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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Foreign policy objectives remain frozen in Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Though the Ukrainian winter was unusually mild, the country's foreign policy remained largely frozen in recent months, characterized by ongoing Russian interference and Ukraine's minimal progress Westward.

Russian soldiers on March 5 refused to allow Ukrainian government officials to enter the MARS-75 navigation station in the Kherson Oblast in order to deliver a court order that the soldiers withdraw, in adherence with Ukrainian law.

Meanwhile, in Brussels, European leaders continued to keep Kyiv at arm's length, stressing the need for Ukraine to join the World Trade Organization, establish a free trade zone and engage in further reforms before serious prospects could emerge.

"We gave the understanding that the European Union (EU) is in a stage of digesting its expansion," said Angela Merkel, the federal chancellor of Germany and EU president.

With a bipolar government that is unlikely to agree on a more aggressive course toward Euro-Atlantic integration, let alone on a foreign affairs minister to replace Borys Tarasyuk, Ukraine remains stuck under a fierce Russian boot.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet

The MARS-75 radio-navigation station is the latest in repeated refusals by the Russian Federation to adhere to Ukrainian court orders requiring that its government transfer Black Sea Fleet property to the Ukrainian government.

Last year, the Sevastopol Economic Court ordered the Russian Federation to transfer control of 77 lighthouses and navigational sites to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. Russia never complied.

At the MARS-75 station in Henichesk, Russian soldiers are violating the Black Sea Fleet arrangement with their presence on Ukrainian territory 200 kilometers away from their Sevastopol base, said Oleh Yatsenko, leader of the Student Brotherhood (Studentske Bratstvo).

Mr. Yatsenko has led a citizens' monitoring campaign of Black Sea Fleet sites and bases on Ukrainian territory, and also leads the Student Brotherhood's active protests and attempts to raise public awareness of Black Sea Fleet violations.

Escorted by law enforcement authorities and Student Brotherhood activists, State Executive Service officials on March 5 delivered an April 11, 2003, court order issued by the Kherson Oblast Economic Court ordering the soldiers'

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Ukrainian Canadians press government on redress issue

by Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — Representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian community — including Paul Grod of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Andrew Hladyshevsky of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association — met on February 16 with Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity to discuss the status of redress for Canada's World War I internment of persons deemed "enemy aliens."

Mr. Kenney said that the government knows it has a legal responsibility to make right on a pledge to Ukrainian Canadians who are continuing their fight for recognition of the fact that previous generations were interned in camps between 1914 and 1920.

Conservative MP Inky Mark's Bill C331 — Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act, which received royal assent in November 2005, is a major leverage point for the Ukrainian effort, due to the

fact that the government has acknowledged that "persons of Ukrainian origin were interned in Canada during the first world war" and agreed to provide recognition of this event.

In honoring this pledge and as a condition of the Agreement in Principle signed in Regina, Manitoba, in August 2005, the Conservative government's solution was to establish the Acknowledgement, Commemoration and Educational Fund program (ACE). Currently referred to as the Community Historical Recognition Program (CHRP), the program is a three- to four-year general fund of \$25 million managed by bureaucrats that is earmarked for approximately a dozen ethnic groups, including Ukrainians, who were told they could apply for project funding.

Additionally, a National Historical Recognition Program (NHRP), which is to be administered by civil servants within the Ministry of Canadian Heritage, distributes the funding of an

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Tymoshenko tells U.S. that Ukraine is in "deep constitutional crisis"



Kristina Lew

Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko meets with Rep. Marcy Kaptur (left) and Rep. Maurice Hinchey (center) on Capitol Hill on March 1. National Deputy Hryhorii Nemyria, an advisor to Ms. Tymoshenko, is on the right.

by Kristina Lew

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — Ukraine's charismatic opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko met with Vice-President Dick Cheney, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during her four-day visit to the nation's capital that mirrored an earlier visit by Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich last December.

Unlike Mr. Yanukovich's official working visit on December 3-7, 2006, Ms. Tymoshenko's February 28-March 3 trip was a private one in which she openly discussed Ukraine's constitutional crisis and called for new parliamentary elections as a means to resolve it.

"Ukraine is in deep constitutional crisis," she told a standing-room only gathering at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on February 28. "The president has said it. The prime minister has said it. We can no longer ignore the fact that Ukraine is losing elements of stability every day, and the standoff between the two branches of government is ruining our well-being, the investment climate and Ukraine's position as a stable partner."

Ms. Tymoshenko said her country's democratic forces have asked Ukraine's Constitutional Court to rule on whether grounds exist for the president to call new parliamentary elections, and that they anticipate an answer by the end of March.

Ukrainians voted in parliamentary elections, hailed by international observers as the most free and fair in Ukraine's history, one year ago, on

March 26, 2006. Members of Ukraine's Parliament, or national deputies, serve five-year terms.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, said after her March 1 meeting with Ms. Tymoshenko, "if the Constitutional Court and Ukraine's leaders approve, then it's probably within reason" for Ukraine to hold new parliamentary elections.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack on March 2 sidestepped a reporter's question about U.S. support for new elections in Ukraine, saying, "I'm not going to get too deeply into the details here. The secretary has met with Ms. Tymoshenko several times before, and including in Ukraine. They talked about the domestic political situation within Ukraine. They talked about Ukrainian energy needs and the various sources that Ukraine might tap into for their energy needs. They talked a little bit about the Millennium Challenge Corp. The [sic] Ukraine has qualified for consideration of Millennium Challenge Corp. grants. They talked about regional issues as well, regional international politics. That's really about it."

Washington meetings

Ms. Tymoshenko, President Viktor Yushchenko's prime minister until he dismissed her in September 2005, arrived in Washington three days after formally creating a single opposition in Parliament with the president's party, Our Ukraine.

She was scheduled to visit New York prior to arriving in Washington, but abruptly cancelled appearances at the Council on Foreign Relations and

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ANALYSIS

Ukrainian-Russian steel merger has top-level political ramifications

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Industrial Union of the Donbas (IUD), Ukraine's second-largest steel-making group, is negotiating a merger with the Russian Metalloinvest group controlled by Alisher Usmanov, who also heads Gazprom's investment arm for assets other than gas, Gazprominvestholding. An IUD-Metalloinvest merger could generate far-reaching political and business repercussions in Ukraine and beyond.

On February 19 the sides signed an agreement on the mutual evaluation of their assets, preparatory to a merger (Financial Times, February 20). A merger would be followed by an initial public offering of the integrated holding on Western capital markets. The stated ambition is to match or overtake the output of Severstal, Russia's largest steel producer.

The IUD is a rival to Renat Akhmetov's Systems Capital Management (SCM), which also is based in the Donetsk region, largely bankrolls the governing Party of the Regions, and holds sway on personnel appointments throughout the economic ministries and agencies. However, SCM by no means fully dominates or represents the Donetsk region's interest groups and has proceeded to pressure some of them.

IUD owners Vitalii Haiduk and Serhii Taruta – each with a stake of slightly under 50 percent – formed a political alignment with the embattled President Viktor Yushchenko during the second half of 2006. Since then, Mr. Haiduk serves as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council; and Oleksander Chalyi – IUD's top political adviser – serves as deputy head of the Presidential Secretariat. Meanwhile, Mr. Taruta oversees IUD's daily operations.

This alignment seeks to counterbalance the close relationship between Mr. Akhmetov's SCM and the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. However, a merger of IUD with Usmanov's Metalloinvest, an ally of Russian energy giant Gazprom, could lead to a reshuffle of top-level political and business relationships in Ukraine.

