed] whether this strategic partnership relationship should continue to exist at all,” Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Making Ukrainians like NATO rather than fear it seems to be only a part of the tricky job President Yushchenko has to do in order to fulfill his ambitions of Euro-Atlantic integration. A no less tricky task will be to persuade his compatriots that NATO membership for their country does not necessarily mean a disastrous break with Russia.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

have demanded the resignation of the defense and foreign ministers over the Feodosiya incident. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Anti-NATO protests continue

PARTENIT, Ukraine – Activists of Ukrainian pro-Russian parties – the Communist Party, the People’s Opposition Bloc and Ukrainian Cossacks – on June 2 prevented a group of U.S. reservists from reaching a Ukrainian Defense Ministry sanatorium in the village of Partenit in Crimea, Interfax reported. The Americans, who arrived the previous day in Symferopol by plane and after encountering a road blockage on their way to Partenit, reportedly had to be housed at a different sanatorium in Alushta. Anti-NATO protests in Crimea began last week, after the U.S. naval cargo ship Advantage brought construction materials and equipment to the port of Feodosiya in order to upgrade a training range near the town of Saryi Krym. Anti-NATO protesters are continuing to block the Feodosiya port to prevent the cargo from being transferred to the training range, which is also reportedly being picketed. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian studies in Peremyshl

KYIV – The State High Professional School in the town of Peremyshl (Przemysl), Poland, has started enrolling students who will major in the new discipline of Ukrainian studies, it was reported on June 1. The new department’s classes will start on October 1, 2006. The new discipline’s introduction is viewed as an early step toward converting the school into the State East European High School. Those who will major in Ukrainian studies will be entitled to translator and/or journalist certificates. The school is located in eastern Poland, adjacent to Ukraine’s territory. (Ukrinform)

Consumer gas prices to double

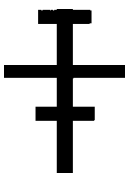
KYIV – Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers has decided to increase the gas price for individual consumers to 414 hrv (\$82) per 1,000 cubic meters as of July 1, up from an average of 220 hrv at present, the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported, quoting Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov. “The decision in principle has been made, while the differentiation of tariffs is yet to be discussed by us,” Mr. Plachkov added. This year the government already raised gas tariffs for the population and corporate consumers by 25 percent as of May. A gas supply deal between the Ukrainian government and Russia’s Gazprom in January increased the gas price for Ukraine from \$50 to \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv tops in per capital wage

KYIV – According to the State Statistics Committee, the city of Kyiv continues to lead the country in terms of salaries paid. In April the average per capita wage in the Ukrainian capital amounted to 1,687.50 hrv (about \$335 U.S.) per month. Average wages grew from March to April in nine regions and in Crimea. In four regions average wages exceeded 1,000 hrv per month. Per capital wages in the Ternopil region were reported as Ukraine’s lowest, averaging 682.30 hrv per month. (Ukrinform)

Crimean Rada approves Cabinet

SYMFEROPOL – The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea on June 2 appointed Viktor Plakida as prime minister of the autonomous government on the peninsula, UNIAN reported. The Crimean legislature also approved a Cabinet, which comprises three first vice prime ministers, three vice prime ministers and 11 ministers. The 100-seat Supreme Council is headed by Anatolii Hrytsenko, leader of the For Yanukovych bloc, which has 44 deputies. (RFE/RL Newsline)



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в суботу,
6 травня 2006 р. відійшла у Божу вічність
наша найдорожча
ДРУЖИНА, МАМА і БАБЦЯ

СВ. П.

ЛІДІЯ МАКАРЕНКО

нар. 3 червня 1921 року в Донецьку, Україна.
Донька покійних Дмитра Іхтіярова та Александри з дому Бойченко.

ПАНАХИДА була відправлена в п’ятницю, 12 травня 2006 р. в українсь-кій православній церкві св. Покрови у Філядельфії.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися в суботу, 13 травня 2006 р. в українсь-ській православній катедрі св. Володимира у Філядельфії, а відтак на цвинтарі св. Андрія Первозваного в С. Бавнд Бруку, Н. Дж.

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РУСЛАНОЮ, ЗОРЯНКОЮ, ЯРЕМІЙКОЮ і
МЕЛАНОМ
– ІГОР з дружиною МАРІОЛОЮ і дітьми: ТОМКОМ,
САВОЮ і РУСЛАНОМ
швагерка – РАЇСА ІХТІЯРОВ з дочкою ЮЛІЄЮ з чоловіком
ОРЕСТОМ і дітьми та сином ЮРКОМ
та ближча і дальша родина в Америці, Канаді, Польщі і
Україні.

Вічна їй пам’ять!

Замість квітів родина просить складати пожертви на
Український Музей в Нью-Йорку або на
Києво-Могилянську Фундацію у Чікаго і висилати на адресу:
Ihor Makarenko, 344 Sommerville Pl., Yonkers, NY 10703.



3 волі Всевишнього відійшов
у Божу вічність у вівторок,
2 травня 2006 р.,
заосмотрений Найсвятішими Тайнами
наш найдорожчий
МУЖ, БАТЬКО, ДІДО, БРАТ і СЕСТРИНОК



СВ. П.

СТЕПАН КУРИЛАС

д-р. вет. медицини і громадський діяч
нар. 6 лютого 1921 р. у Полюхові в Україні

ПАРАСТАС відбувся 5 травня в похоронному заведенні Hines-Rinaldi.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися в суботу 6 травня о год. 12-ій пол. в Крайовому Соборі Пресвятої Родини у Вашингтоні і на цвинтарі Cedar Hill.

В глибокому смутку залишилися:

дружина	– ОЛЬГА
син	– ПЕТРО з дружиною ІРЕНОЮ
доньки	– ОЛЕНКА з мужем ЮРІЄМ ДОБЧАНСЬКИМ
	– ЛЯРИСА з мужем СТИВОМ ЛАНН
внуки	– ЛІДІЯ з мужем РИЧАРДОМ БАЛАЖ
	– ПАВЛО
	– МАРКІЯН і РОМАН ДОБЧАНСЬКІ
сестри	– ТЕОДОЗІЯ, і ТЕРЕСА з родинами в Україні
	– ЛЮБА з родиною
	– ВІРА з родиною
брати	– РОМАН з родиною
	– ВАСИЛЬ з родиною в Україні
тета	– МАРІЙКА КОРДУБА-РАЙКОВСЬКА з родинами в Україні
та ближча і дальша родина в Америці, Канаді та в Україні	

Вічна йому пам’ять!

Замість квітів на могилу Покійного родина просить складати пожертви на:
Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family (Belltower Fund)
Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (УКУ)
US-Ukraine Foundation



It is with profound sorrow that we inform our family, friends, acquaintances and the Ukrainian community of the death on May 30, 2006, at the age of 93 of our beloved Father, Grandfather, Great-grandfather, Cousin and Uncle

Zynovij Sawyckyj

Born on Nov. 26, 1912, in Bibrka, near Lviv, Ukraine, the son of the Rev. Josyf Sawyckyj (a catechist in Stryj) and Ludmila (nee Levytska) Sawycka.