The Russian holding's iron- and steel-related assets – grouped in the Gazmetall concern – include the Ural Steel plant, the Lebedinsky and Mikhailovsky ore-mining and ore-dressing plants, as well as a 50 percent stake in the Ormeto Machine Plant in co-ownership with Uralmash. Gazmetall produces 6 million tons of raw steel annually.

Mr. Usmanov and the Metalloinvest co-owner Vasily Anisimov are also said to be the main shareholders of Moldova's Ribnita steel plant, situated in the Russian-controlled Transnistria region and said to bankroll the latter's officially acknowledged budget. Ranked among the most modern steel plants in the former USSR, the Ribnita plant has passed through vari-

ous hands of Gazprom-connected Russian companies, from Itera to Metalloinvest, in notoriously opaque transactions. A certain Austro-Ukrainian Hares Group, named after Yushchenko's Arab businessman friend Yusuf Hares, acquired 90 percent ownership of Ribnita in 2004, then sold an undetermined portion of that to the current owners, some of them hidden under decipherable acronyms (Moldpres, Olvia Press, January 29, 30).

The IUD includes the Alchevsk coke and steel plants and the Dniprodzerzhynsk steel plant in Ukraine, as well as the Dunafer and Huta Czystochowa steel plants in Hungary and Poland, respectively. IUD produces 9 million tons of steel pipes and rolled goods annually.

An IUD-Gazmetall merger would result in a combined capitalization of some \$15 billion, reduce production costs and pool existing steel output capacities of 15 to 20 million tons annually. According to the Uzbek-born Mr. Usmanov, the integrated holding would be a leader "on the wide expanses of our former fatherland" (Interfax-Ukraine, February 20).

Such declared ambitions notwithstanding, the merger scheme largely stems from the need to surmount certain handicaps on either side. Gazmetall controls only small production capacities for steel products such as pipes and rolled goods. Moreover, it does not own industrial assets on European Union territory, which IUD does in Poland and Hungary and would include these in the integrated holding.

For its part, IUD does not own iron ore mines and dressing plants in Ukraine or anywhere, but would gain access to such resources through Gazmetall in Russia, thus offsetting a major handicap against IUD's Ukrainian competitors.

IUD's major disadvantage in this regard stems from the manipulative privatization of the Ukrainian Ore Industry (Ukrudprom) in 2004 by then-President Leonid Kuchma and the first government of Viktor Yanukovich. That privatization awarded the lion's share – the Central and Southern iron ore-dressing plants – to Mr. Akhmetov's SCM, along with a stake in the Southern plant to Ihor Kolomoiskyi's Pryvat Group and with the Inhulets ore-dressing plant to Russian businessman Vadim Novinsky's Smart Group. At present, Gazmetall and Smart Group seek to acquire stakes in the Kryvyi Rih ore-dressing plant, which is up for privatization and in which SCM is also an interested party (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 18).

Deprived of a domestic iron-ore base of its own, IUD has had to resort to costly ore imports from overseas or to buy it from its political and business rivals, which in turn have resorted to overpricing. With SCM now essentially in control of the government, IUD is reaching out to Russia for iron-ore supplies through Gazmetall. Given Usmanov's close relations with Gazprom, it seems likely that SCM also hopes for special arrangements on gas supplies (as SCM is said to have obtained for itself in 2006).

These realignments entail not only business but also political ramifications, reflecting the political roles of major steel producers in Ukraine, with SCM and IUD backing the government and the presidency, respectively, in their ongoing power struggle.

Sources: *Interfax-Ukraine, February 18, 19, 20; Ukrayinska Pravda, February 18.*

The article above is reprinted from *Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.*

NEWSBRIEFS

Yushchenko hails opposition unity

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told a press conference in Chernivtsi on March 6 that he "approves and appreciates" the unification of opposition forces in the Verkhovna Rada. "I am happy to say that a congress of the Our Ukraine Bloc, which is scheduled for March 31, will be held to unify several bloc members and to create one party with one statute," he said. The president said it would help "minimize formal problems" which "impede political progress." He said the unification of the pro-presidential bloc and ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc "gives the best answer on how to harmonize Ukrainian politics," adding, "It has always been a very difficult and ambitious challenge to consolidate Ukraine's democratic movement." Mr. Yushchenko reiterated that the country's leaders should hold talks on how to create an effective system of checks and balances, with the opposition being one of the key participants of this process. (Ukrinform)

PM: no grounds for early elections

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich told representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Kyiv on March 5 that the calls by some politicians for early parliamentary and presidential elections in Ukraine are "groundless," Interfax-Ukraine reported. Last week, a lawmaker from the Party of the Regions headed by Mr. Yanukovich announced that he plans to submit to the Verkhovna Rada a bill on holding early presidential and parliamentary elections in the fall. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv starts new talks with EU

BRUSSELS – Ukraine and the European Union launched negotiations in Brussels on March 5 on a new cooperation accord to replace the current one, which expires in 2008, dpa and UNIAN reported. "This is an important step to have Ukraine come closer to us, and it will send a signal of our wish to deepen relations with Ukraine," EU External Relations Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner said following a meeting with

Ukrainian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Veselovskyi. "I want to reiterate that this enhanced agreement will be drafted within the framework of European Neighborhood Policy," Ms. Ferrero-Waldner noted, adding that the new agreement will not prejudice any possible developments in relations between Ukraine and the EU. She said the new cooperation agreement could help lead to a deal on free trade between the EU and Ukraine. But she added that talks on this issue will begin only after Ukraine is accepted into the World Trade Organization. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Ukrainian president visits Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia – Visiting Tbilisi on March 1, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko discussed with his Georgian counterpart, Mikheil Saakashvili, bilateral relations and cooperation, their respective countries' bids for NATO membership and regional cooperation, including within the GUAM group, Georgian media and kavkaz-uzel.ru reported. Speaking at a subsequent joint press conference, Mr. Yushchenko reiterated earlier offers by Ukrainian leaders to contribute a contingent to an international peacekeeping force to be deployed in Abkhazia under the aegis of the United Nations. The two sides signed several bilateral agreements, including one facilitating the permanent residence of citizens of one country in the other, and a second one facilitating the export to Ukraine of Georgian wine and mineral water, Caucasus Press reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

President against early elections

TBILISI, Georgia – President Viktor Yushchenko said in Tbilisi on March 1 that he does not approve of the proposal to hold simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections this coming fall, UNIAN reported. Mr. Yushchenko was commenting on the initiative of a lawmaker from the ruling Party of the Regions to submit a draft bill to that effect. According to Mr. Yushchenko, the potential early elections would reinstall the same political forces in Parliament

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Clarification

In the story headlined "PinchukArtCentre develops Ukraine's exhibition at Venice Biennale" (February 25), an incorrect title was given for Peter Doroshenko. Though his title in Ukrainian is "komisar" of the Ukrainian exhibition at the biennale, his title in English is commissioner. That translation error became evident only after The Weekly received an official news release from the BALTIC Center for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, England; Mr. Doroshenko is director of BALTIC.

Retribution behind calls for early elections

by Jan Maksymiuk
RFE/RL

PRAGUE – Last week, a lawmaker from the ruling Party of the Regions submitted to the Verkhovna Rada a draft bill on holding simultaneous early parliamentary and presidential elections this coming fall.

A week earlier two opposition parties, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine, signed a unity deal in which they pledged to seek early parliamentary elections.

Is Ukraine poised to plunge into a whirlwind of electioneering this year?

“We see that the situation is getting out of control, including the president’s control,” Party of the Regions lawmaker Vasyl Kyseliov told journalists two days before submitting his draft bill to the legislature.

“Therefore I, as a national deputy, am working out a draft bill, or a draft resolution, on simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections in the fall, approximately on September 30.”

The next presidential election in Ukraine is due in 2009, the parliamentary ones in 2011.

Ruling coalition’s response

Mr. Kyseliov’s initiative seems to be the ruling coalition’s “asymmetric” response to the opposition’s formalized vow to seek early parliamentary elections.

Will the Verkhovna Rada put the bill on early parliamentary and presidential elections on its agenda?

Ivan Boykin, head of the Socialist Party’s parliamentary caucus, said he believes that if the political rivalry between Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and President Viktor Yushchenko continues, Mr. Kyseliov’s proposal may not only be put to a vote but also endorsed by the ruling coalition.

“There is madness on the part of one political force, and the other political force has also begun to go mad and wants to propose this madness to all of Ukraine,” Mr. Boykin said. “But if this madness goes on, if this affliction is not cured on Bankova Street [in the Presidential Secretariat] or in Parliament, if there is not enough sense to realize that playing with the idea of the dissolution of Parliament is hopeless, we will have to support this [bill].”

Messrs. Yanukovich and Yushchenko have recently locked horns over a bill that extends the powers of the Cabinet and the Parliament at the expense of the president.

Mr. Yushchenko vetoed the bill, but the ruling coalition of the Party of the Regions, the Socialist Party and the Communist Party managed to override his veto with the help of the opposition Tymoshenko Bloc. Mr. Yushchenko subsequently appealed to the Constitutional Court.

In what seemed to be a political tit for tat, the ruling coalition rejected Mr. Yushchenko’s nominees for the posts of foreign affairs minister and head of the Security Service of Ukraine.

Shaky legal ground

Ukrainian political analyst Kostiantyn Bondarenko said he believes that early elections could be a way out of the current political standoff in Ukraine.

“There are no legal grounds [for early polls], but there is a problem of confrontation and a problem of the dead end in which Ukraine has found itself because of the institutional confrontation between the Cabinet of Ministers and the Presidential Secretariat,” Mr. Bondarenko said. “[Such elections]

would not be the worst scenario.”

Mr. Bondarenko is right in suggesting that Mr. Kyseliov’s draft bill on holding early parliamentary and presidential polls makes no legal sense.

Staging early parliamentary elections is the exclusive constitutional prerogative of the president, who calls for such polls if the Verkhovna Rada fails to form a majority within 30 days after its first sitting or a new Cabinet within 60 days after the dismissal or resignation of the previous one; or if it fails to gather for a sitting within 30 days during an ongoing parliamentary session.

Thus, in order to produce formal grounds for early parliamentary elections, the ruling coalition would need to prohibit its lawmakers from convening for a month rather than pass a bill with no legal force.

On the other hand, the opposition could create prerequisites for early parliamentary polls by challenging the legality of the Yanukovich Cabinet before the Constitutional Court.

The current Verkhovna Rada convened for its first sitting in late May 2006. The parliamentary majority supporting the Yanukovich Cabinet was formed in early August 2006, thus apparently overstepping the time frame set by the Constitution by more than a month. Consequently, if the Constitutional Court confirmed that Mr. Yanukovich’s Cabinet was formed beyond this time frame, President Yushchenko could dissolve the legislature and call for new elections.

The fundamental law

The Ukrainian Constitution stipulates that an early presidential ballot may be held only after the incumbent president has resigned or died, has been unable to perform his duties because of his health, or has been impeached by Parliament. Clearly, no such preconditions are present in Ukraine.

National deputies from the ruling coalition seem to realize, too, that Mr. Kyseliov’s draft bill is more of a propaganda move than a real threat to Mr. Yushchenko’s presidency. Lawmaker Volodymyr Zubanov from the Party of the Regions suggested that Mr. Yushchenko could resign as Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine’s first president, did in 1994 in order to defuse a political confrontation.

“In 1994 when there was a parliamentary and presidential crisis, Kravchuk agreed to leave his post before the end of his term and hold an early election,” Mr. Zubanov said. “I think that today it would be timely for Yushchenko to step down and hold early [parliamentary and presidential] elections on September 30.”

But President Yushchenko has no intention of following in President Kravchuk’s steps. Last week Mr. Yushchenko said the idea to hold an early presidential election is “provocation, blackmail and psychological pressure.” According to him, potential early parliamentary elections would reinstall the same political forces in Parliament that are there now.

This week, Prime Minister Yanukovich also went public and said that the calls for early parliamentary and presidential elections are “groundless.” Mr. Yanukovich’s statement may imply a withdrawal of Mr. Kyseliov’s draft bill from the legislative agenda.

The Tymoshenko factor

However, the topic of early parliamentary elections is likely to remain on the public agenda in Ukraine. This is because

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U.S. Ambassadors Miller and Herbst receive Ukraine’s awards “For Merit”



Ukraine’s Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (right) praises former U.S. Ambassadors to Ukraine William Green Miller (second from right) and John Herbst during a ceremony at which the two men received Ukrainian state orders “For Merit.” Looking on is U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns (left).

Embassy of Ukraine in the United States

WASHINGTON – Ukraine’s ambassador to the United States, Oleh Shamshur, on February 22 presented the high Ukrainian orders “For Merit” to Ambassadors William Green Miller and John Herbst. The awards recognized their personal contributions to strengthening relations between Ukraine and the United States, as well as outstanding diplomatic performance while they were representing the United States as envoys to Ukraine.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns and other State Department officials attended the ceremony, which took place at the U.S. State Department.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Dr. Shamshur pointed out the longstanding

commitment of Ambassador Miller to Ukraine even after he officially ended his ambassadorial duties in Kyiv. He continues to take an active part in further development of U.S.-Ukraine relations, serving as a co-chair of the Coalition for a Secure and Democratic Ukraine.

The Ukrainian ambassador also highly praised Ambassador Herbst, who represented the U.S. in Ukraine at the time of the unprecedented historic events of the Orange Revolution.

Ambassador Shamshur remarked that Ukraine today continues its course toward Euro-Atlantic integration, transforming itself into a modern European state and building upon the mutual benefits of the Ukraine-U.S. strategic partnership.

Quotable notes

[The proposed cuts and reductions in U.S. international broadcasting are] “a gift to dictators and suppressors of press freedom.”

“Whenever budget cuts become necessary to pay for new programs to countries and regions where freedom of expression is suppressed, the BBG [Broadcasting Board of Governors] inevitably relies on cutting programs to audiences which are also deprived of free media but are less important for the foreign policy goals of the [Bush] administration.

“This lack of consistency sends a terrible signal to defenders of freedom and courageous journalists around the world.”

– *FreeMediaOnline.org*, a San Francisco-based non-profit organization, as quoted by the *BBC Monitoring Service*, February 27, in an analysis by Peter Feuilherade headlined “Planned Cuts in Language Services Mar Voice of America’s 65th Anniversary.”

“I think it’s laughable, tragic and absurd for the Voice of America not to broadcast in English.

“I mean, if Radio Moscow stopped broadcasting in Russian, people would be shocked. If Radio Beijing stopped broadcasting in Chinese – imagine Radio France not broadcasting in French.”

– *Sanford Ungar*, who headed Voice of America from 1999 to 2001, commenting on the proposed radical reduction of English-language broadcasts. Quoted in a February 27 analysis by Peter Feuilherade of the *BBC Monitoring Service*.

“The march to democracy has taken a back step in Russia.”