Graduate of the 'gymnasium' in Stryj, Lysenko Ukrainian Music Institute and Lviv University Law School, all in Ukraine. After arrival in the U.S. in 1949, active in the cultural life of the Ukrainian community in Utica, NY, member of St. Volodymyr the Great Ukrainian Catholic Church in Utica from 1949 to 1982, and from 1983 to 2006 a parishioner at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Stamford, CT, member of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City, and friend of the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Historic-Cultural Museum in Kyiv, Ukraine.

A panakhyda-requiem observance took place at 7:30 pm on June 2, 2006, at Leo Gallagher and Son Funeral Home, Greenwich, CT. A funeral liturgy was celebrated on June 3, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 24 Wenzel Terrace, Stamford, CT.

Burial was on June 3, 2006, at St. Andrew's Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

He leaves in sorrow:

Son	Jurij Savyckyj
Daughter	Anisa Handzia Mycak with husband George
Grandchildren	Christine Hladky with husband Alexander
	Danylo Savyckyj with wife Natalia
	Maksym Mycak
Great-grandchildren	Olenka Hladky and Roma Hladky
Cousin	Ksenia Antypiw
Second Cousins	Myklasevych, Tyshovnytsky, Sawyckyj, Zin'ko, Okhrim families
In-Laws	Klufas, Doberczak, Omecinsky, Nadraga, Tsaryk, Wirszczuk, Mycak, Dragan, Komarynsky families
Friends	Ivanka Poloziak, Mykola Kucherenko
And many beloved nieces, nephews and friends in the United States, Canada and Ukraine.	

Vichnaya Pamyat'! Eternal Memory.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ukrainian Museum (Zynovij and Dr. Teodozia Sawyckyj Memorial Fund), 222 E. 6th St., New York, NY 10003; to the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv through the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (Rev. Josyf, Ludmila and Zynovij Sawyckyj Memorial Fund), 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622-4828; or the UNWLA Scholarship Fund (Dr. Teodozia Sawycka Memorial Fund), 171 Main St., P.O. Box 24, Matawan, NJ 07747-0024.

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**USCAK - EAST 2006
Tennis Tournament
Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles**

Dates: July 1-2, 2006.

Place: Soyuzivka, UNA Resort, Kerhonkson, NY

Starting Times: Singles will start 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 1.
Doubles will start 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Entry: *Advance registration is required for singles.* Entry fee is \$20 per individual or a doubles team. Send registration form including the fee to:
George Sawchak
724 Forrest Ave., Rydal, PA 19046
(215) 576-7989

Singles registration must be recieved by June 24. Doubles teams may register at Soyuzivka by 10 a.m. on Saturday. *Do not send entry form to Soyuzivka.*

Rules: All USTA and USCAK rules for tournament play will apply.
Participants must be Ukrainian by birth, heritage or marriage.
Players may enter up to two groups of either singles or doubles.

Awards: Trophies will be presented to winners and finalists in each group.

Host Club: KLK, USCAK Tennis Committee will conduct the tournament.

**Registration Form
Make checks payable to KLK**

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Group Men _____ Men 45's _____ Boys _____ Age Group _____

Women _____ Sr. Women _____ Girls _____ Age Group _____

Doubles _____ Partner _____ Mixed Doubles _____ Partner _____

EAST 2006

UKiP Consortium Association launches another new website

EDMONTON – The UKiP Consortium Association has announced the launch of its dynamic new homepage www.ukip.ca.

The site is aimed at providing up-to-date information on projects and project development at UKiP-CA. This includes details on current and upcoming events within the language and culture education community. Visitors can also locate information on the governance structure of UKiP-CA, its development staff and how to get involved with current and future development initiatives.

According to Roman Petryshyn, president of UKiP-CA, "This exciting new website, www.ukip.ca, is a welcome addition to our stable of web development initiatives. I am proud to see our talented development team telling the public about the wide range of projects we have produced."

General Manager Kim Robinson said, "For the first time on one site, you can follow the unique research and development initiatives that UKiP-CA is undertaking. This includes projects related to inclusive education in Ukraine, the promotion of the various Ukrainian language and culture and bilingual programs available to students, language learning strategy development initiatives, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) gateway and even a virtual walk through of the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago." The site is well organized and

easily accessible for anyone with an Internet connection. UKiP-CA is at the leading edge of Ukrainian language and culture multimedia development.

This new website is the sixth the consortium has launched since February 2004 when UKiP-CA released www.oomRoom.ca, its first full website project. The UKiP Consortium Association is a network of organizations committed to deploying online resources, furthering best practices for online learning and promoting Ukrainian language and culture. UKIP has become a national leader in online language and culture education.

Members of the consortium include the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta; the Ukrainian Language Education Centre, CIUS, University of Alberta; the Ukrainian Resource and Development Center, Grant MacEwan College; Canada Ukraine Foundation-Ukrainian e-Learning Network; and the Ukrainian Canadian School Board, Toronto Branch.

The UKiP Consortium Association welcomes comments and participation from the public to help guide the future of the consortium and its project development areas. Opportunities for support exist in many areas – funding, resource development, overall strategy and direction. For more information, e-mail UKiP-CA at ukip@ualberta.ca.



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“Music at the Grazhda” presents its 2006 season program

by Ika Koznarska Casanova

JEWETT, N.Y. – “Music at the Grazhda,” held under the auspices of Music and Art Center of Greene County (MACGC), embarks on its 24th season, presenting a program of seven concerts to be held July 2 through September 2, in the architecturally distinctive Grazhda hall. As part of this season’s special events, there will be a Ukrainian film festival, with screenings held on two separate occasions in August.

The season will open on a somewhat different note from the MACGC’s traditional classical music concert programming, when, on Sunday, July 2, Vasyl Popadiuk takes center stage, ushering in the Fourth of July weekend celebrations in a concert marked by a vibrant fusion of Slavic and gypsy music.

Mr. Popadiuk, formerly first violin with the orchestra of the Hopak National Ensemble in Kyiv and currently a Toronto-based star soloist who performs world-wide, will appear with his five-member band Papa Duke, in a performance that promises to be stunning, electrifying and passionate. Also featured in the opening concert will be vocalist Marianna Vynnytska.

Prize-winning pianist Serhiy Salov, 27, recipient of the First Grand Prize and Audience Award at the Montreal International Musical Competition (2004) and laureate of the 5th Hamamatsu (Japan, 2003), Tunbridge Wells (United Kingdom, 2002) and the Marguerite Long-Jacques Thibaud (Paris, 2001) international piano competition will appear in concert on July 8.

A native of Donetsk, Mr. Salov studied abroad in Freiburg, Germany, going on to pursue graduate studies in London. He now resides in Montreal. Mr. Salov’s recital at the Grazhda marks his first con-

cert appearance in the United States.

A fund-raising concert to benefit the MACGC will be held on July 15 with Yuri Kharenko, violin; Natalia Khoma, cello; and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano.

The “Music at the Grazhda” Chamber Music Society – Alexandre Brussilovsky, violin; Oleksandr Abayev, violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; Natalia Khoma, cello; Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano – will mark its third season as the MACGC’s resident ensemble with a concert on July 29.

Baritone Oleh Chmyr, soloist with the New Jersey State Opera and Distinguished Artist of Ukraine, as well as recipient of Ukraine’s National Presidential Award and Medal for Art and Culture (2005), will appear in concert on August 5 in a program titled “European Vocal Miniatures.”