“Those that [Russian President Vladimir Putin] is listening to are extremely conservative and very suspicious of the United States. [They] interpret things through a lens that portrays Russia as the downtrodden, or [that indicates] we’re trying to hold them back to the advantage of the United States.”

– *U.S. Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell speaking before a U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on February 27, as quoted by RFE/RL Newswire.*

Tymoshenko honored by U.S. conservatives at Ronald Reagan Banquet

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — Yulia Tymoshenko had a roaring reception near the end of her Washington visit at a gathering of American political activists, whose conference coincided with her four-day stay here.

The Ukrainian opposition leader was honored on March 2 at the Ronald Reagan Banquet of the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), a meeting of Republican Party's conservative base activists, which this year also attracted the party's presidential candidates.

By coincidence, the banquet was in the same huge hall at the Omni Shoreham Hotel where President Viktor Yushchenko had been honored by the Ukrainian American community in April 2005.

"In recognition of her commitment to freedom and democracy in Ukraine," John Fund of the Wall Street Journal presented her with a large, leather-bound portfolio containing three original proclamations signed by President Reagan — two honoring Captive Nations Week, and one commemorating the victims of the Great Famine in Ukraine.

When the ovation of the more than 2,000 guests had died down, Ms. Tymoshenko thanked the hosts, saying that she was accepting the honor "as a sign of your respect for my country, Ukraine, which I love with all my heart."

Citing President Reagan's inspirational call in Berlin — "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" — she said that is what the Orange Revolution did and is continuing to do.

"Yet, as Ronald Reagan knew, liberty demands eternal vigilance," she added, "so, once again, we are defying a government that seeks to corrupt our democracy and curtail our independence."



Yulia Tymoshenko receives a standing ovation during the Ronald Reagan Banquet at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington.

"We shall persist, and our democracy shall prevail," she stressed, adding that her work will not end until Ukraine overcomes every obstacle to become — again quoting President Reagan — the next "shining city on the hill."

Bringing on yet another standing ovation, she concluded with "God bless Ukraine, and God bless the United States of America."

Being a gathering of the staunch conser-

vative base of the Republican Party, there were moments during the banquet which may well have caused a visiting foreign non-partisan politician some discomfort.

As Ukrayinska Pravda correspondent Tetiana Nykolaenko noted in her concluding report, the American guests were obviously enjoying the anti-Hillary Clinton cartoon playing on the hall's large screens during dinner as well as the partisan jokes and jabs by some of the

speakers that, she said, "bordered on the obscene."

She also detected an added measure of the "grotesque" in the fact that the "Defender of the Constitution Award" was presented to a wounded American soldier by a person who some years ago had been tried for illegal arms trading. The presenter, radio talk show host Lt. Col. Oliver North, was involved in the Iran-Contra affair in the 1980s.

Tymoshenko tells...

(Continued from page 1)

Columbia University set for February 26. A press release attributed Ms. Tymoshenko's absence to the flu.

In Washington, Ms. Tymoshenko also met with Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), leader of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Rep. Kaptur, Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), co-chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus; and Madeleine K. Albright, secretary of state under President Bill Clinton and chairman of the National Democratic Institute. Ms. Tymoshenko traveled with National Deputies Hryhorii Nemyria, Yevhen Korniyuchuk, Viktor Shvets and Oleksander Feldman.

She spoke at CSIS on the first day of her visit and at the National Press Club on March 2. There, as at all of her public appearances, she spoke of the gains made in Ukraine after the Orange Revolution that she helped lead in November 2004, the need to stem the constitutional crisis with new parliamentary elections, and Ukraine's energy and economic security.

Ms. Tymoshenko told the National Press Club that the Orange Revolution brought true political competition and



Yulia Tymoshenko arrives at Rayburn House Office Building on March 1 with (from left) National Deputies Hryhorii Nemyria, Yevhen Korniyuchuk, Viktor Shvets and Oleksander Feldman.

freedom of speech to Ukraine, and that the government of Prime Minister Yanukovych was not defending Ukraine's national interests.

The country's constitutional crisis and the power struggle between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister

Yanukovych stems, she said, from the constitutional reform that was adopted on January 1 of last year, and she reiterated that her bloc was the only political force in Ukraine that opposed it.

She discussed regional energy security and Russia's attempts to control Ukraine's gas distribution network, telling an over-capacity audience at CSIS that "it's not just about gas — it's about violating the political sovereignty of Ukraine."

She warned that the Yanukovych government would bring Ukraine into the Single Economic Space, a supra-governmental agency that will dictate Ukraine's

financial, monetary and customs policy. Ukraine, she said, would have only an 11 percent stake in the SES, while Russia would control over 80 percent of the institution's work.

She defended her support of the law on imperative mandate — which would permit a political party or bloc to revoke the mandate of a deputy in a local council if he or she were to switch party allegiance — by pointing out that Ukraine does not have a developed system of political parties and that the law, currently under review by the Constitutional Court, would strengthen party tradition.

Her rhetoric was meant to counter what analysts have been referring to as "Ukraine fatigue." Rep. Levin addressed the issue squarely on March 1 after their meeting: "There was some reference to whether there was fatigue about Ukraine. I think the issue is not fatigue, but concern," he said.

Fatigue was wanting at a town hall-style meeting between Ms. Tymoshenko and the Ukrainian community on March 1, where she was greeting with chants of "Yulia! Yulia!" That meeting, organized by The Washington Group, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, was attended by over 300. Earlier, Ms. Tymoshenko met with leaders of Ukrainian American organizations from Washington, Philadelphia and New York.

Ms. Tymoshenko also was honored for her work for democracy in Ukraine by the Conservative Political Action Conference at a banquet held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on March 2.

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Ukrainian opposition leader meets with Ukrainian Americans

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Unlike Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who would not meet with Ukrainian Americans during his visit here three months earlier, Yulia Tymoshenko devoted the evening of March 1 to two such get-togethers – a small gathering with organizational representatives and a large meeting with the community.

The community meeting, held in one of the larger caucus rooms in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill, attracted some 300 Ukrainian Americans. Most were from the Washington area, but the assembly included small groups from Baltimore and Philadelphia, and individuals who came from as far as New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The participants heard the Ukrainian opposition leader give her analysis of political developments in Ukraine and what corrective measures she thought were needed in the future. They also had a chance to express their concerns and ask Ms. Tymoshenko questions during the discussion that followed.

In her presentation, Ms. Tymoshenko underscored many of the same points she raised at other public venues in Washington, in meetings with Bush administration officials and members of Congress. The Yanukovich team is intent on tightening its hold on the government and economy of Ukraine and bringing it into the Russian fold, she said.

“The Yanukovich government, regardless of what anybody says, is not working for Ukraine, for Ukraine’s national interest, is not working to maintain Ukraine’s independence,” she said. That was particularly evident in the way it is trying to hand over Ukraine’s energy and energy transport sector to Russian control.

Ms. Tymoshenko pointed out that these intentions are also apparent in the Yanukovich government’s apparent indifference to Russia’s expressed intentions in Crimea and in Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov’s push to get Ukraine into the Russia-dominated Single Economic Space, in which Ukraine’s voting share would be 11 percent, compared to Russia’s 80 percent.

The Yanukovich team’s plans must be checked, she said, initially with the help of the Constitutional Court, and its government hopefully would be dislodged from power through early parliamentary elections.

As a first step, she stressed, they must not be allowed to buy a 300-vote Constitutional majority in the Verkhovna Rada, which would give them unlimited power – to change the Constitution, the government and the country, in general. And even though her party and that of President Viktor Yushchenko are now in agreement once again, she added that one could not guarantee that their party members would not “trade in their souls, trade in the future of Ukraine for, as an example, \$5 million. And a few have already done so.”