On Friday, August 11, Andrea Odezynska, an independent filmmaker and a professor of film at the School of Visual Arts, will have two of her award-winning video films screened at the Grazhda: the recently completed new documentary “The Whisperer,” about a traditional village healer from Ukraine; and the short comedy film “Dora Was Dysfunctional.” Time: 8 p.m.

The children’s Ukrainian folk-singing program recital, under the direction of Anna Bachynska, former soprano with the Lviv Opera and currently a music teacher and choir director in New York City, will be held on August 12.

A selection of some of the best works by Ukrainian filmmakers produced over the course of the last five years will be presented in a program titled “And the Ship Sails on: Ukrainian Cinema Today.” Films will be shown on two separate evenings, Friday, August 19 (at 9 p.m.), and Saturday, August 20 (at 6 and 8 p.m.), in the following three categories: short fea-

ture, animated and documentary. The films are in Ukrainian with English subtitles. The program presenter is Yuri I. Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture at the department of Slavic languages of Columbia University, and founder and director of the Ukrainian Film Club.

The final concert of the season, to take place on September 2, will feature the acclaimed Leontovych String Quartet, with Yuri Mazurkevich, violin; Yuri Kharenko, violin; Borys Deviatov, viola; and Volodymyr Panteleyev, cello.

Founded in 1983 by Ukrainian American composer and musicologist Dr. Ihor Sonevytsky, the Music and Art Center of Greene County has become an established presence in the Catskill region and on the Ukrainian American classical music scene in general. The

music director for the series, since 2003, is Mr. Vynnytsky, with Ika Koznarska Casanova, executive director, and Dr. Sonevytsky, honorary chairman of the board.

Concerts are held at the Grazhda on Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., unless otherwise indicated. Tickets – \$15, general admission; \$12 for members and senior citizens; free for students – are available at the door.

The Grazhda is located on Route 23A in Jewett, N.Y., five miles west of the town of Hunter and two miles east of Lexington. It is within an hour’s drive from Albany via the New York State Thruway, Exit 21 – Catskill and two and a half hours from New York City via the thruway, Exit 20 – Saugerties.

Additional information is available by calling Christyna Bodnar Sheldon, press and public liaison, 518-263-4619.

Ukrainian folk arts program offered at the Grazhda

JEWETT, N.Y. – A rich and varied program of Ukrainian folk arts, held under the auspices of Music and Art Center of Greene County, is being offered as part of the summer program at the Grazhda.

Among the workshops offered are four one-week courses in the following:

- pysanky (Ukrainian Easter egg decorating) and ceramics, with New York-based artist Sofika Zielyk, instructor, July 31- August 4;
- embroidery, with Lubow Woly nec, curator and librarian at the Ukrainian Museum and Library of Stamford,

Conn., instructor, August 7-11; and,

- gerdany (bead necklace stringing), (instructor to be announced), August 7-11.

In addition, a two-week Ukrainian folk-singing program, under the direction of Anna Bachynska, will be held on July 31-August 11.

For additional information and to register for the workshops and the children’s folk-singing program, contact the respective instructors: Ms. Zielyk, 212-533-6419; Ms. Woly nec, 203-327-7899 (work); or Ms. Bachynska, 718-271-987.

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UNA Awards Program: these awards are assigned by the Scholarship Committee, designating a set amount each year depending on the total amount assigned for the awards. The applicant must comply with all rules and qualifications.

UNA Scholarship Program: offers scholarship to active UNA members completing freshman, sophomore and junior years in college. Special Scholarships: Dr. Susan Galandiuk, In memory of Drs. Maria & Demetrius Jarosewycz, Vera Stangl, Joseph Wolk and the Ukrainian National Home Corp. of Blackstone. Each Scholarship has special requirements with which the student applicant must comply.

Scholarships and Awards will be granted to UNDERGRADUATE students attending accredited colleges or universities studying towards their first bachelor’s degree and to high school graduates entering colleges.

Applications for UNA SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIPS or UNA AWARDS will be accepted from students who have been ACTIVE UNA MEMBERS for at least TWO YEARS.

Applications and required enclosures must be sent to the UNA in ONE MAILING and be post-marked not later than JULY 1, 2006.

Incomplete and/or late entries will be automatically disqualified.

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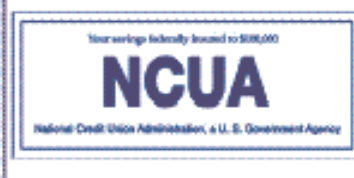
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Ukrainian American Veterans Post 17 elects new officers

PASSAIC, N.J. – Members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 17 held their annual election of officers on May 11. Walter Kupecky, UAV branch commander, called on the nominating committee of Jim Fedorko, Andrew Hadzewycz and Wolodymyr Kovbasniuk for their recommendations.

Candidates for the 2006-2007 year who were elected unanimously included Post Commander Fedorko, Vice-Commander Hadzewycz, Treasurer John Luchejko, Welfare Officer Zenko Halkowycz, Chaplain Frank Nakonechny and Trustees Peter Babirad and Walter Kupecky. Additional appointments had Mr. Halkowycz as adjutant and Mr. Kupecky as membership officer.

The installation of the new officers was conducted by Past National Commander Gene Sagasz, with a reception following the ceremony.

The new commander of Post 17, Mr. Fedorko graduated from California University, Pennsylvania, in 1990 with a master's of science degree in 1996. He served in various positions with the army medical corps and was stationed in Walter Reed Army Hospital's institute for research, doing work in the biochemistry division.

As a captain in the Army reserve, Mr. Fedorko was activated for the invasion of Iraq and served in the support capacity



Jim Fedorko

as a medical officer. His latest assignment had him as a preventive medical officer at Mac Donald Army Hospital, Fort Eustis, Va. Mr. Fedorko is employed with the Passaic County Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

For more information on the UAV Post 17 and its membership, readers can call Mr. Kupecky at 973-696-7209.

Duzyj runs for re-election as county commissioner

by Anatoli W. Murha

WARREN, Mich. – Elected in 2004 to the position of Macomb County Commissioner for District 1, Andrey Duzyj is back on the campaign trail, seeking re-election to represent the people of Warren. Situated in southern Macomb County, Warren is Michigan's third largest city.

Over the course of his term, Commissioner Duzyj has served his district by voting to keep county property taxes at current rates, the third lowest in the state of Michigan. He has participated in the National Reading Month for Head Start Children; initiated a program to retrain workers recently unemployed in Macomb County; worked to keep disposal of prescription drugs from polluting our lakes and streams; co-hosted town hall meetings of county, police and city leaders addressing challenges facing District 1; and supported seniors programs.

Mr. Duzyj's involvement includes serving on the Budget, Finance and Senior Citizens committees of the commissioners. He served on a special ethics committee and voted for a new county policy to stop cronyism and nepotism in county hiring.

Warren is home to many Ukrainian Americans. Mr. Duzyj currently serves as president of the board of directors for Ukrainian Future Credit Union, and is a member of the board of directors for the Ukrainian Cultural Center, both based in Warren.

He is married to Doris (Nachwostach). Both are members of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church. The couple has three children, Christina, Mykola and Melanie.

As an active community leader and resident of Warren for over 35 years, Mr. Duzyj's said, "There is no greater calling than to serve your community, and it has been my distinct honor to represent Macomb County's District 1."