To prevent the further buying away of deputies by the Yanukovich team, she said, they have asked the



Yulia Tymoshenko, with fellow Verkhovna Rada deputies sitting beside her, discusses developments in Ukraine with representatives of Ukrainian American organizations at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington: (front row, from left) Orest Deychakiwsky, Adrian Pidlusky, Ihor Gawdiak, Nadia Komarnycky-McConnell; (second row) Ihor Kotlarchuk, Bohdan Futey. Discussion moderator Andrew Bihun is on Ms. Tymoshenko’s right.

Constitutional Court to rule that a deputy cannot switch from one party list to another and remain in the Verkhovna Rada. They expect a ruling within a few weeks, she said. They have also asked the court to affirm the president’s right to disband the Verkhovna Rada and call early elections. She said they hoped to get a ruling on that issue before the end of April.

It will not be easy, but it must be done, she warned. “If this Yanukovich team, if this mafia remains in power until 2011, it’s hard to predict in what condition the opposition will find itself – who will be free, and who will find himself behind bars. It will be hard to say what decisions will be made, and can they be countered.”

If this happens, Ms. Tymoshenko said, it will have a negative affect on the other countries in the region, like Georgia and Moldova. But, in conclusion, she expressed her conviction in the righteousness and ultimate triumph of



Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko and National Deputy Hryhorii Nemyria at a town-hall style meeting with the Ukrainian American community on March 1.



Yulia Tymoshenko describes the political situation in Ukraine and her vision for its future in front of some 300 people attending a community meeting at the Rayburn House Office Building organized by Washington-based Ukrainian American organizations.

her alliance’s mission.

“Ukraine will play its role and mission. Additionally, I am convinced – and no one will convince me otherwise – that Ukraine is and will be the spiritual center of this region, because no politicians will be able to lessen, hide or destroy the spirit that was born in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution. I am convinced that the spirit continues to live in the hearts of true Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad,” she said.

To which the audience replied by chanting: “Nas bahato! Nas ne podolaty!” (We are many! We cannot be defeated!)

Among the issues raised in the discussion session that followed was the fate of the “selo” (the village and farmers) in the new economy, and of the Ukrainian language and culture, in general. One questioner complained about the difficulties encountered by Ukrainian voters residing abroad, and a Radio Liberty reporter questioned the trustworthiness of some of the deputies now allied with Mr. Tymoshenko.

The community meeting with Ms. Tymoshenko was arranged by a committee of four organizations: the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and The Washington Group, an association of Ukrainian American professionals.

Earlier that evening, representatives of these and other Ukrainian American organizations had a separate discussion session with the Ukrainian opposition leader.

On the last day of her stay in Washington, March 3, just before flying home, Ms. Tymoshenko placed a bouquet of flowers at the Taras Shevchenko monument.

Back in Kyiv, Tymoshenko assesses her U.S. visit as a success

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Parliamentary opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko told the Kyiv press corps on March 5 that her three-day U.S. trip was a success, having received high-level support for legally attained pre-term parliamentary elections, as well as her ongoing efforts to reform Ukraine's energy sector.

"Highly estimated were the unification of democratic forces in Ukraine, the perception of all threats within Ukraine's energy market and also the rebuilding of a new authoritarianism in Ukraine," Ms. Tymoshenko said of her meetings, which included U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Specifically, she said top American officials expressed their understanding and support for her key energy positions, which are based on the principles of transparency, competitiveness and diversification.

Aside from her stated accomplishments, the three-day trip tried to reinforce the image of Ms. Tymoshenko and her bloc as Ukraine's leading democratic alternative to the Party of the Regions, which she has persistently cast as a corrupt, authoritarian force hostile to Western political values.

The Party of the Regions has undergone a significant image makeover since the 2004 elections, and has since gained increasing levels of respectability, acceptance and even support from certain Western leaders and businessmen.

Amidst this change in perception, Ms. Tymoshenko has struggled to depict the scenario as an ongoing struggle between forces for democracy, free markets and Western values against those supporting authoritarianism, command market policies and Eurasian values.

"The Party of the Regions hasn't changed," Ms. Tymoshenko told Kyiv reporters. "It is a mafia which, in forming the coalition government, practically created a national revolution and continues to do so. The sooner we're able to stop this, the sooner Ukrainians will be able to live a stable, predictable life."

The opposition leader said her visit was vital in explaining the causes of and solu-

tions to Ukraine's current political instability, as well as its closer relations with the Eurasian sphere. She underscored that it was important for the U.S. to understand recent developments in Ukraine, so that it doesn't cross Ukraine off its list of stable nations ripe for investment.

The means to halt the rise of authoritarianism that Ms. Tymoshenko agitated for is pre-term parliamentary elections.

"Pre-term elections will finally return to Parliament honestly elected political forces that will be able to change today's situation and renew Ukraine's path toward Euro-integration, towards honestly building the government's work, and towards transparency and consistency of reform that needs to take place in Ukraine," she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko's best chance at forcing pre-term elections would involve finding 150 deputies, or one-third of the Verkhovna Rada to resign and turn in their deputy mandates.

While all 125 Tymoshenko Bloc deputies would be willing, it's unclear how many from the Our Ukraine bloc would agree, considering that many stand to lose their parliamentary seats because the bloc isn't likely to win as many votes in repeat elections.

Furthermore, President Viktor Yushchenko, who is honorary chair of the Our Ukraine bloc, has repeatedly indicated that he isn't ready to take that drastic step.

The U.S. government will support pre-term elections as long as they're executed within the bounds of Ukraine's Constitution and law, and based on legal principles, Ms. Tymoshenko said. "It will be exclusively a legal path, not public disturbances or calls for a new revolution," she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko is leading an aggressive drive for pre-term elections because she sees a danger of the Party of the Regions remaining in power until the next parliamentary elections in four years, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is financed by Ukrainian business donations.

"They will become much more entrenched. In that case the elections will be much less fair than what we can get in the

near term," he said. "Despite its lip service on democracy, the Party of the Regions really has only one task: to increase through politics and the media its own affluence, power and control. Tymoshenko understands they can't be allowed another four years. It's a big amoeba that swallows everything it comes into contact with."

The opposition leader told U.S. officials the Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine blocs are jointly drafting a new edition of the Ukrainian Constitution to put an end to attempts to revise it for what she described as "totalitarian" ends.

Ms. Tymoshenko also spent a significant time discussing Ukraine's energy situation, which is directly related to Europe's energy stability.

Issues of concern that were discussed included usurpation of Ukraine's natural gas market, RosUkrEnergo affiliates' export of electricity, RosUkrEnergo's control of energy distribution networks and RosUkrEnergo affiliates' encroachment upon natural gas and oil transit systems, she said.

"All these developments demonstrate that the level of energy safety in Ukraine is in a critical state," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

RosUkrEnergo is a Swiss-registered company in which the Russian natural gas monopoly Gazprom holds a 50 percent stake, and Ukrainian businessmen Dmytro Firtash and Ivan Fursin own the other half.

The company derives enormous profit from serving as an intermediary between Gazprom and Ukrainian natural gas distributor Naftohaz in providing natural gas to Ukraine – a role that many experts, including Ms. Tymoshenko, insist is unnecessary.

For many years, Ukrainian leaders, among them Mr. Yushchenko, refused to reveal who were the partners in RosUkrEnergo. They were finally outed by the Russian daily newspaper Izvestia in April 2006.