If re-elected in November, Mr. Duzyj, a Democrat, said he will continue to represent the interests of his district, adding "I'm interested in ideas and feedback for creating a stronger future for Macomb County." The Macomb County Board of Commissioners serves as the legislative, administrative and policy-making body for Macomb County. The board is composed of 26 commissioners who are elected every other year for a two-year term from 26 districts of nearly equal population.

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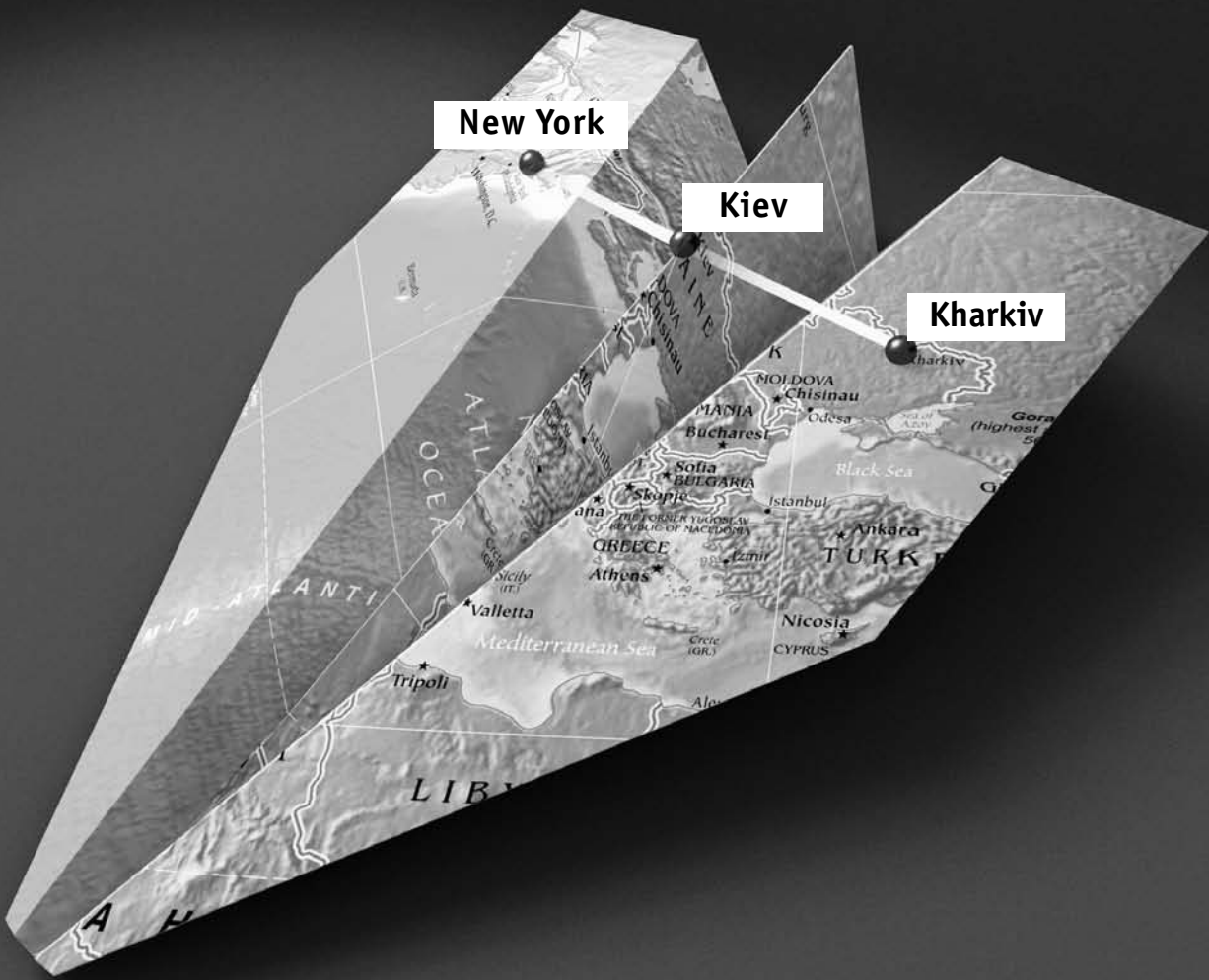


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UNA Convention...

(Continued from page 9)

(Branch 174) and Vera Krywyj (Branch 174) and Ms. Hadzewycz (Branch 287-340) – had met to outline what the convention news release should contain and decided to ask delegates to suggest which news media in their areas should receive releases about the UNA convention.

Also on the final day of deliberations, Advisor Vasyi Luchkiw led a brief ceremony to recognize all veterans of both the U.S. and Ukrainian armed forces on the occasion of Memorial Day. After he asked veterans of various wars and conflicts to rise, the convention delegates gave them a standing ovation. He then called for a moment of silence to honor those who fell in battle and deceased veterans.

Next came the announcement of the final results of voting for Supreme Assembly offices (see complete results published in last week's issue), during which 108 persons out of the 113 authorized voted. The subsequent swearing in of new executive officers, auditors and advisors was conducted by outgoing Advisor Stefan Hawrysz, the most senior member of the General Assembly present at the convention.

The UNA's future

The final item on the agenda was discussion on the topic "UNA: Shaping the Future." It was a wide-ranging discussion that touched on various facets of the UNA's work, from its newspapers to Soyuzivka, the UNA Scholarship Program, the potential market for UNA insurance products among the latest wave of Ukrainian immigrants and succession planning for UNA activists.

Wolodymyr Kozicky (Branch 8) underscored that "the UNA without its press and without Soyuzivka is nothing." He urged delegates to adopt the slogan "Let's preserve our heritage" and to con-

duct fund-raising within our communities. A credit union leader, he pledged to speak about a matching funds program at an upcoming conference of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association.

Lubov Steletsky (Branch 10) focused on the potential UNA membership among new immigrants, underlining, however, that "we have to speak to them in terms they understand." She added that we must stop speaking about "us and them" and welcome new arrivals as members of our community.

Olha Maruszczak (Branch 82/341) said that, if presented a choice between the UNA's publications and Soyuzivka, she would choose the newspapers because without them the UNA will not continue to exist.

Slavko Tysiak (Branch 13) emphasized that the UNA needs succession planning and suggested that a mentoring program be set up to train future branch secretaries.

Responding to one delegate's statement that the lone candidate for president did not present any campaign platform and a question about what the newly re-elected president wants to accomplish in the next four years, Mr. Kaczaraj focused on three main topics: UNA publications, Soyuzivka and insurance sales.

He noted that upgraded websites are in the works for both The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda and expressed his opinion that other Ukrainian community institutions, too, should support the newspapers since they use them to share information about their activities with our community. Mr. Kaczaraj also noted that campaigns are being conducted to increase subscribers and advertisers, both key to improving the publications' bottom line.

Regarding Soyuzivka, the UNA president said "perhaps we have to consider opening the estate to the general public," especially since we need to get people to stay at Soyuzivka during the off-season.

"Occupancy of 70 to 80 percent is normal year-round, but we need better facilities," he continued. He also emphasized the need for better promotion and for advertising among other ethnic groups. Still other possibilities for the estate include the construction of condominiums and a time-share program, Mr. Kaczaraj said, adding that what is most needed is an investor to fund this.