Ms. Tymoshenko also met with Millennium Challenge Corp. officials, who announced in January that Ukraine may qualify for a grant between \$500 million and several billion dollars to develop a sustainable economic development project on a national scale.

Ms. Tymoshenko became the first leader to publicly propose a project, suggesting the modernization and reconstruction of the nation's heating system, as well as the extension of hot water to the nation's entire population as a means of reducing natural gas use and increasing energy efficiency.

She also suggested distributing funds to regional governments to address social problems.

Ms. Tymoshenko announced a joint project between the Tymoshenko Bloc and the U.S.-based RAND Corp. to conduct specialized research on the state of trade relations between the U.S. and Ukraine. The RAND Corp. will also perform an evaluation of the nation's investment climate, with political recommendations for its improvement, she said.

Ms. Tymoshenko said her U.S. visit, first in nearly a decade, finally put to rest what she called political provocations against her suggesting that U.S. law enforcement authorities still had concerns regarding her formerly close business ties with Pavlo Lazarenko.

The former prime minister was convicted in a U.S. federal court in August of money laundering, wire fraud and interstate transport of stolen property. He was sentenced to nine years in federal prison.

In meeting with high-level officials, Ms. Tymoshenko also addressed the Russian Federation's role in sending "colossal political money" into the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to support organizations that threaten Ukraine's territorial integrity and create instability.

Ms. Tymoshenko said she would soon meet with Mr. Yushchenko to discuss her trip's results.

When asked by reporters what gift she wanted from the Ukrainian president for the March 8 national holiday, which is International Women's Day, her interests went beyond flowers and chocolates.

"I expect consistency in uniting democratic forces and in conducting pre-term elections," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "I think that would be the best present from Ukraine's president for all of Ukraine's women."



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FOR THE RECORD: Yulia Tymoshenko interviewed by VOA

Following is the English-language translation of an exclusive Voice of America interview with Yulia Tymoshenko. The interview was released on March 5.

by Zoreslav Baydyuk
Voice of America

Speaking here in Washington, you have been emphasizing that the goal of your visit is to, primarily, present the opposition's point of view on current events in Ukraine. So, what exactly did you discuss with Vice-President Richard Cheney, the influential Sen. Richard Lugar, and what topics did you cover with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice?

There were two main topics. The first one dealt with the political situation in Ukraine as well as our concerns that today, as never previously during the past 15 years, there exist dangers to Ukraine's independence as a country, as well as risks that we may forever lose out on opportunities in the energy sector as concerns the diversification of energy supplies not only into Ukraine, but also into European Union countries.

Therefore, I laid out all the facts that today give cause for concern, because it is important for us that all democratic countries worldwide that stood by Ukraine throughout all the events of the [2004] presidential elections, that supported and continue to support Ukraine in her efforts to strengthen democracy – that they have at their disposal information about events taking place in Ukraine from multiple sources.

We are concerned that power in Ukraine today is being monopolized by one political force – the Yanukovich team that promotes its own reform strategy for Ukraine – one that is diametrically opposed [to ours] – both in the area of domestic policy as well as in foreign policy strategies. We are concerned that today among Ukraine's assets that are being [voluntarily] relinquished is her capability to develop her own closed nuclear fuel cycle. We are concerned that our uranium deposits have been handed over to some unknown joint company of which Russian corporations are part. We are not happy that today certain amounts of surplus electricity that is being generated but not consumed in Ukraine somehow end up in the hands of certain companies affiliated with RosUkrEnergo, and are exported not by Ukraine, but by these not very transparent companies, which are active also in the Ukrainian gas sector.

For us, all of these things are signs that Ukraine, first of all, is clearly sliding away from [its goal of] European integration and, secondly, sliding in a direction that will compound [existing] energy problems.

In your speeches you have suggested early [parliamentary] elections as a way out of the [current] political crisis. The United States, generally speaking, is a country that cherishes stability. Don't you think that your suggestion could alienate the U.S. government, and particularly U.S. businessmen and investors that have already grown tired of the constant instability in Ukraine?

If anyone would want to describe the current political situation in Ukraine as stable, it certainly wouldn't be me. I think that particularly the signs of a deep constitutional crisis that manifests itself in the confrontation between different branches of government – a rather radical confrontation, one might add – a crisis, in which two branches of government that have been popularly elected profess two different strategic directions for Ukraine, then I would say that this can't be characterized as stability.

And the sooner we find a solution, an exit strategy for these intractable problems, the sooner Ukraine will have its stability.

And Ukraine needs political stability as much as man needs fresh air. But [this stability] needs to be created. Today it is absent. And we think that early elections are a democratic procedure that has been employed already by almost all countries. Early elections are known as something foreseen by the constitutions of many countries, and I don't see anything out of the ordinary here – other than it being a vehicle through which stability can be achieved.

During your visit to the United States you have met with civic and political leaders. What are your expectations?

First and foremost, [for them] to understand Ukraine. Because there is plenty of information that is currently being deliberately disseminated out of Ukraine. There are those who claim that there are wonderful changes occurring in Ukraine today – changes that lead, as you say, to stability and that bring results in terms of domestic and foreign policy.

We, however, think that the situation is, in fact, quite different. And our primary hope is for leading policy-makers to understand [this] and to formulate their policies vis-à-vis our country accordingly.

Secondly, we are hoping that decisions will be made – decisions that are important for Ukraine today – for instance in the implementation of the Millennium Challenge program. This is a very powerful and broad-based program conducted by the government of the United States through which grants are disbursed to countries for the purpose of improving conditions within those countries. And we expect for Ukraine to be an active participant of this program, and rejoice that a small African country has received 550 million [dollars] in grants, and think that Ukraine can also become a participant in such projects and a recipient of such financial assistance.

I think we also hope that U.S. officials will thoroughly analyze everything that takes place in our region as pertains to energy security. Because we think that the growing monopolization that we see there is a challenge not only for Ukraine. Growing monopolies that provide energy resources to the European Union and post-Soviet countries are a problem worthy of discussion at international forums and diplomatic meetings, and, therefore, we focused our attention on it.

So, does the situation that arose when Russia cut off gas and oil supplies to Ukraine and Belarus sending shockwaves throughout Europe, does it present an opportunity for Ukraine to forge new partnerships for herself in Europe and across the Atlantic?

I'm currently working on consolidating our partners in the United States and the European Union with the intention of creating a type of pool that would help formulate energy policy in the region. And the projects that Ukraine is currently developing involve not only Ukraine. This and the issue of creating, together with European countries, a new transport corridor for natural gas is being met with endorsement both in Europe and in the United States. This pipeline would be capable of transporting gas from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to Europe through two seas and via Georgia and Ukraine.

We are also very hopeful that we will be able to enlist European countries in a project that would create part of a closed nuclear fuel cycle, which would provide Ukraine with alternative nuclear fuel. And we think that Ukraine today would have a lot to offer in a unified EU energy system. What would be needed are sizeable investments and a pooling of efforts on the part of various countries.

Ukraine, also, is capable of producing more electricity than it needs for its internal consumption.

All of these are projects that are of interest not only for Ukraine. I found that they are being supported on the highest levels of the United States government.

During your meetings you have called on Americans to invest capital in Ukraine. At the same time, during a meeting with the Ukrainian [American] community, you indicated that in Ukraine – you cited Crimea as an example – there is a predominance of Russian investments. The average [person] might ask why U.S. investments should be considered better than Russian investments.