On the insurance side, Mr. Kaczaraj said the UNA needs sales agents to sell to new immigrants. He pointed to Washington and Pennsylvania, where organizers have been very successful among this segment of the Ukrainian community, and asked why this

success cannot be replicated elsewhere. In addition, he said the UNA has to spend some money on training and retraining of branch secretaries.

Turning to the UNA's newly elected advisors, the president said that he will require each advisor to organize three to four meetings per year to which the Home Office will send a representative to speak about the UNA. "First we need to tell people about the UNA, and then we can sell insurance to them," he underlined.

After the president's remarks, the convention was adjourned with the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem.

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National University...

(Continued from page 1)

efforts to create a diaspora studies institute. Since these initial contacts, diaspora contributions have played an integral role in the university's reconstruction and development, Dr. Pasichnyk said.

Although the National University of Ostroh Academy is a government institution, it receives minimal funding from the state that covers only salaries, utility bills and occasional improvements.

For example, the Ukrainian government provided \$60,000 of the library's \$1.2 million total cost, while the diaspora contributed about \$200,000.

About 80 percent of the funding for the library came from diaspora sources – the majority of which was American, Dr. Pasichnyk said.

Since 1999, Dr. Kuropas has directed the Friends of the National University of Ostroh Academy, which is affiliated with the Ukrainian National Foundation (UNF) through which he helped raise \$290,000 in the diaspora.

Dr. Pasichnyk estimates that the U.S. diaspora contributes about \$50,000 annually through the Ukrainian National Association, the parent body of the UNF.

In addition, the UNA contributes at least \$10,000 annually to a program enabling the university to recruit talented orphans or semi-orphaned children from villages into a preparatory program. The university houses, clothes, feeds and educates these students for a year to prepare them for their higher education.

The confidence placed in Dr. Pasichnyk by community leaders caused individual diaspora members to initiate their own projects.

Oleksander Mykhailiuk organized a fund to award 60 grants totaling \$3,000 annually to Rivne high school graduates who come

from low-income families, achieve good grades and demonstrate patriotic ideals.

The Dr. Volodymyr Kuz Fund, named in honor of the Canadian marathon runner, awards \$50 annually to 20 new students who don't drink or smoke and consistently engage in sports.

American Natalia Danylenko has organized an annual competition in Ukrainian patriotism, "Honor the Past, Building the Future," that offers students significant awards.

However, Ostroh Academy isn't dependent on the diaspora and has developed other sources of income to finance its revival, Dr. Pasichnyk said.

Though he declined to reveal the university's annual budget, significant sources of revenue include foreign language courses and correspondence course tuition, he said.

Ukrainian patrons also have arisen.

When he was director of the National Bank of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko contributed to the university.

So did former Lviv Mayor Lubomyr Buniak, until his ouster last year.

"When we opened, no one believed that Ostroh Academy could be reborn," Dr. Pasichnyk said. "Lubomyr Buniak was one of the few people who believed."

Exchange programs have brought American professors to teach for a semester at the university, and 30 Ostroh students trade places with Canadian university students annually.

Not everything has been roses.

Dr. Kuropas managed to obtain a Eurasia Foundation grant enabling five Ostroh professors to study in the U.S. with the goal of establishing a Faculty of Educational Foundations at the university.

Four completed their master's degrees, but only three returned to Ukraine, Dr. Kuropas said. As a result, Ostroh Academy can no longer qualify for Eurasia grants,

and possibly others, he said.

In addition to the library, the university is constructing a \$500,000 lecture hall, Dr. Pasichnyk said.

It plans new residence halls because it now faces a housing shortage, given that the vast majority of students arrive from other Ukrainian cities to study.

This year Ostroh Academy is celebrating the 430th anniversary of its founding as the first institution of higher education not only in Ukraine, but all of Eastern Europe.

The festivities will also mark the 425th anniversary of the Ostroh Bible, the first published in a Slavic language, and the 450th anniversary of the Peresopnytska Gospel, the first text that resembles contemporary Ukrainian and contains the first documented reference to Ukraine.

Dr. Pasichnyk has invited President Yushchenko to unveil the new library in October and kick off the commemoration.

"Above all, we want these celebrations to have a wide resonance throughout Ukraine and to interest Ukrainian teachers and students to learn our history," Dr. Pasichnyk said. "The Ostroh principedom and the Ostroh Academy is the most glorious page of our history which, unfortunately, is largely unknown."

First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, who recently visited Ostroh Academy to lead the "Honor the Past, Building the Future" contest, said the school is a center of spirituality, scholarship and tolerance.

Students asked whether she would want her children to attend the National University of Ostroh Academy.

"I would be proud if they studied here," Mrs. Yushchenko said. "But I know that for them to gain admission they would have to be well-prepared, and we still have to work another 10 years for our children to have the necessary knowledge."

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Russophiles...

(Continued from page 1)

and local.

To change the government language, the pro-Russian forces would have to muster a majority in the Ukrainian Parliament to amend the Constitution.

Taking into account the Justice Ministry's conclusions, the Procurator General's Office protested each of the council's votes, Mr. Holovatyι said. If a council declines the protest, the procurator general has the obligation to file a complaint in court, he said.

"Imagine if the Kharkiv City Council under (Mykhailo) Dobkin decided to issue a Kharkiv currency," Mr. Holovatyι said. "Our Constitution clearly states that Ukraine's currency is the hryvnia, and the national language is Ukrainian. What's happening is they're showing their lack of culture."

As legal justification for their legislative acts, the bills refer to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages adopted by the Council of Europe in 1992 and ratified by Ukraine on May 15, 2003.

The European Charter was designed to protect regional and minority languages of citizens who have traditionally lived in a particular nation and whose language differs from the official one.

The councils have no basis for using the European Charter because it's meant

to preserve languages that are threatened, Mr. Holovatyι said. Nothing is threatening the Russian language in eastern and southern Ukraine, where Russian is spoken by most.

"There is no problem regarding language," he said. "This is political speculation."

On June 6, President Yushchenko repeated the government's firm position that Ukraine has only one official language.

"The Ukrainian language is one of the foundations of the existence of the Ukrainian nation. It's one of its attributes, like its emblem, territory and flag. Every country has similar policies regarding its state language," he said.

As if dealing with the rebellion against the Ukrainian language weren't enough, hundreds of protesters swarmed the main gate of the Crimean port of Feodosiya on May 29 after local leaders learned the American cargo ship USS Advantage had docked days earlier.

Imitating Orange Revolution tactics, the Russophiles pitched tents and more than a hundred stayed on to blockade the port, led by neo-Cossack militias in cavalry uniforms.

Pro-Russian politicians sounded the alarm that the Verkhovna Rada hadn't authorized foreign troops to be on Ukrainian soil, a requirement for every such occasion.

Communist Party Chairman Petro Symonenko demanded resignations from Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko and Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, and even threatened President Yushchenko with impeachment.

The Verkhovna Rada's ombudsman for human rights, Nina Karpachova, demanded that Ukraine's procurator general hold accountable those who gave

permission for an American ship to dock in Crimea.

The Party of the Regions national deputy said the rights of Feodosiya residents had been infringed upon by such a "brutal violation of the Ukrainian Constitution and fundamental nation-building documents."

Even the leadership of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, which supported the Orange Revolution, called for the resignation of Defense Minister Hrytsenko.

More than 220 U.S. Marine reservists from the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Selfridge, Mich., had arrived in Feodosiya on May 27 in order to set up a training base near the town of Staryi Krym, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine reported.

Pro-Russian agitators and leaders began spreading rumors that Americans were setting up a military base, which stirred up local Russophiles.

The Marines' planned exercises merely involved installing latrines and showers, and setting up tents in preparation for an international naval exercise, Sea Breeze 2006, which is to begin in late July.

The U.S. Marine reservists had no military purpose in Staryi Krym, the U.S. Embassy said. They were also going to build barracks that would eventually house Ukrainian soldiers at the base.

The Embassy's official statement noted: "Members of the American group themselves are not part of any military exercise but were invited in preparation for the multinational Sea Breeze exercise. The construction unit in Ukraine will have departed by the time Sea Breeze is scheduled to begin in late July."

However, the Verkhovna Rada had denied permission for the Sea Breeze exercise in a February vote, which gave pro-Russian forces in Ukraine enough cause to launch the anti-NATO protests once the U.S. ship arrived.

When it did arrive, the Marines unloaded bulldozers, graders, containers, medical supplies and some arms and light weapons, mortars, smoke grenades, machine guns and ammunition.

To explain, Ukraine's Foreign and Defense ministries issued a joint statement in which they pointed out that the USS Advantage is a commercial ship and therefore wouldn't require parliamentary approval.

However, the statement didn't account for the weapons and soldiers on board.

Crimean Russophiles continue to protest and blockade access to the Feodosiya port and the Staryi Krym training base, preventing the Marines from entering either site.

The American soldiers have since been biding their time at a Ukrainian Defense Ministry sanatorium, sometimes even venturing out but mostly observing the protesters from their balconies.

"The Americans are treating our request as an order and staying inside the sanatorium," said Volodymyr Bova, a spokesman for Ukraine's naval forces, who added that several African American Marines have been the targets of racial taunts.

A separate group of about 100 Marine reservists had arrived in Symferopol on June 2 and boarded a bus bound for a Defense Ministry sanatorium in the village of Partenit. Dozens of anti-NATO protesters ambushed the bus at 4 a.m.

Yelling anti-American slogans such as "Yankee, Go Home," rocking it back and forth and even shattering a window, they managed to stall the bus, which switched its destination to Alushta with the help of Ukraine Naval Security Forces.

On June 8 Pora activists descended on Feodosiya and set up a counter tent encampment to demonstrate their support

for NATO exercises.

In response, enraged Party of the Regions supporters attacked them.

Among the ironies of the conflict is that Sea Breeze 2006 is not an exclusively NATO exercise, but a joint Ukrainian-U.S. endeavor as part of NATO's Partnership for Peace program in which the Russian Federation is also a participant.

Partnership for Peace programs aren't sponsored or organized by NATO, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine said.

Another irony is that while NATO and the U.S. have no plans to station their troops in Ukraine, the Russian Federation is the one foreign state that maintains a significant military presence in Ukraine via its Black Sea Fleet.

Ukrainian activists have alleged that Russian troops have been illegally occupying certain Ukrainian bases.

President Yushchenko and his political allies accused Russian political forces of inflaming Ukraine's internal conflicts, exploiting a military operation that has been conducted in Ukraine every year since 1997.

The Security Service of Ukraine banned Russian State Duma member Konstantin Zatulin from visiting Ukraine because he had participated in the Feodosiya protests.

Meanwhile, in addition to declaring Crimea a "NATO-free territory" the Crimean Parliament demanded that U.S. troops, NATO representatives and engineering, technical and military equipment should be kept out of the republic until the Verkhovna Rada votes on the matter.

The Party of the Regions has already said it will vote against the Sea Breeze exercise for July, leaving the president dependent on the Socialist Party of Ukraine, which is reluctant to support it.

However, since he's been unable to form a parliamentary coalition thus far, it's doubtful that the Verkhovna Rada will convene a full session in time for a vote.

Mr. Yushchenko's critics maintain the Feodosiya incident is yet another example of his government's inability to lead the nation, as his presidency has been plagued with scandals and controversies.

When the Feodosiya protests erupted, Mr. Hrytsenko had maintained that the USS Advantage had only brought in construction materials. Days later he admitted that weapons also were part of the cargo.

Mr. Tarasyuk, meanwhile, claimed there were no "foreign military units" aboard the Advantage. When the public learned that Marines were, in fact, on the ship, he explained that Reserves are U.S. civilians.

If the government fails to pass the necessary legislation, it would have to cancel not only the Sea Breeze exercise, but five others planned with international forces.

The outcome would be yet another major setback for President Yushchenko, who has made Ukraine's NATO membership by 2008 among the top goals of his presidency.

Russia's goal is to discredit Ukraine as a potential NATO member, Hryhorii Perepelytsia, an expert at the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Diplomatic Academy, told the Associated Press.

"The war for Ukraine has started," he said. "What is happening in Feodosiya is just a piece of a more powerful anti-NATO campaign."

Perhaps the most ironic aspect of the conflict is the scenario under which the Sea Breeze exercise was to be carried out under: NATO forces were to restore order in a breakaway peninsula caught between a totalitarian government and a democratic one.

Addendum

The photos accompanying the story "Cornelia Street Café presents 'Ukrainian Night' to sold-out audiences" (June 4) should have been credited to Vasyl Lopukh.

The Ukrainian Weekly announces a special section

Congratulations, Graduates!

Every year tens of thousands of students throughout North America receive undergraduate and graduate degrees at colleges and universities, cresting a pinnacle of personal achievement.

The Ukrainian Weekly's special section – Congratulations, Graduates! – offers readers of The Ukrainian Weekly the opportunity to place a note congratulating family members and dear friends on their recent achievements. This annual section will be published on July 9, 2006.

To place an ad congratulating a recent graduate, please send us the following by June 26:

- your note of congratulations, in Ukrainian or English, which should be no more than 50 words, including names;
- in English, the full name of the graduate, the degree completed or diploma received, along with the date it was presented, a list of awards and honors given the graduate, and the name and location of the school;
- a photo of the graduate (optional);
- payment for the ad;
- your daytime phone number.

The ad sizes for the greeting are a 1/8 page for \$100 or a 1/4 page for \$180.