The fact of the matter is that sizeable financial injections, of which we heard from Moscow Mayor [Yuri] Luzhkov, to the tune of \$3 billion in two years, with which they plan to better the lives of Ukrainian citizens in Crimea, in our view, are nothing else than a huge political stunt aimed at getting Ukrainian citizens, Ukrainian citizens in Crimea, to look more favorably toward Russia, to look at Russia as a country that is capable of offering some additional bliss. But all of this is undoubtedly intended to have political consequences, which are the very purpose of such investments.

I would call upon investors – not only American investors, but investors throughout the world – even though [many] large global corporations are concentrated and based in the United States. I would call on them not to waste time, but to initiate projects in Ukraine, because the current government with all of its nonsensical behavior is only temporary and we perceive it only as such. Therefore, no time should be wasted. Ukraine needs investments as soon as possible.

Speaking of the government and returning to the subject of early elections that you are proposing – you have said

with certainty that the democratic or, let's say, the "Orange" forces would prevail, if early election were held. What is your conviction based on? Don't you think that the so-called "Orange" voter is disaffected [with what has happened in Ukraine]?

My prognosis that the democratic forces would again prevail during early parliamentary elections is based on [my] familiarity with the mood structure within Ukrainian society. Yes, Ukrainian voters hold a bit of a grudge against democratic parties, against the "Orange" forces, because many mistakes have been made. But they will never accept a concept for the development of their country other than [the pursuit of] a European perspective and far-reaching reforms of our internal order that would be based on the rule of law, equal opportunity and government transparency.

Therefore, it won't matter in which configuration the democratic forces will prevail – some democratic parties will get more votes, others less and, maybe, some new ones professing a similar development strategy for Ukraine will appear – but what's most important is that together they garner a majority of votes. Such is the mood in Ukraine today.

On the other hand, pro-Russian moods and tendencies as well as a longing for the re-establishment of the Soviet Union in some new form are shared today by no more than 30 percent of people in Ukraine.

In the event of a victory – where do you see yourself?

We have signed a coalition agreement with the political forces aligned with the president – an agreement that is not intended only for the time-being. It is intended for the long term. In the event of a victory our team will work in the power structures to ensure that a proper development strategy for Ukraine is implemented.

(Continued on page 19)

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Yulia takes Washington

By all accounts, Yulia Tymoshenko's visit to the United States – her first as a national deputy of Ukraine and the leader of the opposition to boot – was a great success. She met with top officials of the Bush administration, including vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley; and members of Congress, including leaders of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. She spoke at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (where more than 100 people were turned away from the standing-room-only event) and at the National Press Club, and she met with influential news media.

Ms. Tymoshenko was received in Washington, many observers noted, on the same level as Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich back in December.

Unlike Mr. Yanukovich, she welcomed meetings with the Ukrainian American community and its leaders. And she made a genuine attempt to hear their concerns and answer their questions.

Her principal message was both positive and negative, yet optimistic. Positive, because it underscored that the Orange Revolution lives on; negative, because she made it clear to all her audiences that "Ukraine is in deep constitutional crisis."

"What happened in Ukraine at the time of the Orange Revolution is irreversible. And, even if the opposition becomes weak and the authorities gain power, there is the Ukrainian nation, whose strength is simply colossal," she said at the outset of her remarks. She then continued to work toward her goal in coming to the United States: to explain to those who support Ukrainian democracy what is going on in Ukraine. And she did so without mincing any words.

"The Yanukovich government, regardless of what anybody says, is not working for Ukraine, for Ukraine's national interest, is not working to maintain Ukraine's independence," she stated. She cited the Yanukovich government's willingness to turn over control of Ukraine's energy and energy transport sectors to Russia, its push to have Ukraine join the Single Economic Space (SES) and its general indifference to Russian meddling in Ukraine. She warned that the SES was not simply a free-trade zone, but a supranational structure to which member-states cede a significant portion of their sovereignty. Within the SES, she explained, Ukraine would have an 11 percent share of voting power, while Russia would have 80 percent.

She asked: "Can this possibly be the future for which we stood on Orange squares (maidany)? Is this the future about which tens of generations dreamed, for which true patriots of Ukraine fought?"

That is why the opposition is the opposition. Its goal, she told *The Washington Times*, is to put Ukraine back on a course of "Euro-Atlantic integration and deep transformative reforms," adding that "the only instrument that we have today at our disposal is pre-term elections." Continuing, she said "If this government is in power until [the next elections in 2011], there would be nothing left of a democratic Ukraine."

Ms. Tymoshenko even hit the right notes at the Ronald Reagan Banquet during the Conservative Political Action Conference, quoting the late president's words: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" And she followed up with: "As Ronald Reagan knew, liberty demands eternal vigilance. So, once again, we are defying a government that seeks to corrupt our democracy and curtail our independence." She assured the audience of more than 2,000: "We shall persist, and our democracy shall prevail."

Perhaps the most important message Ms. Tymoshenko sent to the U.S. government – which seems to be suffering from "Ukraine fatigue" – is that the United States has to take the lead in speaking out for Ukraine. "A country as large and influential as your own has to lead this kind of work. Your country does not have the right to be fatigued about Ukraine's future."

And that is how, in three days, Yulia Tymoshenko took Washington.

March
10
1962

Turning the pages back...

Forty-five years ago, *The Ukrainian Weekly* reported on the scheduled release of the first volume of "Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia," the first English-language encyclopedia about Ukraine. This was a revised, translated and amended edition of the three-volume set published in Ukrainian in 1949.

The project was initiated by Dr. Luke Myshuha, the former editor-in-chief of *Svoboda*, the daily newspaper of the Ukrainian National Association, and Prof. Volodymyr Kubijovyc of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh). With the passing of Dr. Myshuha, Prof. Kubijovyc took the lead as editor-in-chief of the 1,185-page reference work. Over 100 scholars and research specialists contributed to the reference book's entries on ethnography, language, history, literature, culture, geography population and other general information.

The release of Volume I of "Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia" marked the culmination of 10 years of work, which ran into the tens of thousands of dollars and was subsidized by the UNA, in what was called "one of its greatest achievements." The work was described by the University of Toronto Press as "one of the major reference books of the 20th century."

The first printing released in 1962 was limited to 5,000 copies and was available in the fall with an advance payment of \$30 or \$37.50 after the encyclopedia's appearance on the market. Nearly 10 years later, the UNA released the second volume of the encyclopedia prepared by NTSh, led by Prof. Kubijovyc.

Source: "University of Toronto Press announces publication of Ukrainian encyclopedia; First volume of 'Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia' scheduled to appear this fall" *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 10, 1962.

IN THE PRESS

Yulia Tymoshenko's message during her visit to the U.S.

"Coalescing in Ukraine," editorial, *The Washington Times*, March 6:

"... [Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor] Yanukovich has advanced closer ties to Russia, stalled talks of NATO integration and 'is trying to buy deputies like chickens in a bazaar,' said Mrs. [Yulia] Tymoshenko last week at *The Washington Times*. Mrs. Tymoshenko and Mr. [Viktor] Yushchenko recently signed an agreement to form a unified opposition.

"Mrs. Tymoshenko argued that Ukraine can either continue along the path charted by Mr. Yanukovich for closer relations with Russia – 'as close as possible' – that would leave Ukraine again a 'vassal' of Russia, or the president can, under certain conditions according to the Constitution, call pre-term elections. 'The goal of the opposition,' she said, is to put Ukraine back on a course of 'Euro-Atlantic integration and deep transformative reforms.' And 'the only instrument that we have today at our disposal is pre-term elections.' ...

"... Even if pre-term elections are held, there's no guarantee that the turmoil that followed the March 2006 parliamentary elections won't be repeated. ...