Please make checks payable to The Ukrainian Weekly and mail along with above information to:
The Ukrainian Weekly – Congratulations Graduates!
2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054
Attn. Maria Oscislowski

Or e-mail: adsukrpubl@att.net

For further information, please call (973) 292-9800 ext. 3040 (Maria O.) or visit www.ukrweekly.com

OUT AND ABOUT

June 16 Ottawa	Carnival of Cultures, Svitanok Dance Ensemble, Astrolabe Theater, 613-239-5000	June 24 Champaign, IL	Chornobyl symposium and concert, speaker David Marples, music by Scott Wyatt and readings by Irene Zabytko, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 217-333-1244
June 16-18 Yonkers, NY	Ukrainian Heritage Festival, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 914-375-4418 or 914-310-0551	June 24 Uxbridge, ON	Ukrainian Golf Across Canada Golf Tournament, Wooden Sticks Golf Club, 416-763-7000
June 17 Bethlehem, PA	"The Whisperer" film screening, Southside Independent Film Festival, 610-882-4300	June 24 St. Catharines, ON	Ss. Cyril and Methodius Golf Tournament, Garden City Golf Course, zchytra@cogeco.ca
June 17 Toronto	Marusia Bociurkiw book reading ("The Children of Mary") and film screening ("Flesh and Blood"), Paul Petro Multiples +Small Works, andrew@paulpetro.com or 416-979-7874	June 24 Toronto	Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, Hummingbird Center, 416-521-9555
June 18 Horsham, PA	Father's Day Celebration, featuring Voloshky Dancers, Karpaty orchestra and view of USAF Thunderbirds at Willow Grove Air-Show, 215-343-5412	June 25 Horsham, PA	UNWLA Ivan Kupalo Festival, Region 1 Soccer Finals U.S. Open and Amateur Cups, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-343-5412
June 18 Ottawa	Year-end picnic and barbeque, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 613-728-0856	June 26 Toronto	Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, National Arts Center, 416-521-9555
June 18 Ottawa	Carnival of Cultures, Ottawa School of Ukrainian Dance, Astrolabe Theater, 613-239-5000	<i>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.</i>	
June 20 London, ON	Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, Grand Theater, 416-521-9555		
June 21 Hamilton, ON	Volyn Ukrainian Song and Dance Company, Hamilton Place Theater, 416-521-9555		
June 23 Glendale, CA	"God Bless America — In Honor of All Who Served" concert, featuring bass Stefan Szkafarowsky and Ukrainian National Choir Kobzar, Alex Theater, 818-243-2539		
June 23-25 Ellenville, NY	Lemko Vatra, Organization for Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine, Oselia SUM, 973-772-3344 or 203-762-5912		

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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Iskra Dance Ensemble presents "Treasures from the Attic"

by Volodymyr Pavelchak

PALATINE, Ill. – One of the first words an infant learns to say is "Mama." Our mothers cherish us, protect us, worry about us all our lives. They teach us who we are, they guide us as we embark on the road to our future.

The second Sunday in May is Mother's Day. It is only fitting that we should honor our mothers on this day and thank them for everything they have done for us. One of the many celebrations in our community on Mother's Day was the annual spring concert of Palatine's Iskra Dance Ensemble of the Vitovsky Branch, of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), held at Elgin Community College in Illinois.

For over 25 years the Iskra Dance Ensemble has brought together Ukrainian youth in the northwest suburbs of Illinois, providing hundreds of them with an opportunity to learn about their



Palatine's Iskra Dance Ensemble presents its "treasures."

rich national culture. Today those individuals who once themselves danced in the ensemble and later brought their children to classes now watch proudly as their grandchildren take their first tentative steps on stage. It is this blend of generations which ensures that our Ukrainian culture will continue to thrive.

Iskra is pleased to have an excellent staff of dance instructors, including artistic director Kalyna Vasiunec, Adriana Strilchuk, Rostyk Zbotaniv, Adrian Hulyk, Natalka Mischenko and Mykhailo Byts. They were all themselves performers in various Chicago dance ensembles, and now they bring their own children to SUM Palatine's Iskra. Today this ensemble includes four groups at various age levels and technical expertise.

The choreographer of Iskra's performance and director of the concert, titled "Treasures from the Attic," was Ms. Vasiunec. The concert provided a colorful blend of the old and the new, a feast for the eye and ear. Each group of dancers had a unique opportunity to spotlight its talents, in dances ranging from humorous vignettes to international favorites, including traditional Ukrainian folk compositions. Among the many keepsakes unearthed in the attic were the records of some of our favorite Ukrainian dance bands, and the

Iskra ensemble danced to their music, bringing many a reminiscent smile to faces in the audience.

Throughout its existence SUM Palatine and Iskra have received the support of many sponsors, including Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union. As a member-owned cooperative financial institution, Selfreliance promotes the credit union motto "People helping people." One of its priorities is providing support to our Ukrainian youth, both individually and in the various organizations to which they belong, where they learn about their community, its traditions and culture.

During the concert Selfreliance presented a check for \$3,000 to the ensemble, to support its work with Ukrainian youth, and also a check for \$2,500 to the Ukrainian School in Palatine as a thank-you for its participation in the children's savings program recently introduced by the credit union at the Ukrainian Saturday schools of the Chicago area.

Hillside parish shares traditions of Ukrainian pysanky and hahilky

HILLSIDE, N.J. – The children and adults of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, under the direction of Bohdanna Symczyk, learned to write pysanky after the liturgy on April 2. Mrs. Symczyk did a great job of explaining the history of pysanky and providing step-by-step

instructions.

Two young parishioners, Nadia Szpyhulsky and Krista Erakovic, created "vinky" (wreaths) made of beads, sold them to parishioners and then donated the proceeds to the parish's 50th Anniversary Fund. These special vinky had magnets attached to them and were great decorations for everyone's refrigerators.

Two weeks later on Sunday, April 23, under the direction of Odarka Polanskyj-Stockert, the children learned several "hahilky" (ritual spring dances and songs). The children and audience loved the hahilky so much that several hahilky were repeated several times. Even the pastor, Father Joseph Szupa, participated in some hahilky. Afterwards, the children were treated to an Easter egg hunt.



Youngsters perform hahilky.



Another dance number in the "Treasures from the Attic" program.

Cleveland Plast troop’s project helps needy in Ukraine

by **Marta Bodnaruk**

CLEVELAND – “Be faithful to God and Ukraine. Always help others. Live by the Plast rules and listen to your elders.” These are the three main guidelines that have been instilled in us by our scout leader, podruha Ivanka Bodnaruk, and they inspired our Nezabudky troop to take a stand by starting a project that would encompass all three of these principles.

Marta Bodnaruk, Christina Kowcz, Vika Krislaty and Lesia Mahlay are members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization – 28th Kurin of Cleveland. These girls have been working on “druha proba” – the second of three sets of challenges for Plast youths age 11-17. There are many various requirements leading to the rank of “rozviduvachka,” but the girls decided to do a group project that would help their brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

The girls’ knowledge of the poor conditions and lack of supplies throughout different orphanages in Ukraine motivated them to give a helping hand by starting a collection for Children’s Building No. 2. This specific orphanage focuses on newborn children through the age of 5. The collection included, but was not limited to, new and slightly used clothing, diapers, vitamins,

Marta Bodnaruk, 14, is an eighth-grade student at Brecksville-Broadview Heights Middle School. She is the secretary for the Nezabudky troop of Plast. Her many activities include dancing with the Kashtan Ukrainian School of Dance, playing the piano and training at Arun’s Tennis Academy.

OUR NEXT ISSUE: UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated July 9, please send in your materials by June 30.

We especially encourage kids and teens to submit articles and see their names in print. And don’t forget to send a photo or two. Plus, photos of UKELODEON reporters – that means any of you young readers who submit a story – are welcome.

Please drop us a line:
UKELODEON, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Call us at (973) 292-9800; or send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. (We ask all contributors to please include a daytime phone number.)

OUR NAME: UKELODEON: it rhymes with nickelodeon. Yes, that’s a kids’ network (spelled with a capital “N”), but the original word referred to an early movie theater that charged a nickel for admission. According to The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, the root of the word, “odeon,” is from the Greek “oideion,” a small building used for public performances of music and poetry. Our UKELODEON is envisioned as a public space where our youth, from kindergartners to teens, can come to learn, to share information, to relate their experiences, and to keep in touch with each other. Its contents will be shaped by the young readers of the next generation.

hair brushes and shoes.

The girls started their project by creating many posters to spread public awareness of their project. Posters were distributed to different churches and the Plastova Domivka. Vika and Marta, along with her sisters, Olenka and Adriana Bodnaruk, dedicated four Sundays to standing with collection boxes for clothes and contributions at St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church and Pokrova Parish – Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church. The girls also set up a collection area at the Plast home in Parma. The Ukrainian public responded very generously with \$350 in donations.

The sweet aroma of warm chocolate chip cookies, glutinous rice crispy treats, delicious brownies and rich chocolate molds filled the hallways of the Plast home on February 18 as the girls sponsored a bake sale. The sweet treats attracted many customers and a \$50 profit was made, which helped pay for the shipment of the packages.

Soon, the Bodnaruk residence became busier than Grand Central Station as it turned into a drop-off center, with more and more necessities coming in each day. Taras, Marichka and Lukash Kowcz began clearing all the various retail stores for winter baby clothing. The Kowcz family even took the bulk of the collected winter wardrobe on their trip to Lviv in late February so that the children would not have to wait for warm clothing.

Zenon Krislaty traveled to Lviv in March. He visited the orphanage and presented the \$350 donation to the head pediatrician.

Working with the shipping business Ohio Export Corp., owner Roman



The girls of the Nezabudky troop with packages destined for Ukraine: (from left) Christina Kowcz, Lesia Mahlay, Marta Bodnaruk and Vika Krislaty.

Bodnaruk took time out of his busy Saturday to help the girls package over 200 pounds of clothing. The girls were absolutely amazed by the amount of clothing they had collected. It was the first time that the girls actually realized that their goal to

abide by the three main guidelines of Plast was actually possible. It became reality via a simple project that touched each one of them individually, as well as all the people that helped them make this humanitarian effort a reality!

Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the capitalized words on the list in the Mishanyna grid. The list below is meant to help you prepare for summer camp – which is only a few weeks away!

- camp STOVE

sleeping PAD

MESS KIT

flashLIGHT

TENT

HIKING BOOTS

COMPASS

PONCHO
- NALGENE water bottle

pocket KNIFE

SLEEPING BAG

SUNSCREEN

BACKPACK

FIRST AID KIT

insect REPELLENT

BINOCULARS

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

Soyuzivka's Datebook

June 11-16, 2006 UNA Seniors' Conference	July 23-28, 2006 Children's Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp, Session #2
June 16-18, 2006 3rd Annual Adoption Weekend	July 23-29, 2006 Ukrainian Sitch Sports Camp Session #1
June 17, 2006 Wedding	July 23-August 5, 2006 Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp, Session #1
June 18, 2006 Father's Day Luncheon and Program	July 30-August 5, 2006 Ukrainian Sitch Sports Camp Session #2
June 23-24, 2006 Plast Kurin "Shostokryli" Rada	July 31-August 4, 2006 Golf Day Camp and Beach Volleyball Day Camp
June 24, 2006 Wedding	August 5, 2006 Dance Camp Session #1 Recital, Auction Fund-Raiser sponsored by Chornomorski Khvyli and Soyuzivka's Heritage Foundation Golf Tournament
June 25-July 2, 2006 Tabir Ptashat Session #1	August 6-19, 2006 Ukrainian Folk Dance Camp, Session #2
June 25-July 7, 2006 Tennis Camp	August 12, 2006 Miss Soyuzivka Contest followed by zabava with Tempo
June 26-30, 2006 Exploration Day Camp	August 19, 2006 Dance Camp Session #2 Recital, followed by zabava with Fata Morgana
July 2-9, 2006 Tabir Ptashat Session #2	
July 9-15, 2006 Discovery Camp, Session #1	
July 16-21, 2006 Children's Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp, Session #1	
July 16-22, 2006 Discovery Camp, Session #2 SCUBA Diving Course	



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
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E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday-Sunday, June 16-18

YONKERS, N.Y.: The 21st annual Ukrainian Heritage Festival will take place on the grounds of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Broadway and Shonnard Place. Hours are: Friday, 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, 1-10 p.m.; and Sunday, 1-7 p.m. Admission is free. The event will feature free entertainment on an outdoor stage, demonstrations of Ukrainian arts and crafts, Ukrainian food, carnival rides, amusements and exhibits. On Saturday at 1-4 p.m. there will be "pay one price" bracelets at \$10 for all the rides. For further information log on to <http://www.brama.com/yonkersukrainianfest>.

Saturday, June 17

BETHLEHEM, Pa.: The Southside Independent Film Festival will screen Andrea Odezynska's documentary "The Whisperer" (30 minutes), which tells the story of a Ukrainian American visiting her family's homeland who has an unexpected encounter with a traditional village healer that forever changes the course of the traveler's life. Screenings are at noon and 5 p.m. For information log on to www.southsidefilmfestival.com or call 610-882-4300.

Friday, June 23

GLENDALE, Calif.: Famed Irish tenor Anthony Kearns of The Irish Tenors trio, New York Metropolitan Opera bass Stefan Szkafarowsky and film/TV actor George Dzundza, along with the Pasadena

Community Orchestra, join with the Ukrainian National Choir Kobzar of Los Angeles in a concert of rousing patriotic American and Ukrainian songs. "A Musical Salute – God Bless America" is presented by the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles as a tribute to all who have served in the U.S. armed forces, with proceeds going to support children of those fallen in our military during "Operation Enduring Freedom." The event will be at the Alex Theater, 216 N. Brand Blvd., starting at 7:30 p.m. Ticket reservations are available from Kobzar by contacting Dareen Swartzlander, 909-860-2102, or online via www.alextheatre.org.

Friday-Sunday, June 23-25

ELLENVILLE, N.Y.: The Organization for Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine Inc. invites all to the sixth annual Lemko Vatra in the U.S., which will take place at the campgrounds of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM). The program includes a soccer game at 2 p.m. on Saturday, followed by official opening ceremonies and a concert beginning at 3 p.m. Afterwards there will be a pig roast at 4:30 p.m., and a bonfire (vatra) with the main concert beginning at 6 p.m. There will be two dances at 9 p.m. featuring the Halychany and Chetverta Khvyliya bands. Sunday's program includes divine liturgy at 10 a.m., a lecture at 2 p.m. by Katherine Mycio, followed by a concert spotlighting Akkolada and other performers, and closing ceremonies at 5 p.m. For information call 973-772-3344 or 203-762-5912, or e-mail vatrausa@aol.com.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

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

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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

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The 3rd Annual 4th of July Bobriwka Family Picnic



Hawaiian Luau with Surf
and Turf Dinner

Gates open:
Friday June 30th at 12 noon

Bobriwka Resort
Fritz Rd.
Colebrook, CT 06021

For more information visit our
website at: www.bobriwka.org

*Surf and Turf Dinner Tickets must be
purchased in advance by June 24th. Hotdog
and Hamburger Dinner Tickets will be
available at the gate.

For tickets, call Stephan Maksymiuk at (860) 604 7673 or
Paul Czerepaha at (203) 932 4376