"The last time the Orange coalition came to power it was unable to stay together long ... Many of Ukraine's post-Orange Revolution problems, including intraparty fighting and corruption, could be understood as the kinks of a nascent democracy. Ukraine's current slide toward Russia is more serious, according to Mrs. Tymoshenko. While many advances – freedom of speech and of the press, and true political opposition – remain, the country's hard-won political progress faces a very serious challenge. If the revived coalition can return to power, it will need to avoid the mistakes that brought about its previous collapse if it is to put Ukraine back on a path toward Euro-Atlantic integration."

"Tymoshenko seeks early elections," by David R. Sands, *The Washington Times*, March 2:

"... [Yulia] Tymoshenko, a former prime minister and key figure in the pro-Western Orange Revolution street protests of December 2004, said Ukraine's sovereignty and hopes for better relations with the West are in jeopardy if the government of pro-Moscow Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich serves out its full term to 2011.

"'If this government is in power until then, there would be nothing left of a democratic Ukraine,' she said, speaking through an interpreter with editors and reporters at *The Washington Times*. 'The territory would still exist, but it would not be Ukraine any longer.'

"... On a high-profile U.S. visit that includes meetings with Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Mrs. Tymoshenko said the United States must speak out for Ukraine despite a full foreign-policy plate that includes Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and other pressing crises.

"She noted there was 'disillusionment' in Washington about backsliding in Ukraine since her coalition was propelled to power in 2005 by a wave of street protests that became known as the Orange Revolution because of the orange flags and banners carried by the protesters.

"But, she said, 'a country as large and influential as your own has to lead this kind of work. Your country does not have the right to be fatigued about Ukraine's future.' ...

"Mrs. Tymoshenko acknowledged that she had moved too quickly in her short, stormy first stint as prime minister. ... She said Mr. Yushchenko also had underestimated the power of entrenched interests opposed to the Orange Revolution reforms. ...

"She compared Ukraine in 2005 to a scuba diver trying to surface too quickly after years in the stagnant political depths.

"If I have a chance to have the responsibility in the future, unfortunately the reforms will have to come at a slower tempo, to make sure we do not get another case of the bends,' she said."

"A signal from DC," *Kyiv Post*, March 1:

"As President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich carry on with their cut-throat, and at times childish, wrestling match over authority, opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko is creeping up behind them, garnering the respect and attention of ordinary Ukrainians and world powerbrokers. ...

"Her goal, of course, is to establish herself as Ukraine's genuine and strongest democratic leader. ... The Ukrainian Joan of Arc is viewed as a challenger to the increasingly marginalized Yushchenko and pushy, possibly pro-Russian, Yanukovich in future presidential elections.

"The power tussle between Yushchenko and Yanukovich has left many abroad confused as to which Viktor is in charge in Kyiv. It has also deprived the country of a fully functional foreign minister for several months. As a top British diplomat said in Kyiv this week, Ukraine's Western partners are confused by the entire mess.

"What is also clear is that Tymoshenko, while populist in her fight

(Continued on page 10)

Quotable notes

"My sense is some in America mistakenly believe the Orange Revolution is over, that democracy has won – and that liberty and justice have secured their place in our country's history.

"The Orange Revolution is not over. The movement that brought thousands of Ukrainians together to overthrow the post-Soviet regime lives on. Much progress has been made to bring democracy to Ukraine, but much more remains to be done."

– Yulia Tymoshenko, as quoted in *Inform Newsletter*, an international publication of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, February 27.

View from the

Trembita Lounge

by Taras Szmagala Jr.

The true enemy is apathy

"Ping-ping." A strange noise interrupted my Saturday morning ritual of drinking coffee and reading newspapers. "Ping-ping." Putting down the sports section, I looked around the kitchen. By the third ping-ping, I identified the culprit: my Blackberry. (For those of you who are not familiar with it, a Blackberry is an electronic gadget that appeals to individuals who wish to think they're important enough to be reachable by e-mail, text or phone anywhere, at any time.)

"Ping-ping." I took the device out of its holster and looked at the screen. It was my friend Petro from Ukraine, sending me a text message: "Where have you been?" Ugh – all of that pinging for "where have you been." I hit the reply button: "Sorry – been busy." Thirty seconds later, he replied: "Haven't read any articles by you in a while." He was right: "Not much to write about – no one wants to discuss Ukrainian politics. Yanukovich is gaining power, and the opposition is divided. Apathy seems to be the mood here," I offered.

This time, five minutes passed. Then, ping-ping: "Yeah, here too. The youth are disillusioned. Politics isn't cool anymore. Apathy, not Yanukovich, is the enemy."

Puzzled, my thumbs navigated the tiny keys: "What? What do you mean that apathy, not Yanukovich, is the enemy? I don't get it." This time, I waited eagerly for the ping-ping: "Yanukovich is temporary. But apathy – willingly giving up one's right to choose in exchange for stability and calm – that is more permanent. And more harmful," he wrote.

By now, it would have been easier to pick up the phone and have an actual conversation, but text messaging was never really about ease or logic. So, at the risk of developing carpal tunnel, I continued the exchange: "What's wrong with stability? It worked well for Putin. There is no viable opposition in Russia, and their economy is growing more quickly than Ukraine's. What's so bad about calm?"

This time, the ping-ping was almost immediate: "Taras, sorry to cut this short, but I have to go. Remember who your favorite author is?" "Sure, Dostoyevsky," I replied. One final ping from Petro: "Then recall 'The Brothers Karamazov,' and reflect on Ivan's story about the grand inquisitor. Gotta run."

Whoa – going from the sports section to Dostoyevsky in 10 minutes was enough to induce a headache. But it wasn't hard to figure out where Petro was going with his comment. And he was right on the money.

The story of the grand inquisitor is really a "story within a story" contained in "The Brothers Karamazov." The Spanish Inquisition is in full force, with heretics being condemned and tortured, all in the name of doctrinal orthodoxy. In the midst of the confusion and fear, Jesus appears, walking calmly through the streets of Seville. Although he does not announce his identity, he is recognized by all. And

he is particularly recognized by the grand inquisitor, the cardinal of Seville.

In the story, the grand inquisitor does not take kindly to Jesus in his midst. In fact, he takes Jesus into custody. Indeed, from the inquisitor's point of view, Jesus was a hindrance, not a help. How so? Because our fictional inquisitor was convinced that Jesus erred by giving humans too much free will. Giving mankind freedom – true freedom – was a burden too great for most to bear, according to him. In one memorable passage, the inquisitor lectures Jesus thusly: "I tell you that man is tormented by no greater anxiety than to find someone quickly to whom he can hand over that gift of freedom with which the ill-fated creature is born."

The inquisitor goes on to state his view that mankind would gladly trade freedom for material prosperity and comfort: "No science will give them bread so long as they remain free. In the end they will lay their freedom at our feet, and say to us, 'Make us your slaves, but feed us.'" Importantly, the inquisitor does not feel he is doing anything improper or unethical – in fact, he is convinced that he is acting in the best interests of his flock by relieving them of the burden of free will and, in turn, feeding them and providing them the certainty and stability that mankind craves.

Of course, this story has many meanings on many, many levels. And perhaps the least of these levels is political – Vladimir Putin is no inquisitor, and certainly no public servant can be compared to Jesus. But there's a lesson in this story nonetheless. As *The Economist* magazine noted this week, Russia's presidential election next year promises to be a "coronation" – and we don't even yet know who Mr. Putin will choose to be the next king. There will be little debate, little exchange of ideas. The death of Russian civil society and political discourse has gone largely unnoticed, overshadowed by the brisk pace of Russian economic growth, fueled by high prices for Russian oil and gas.

Ukraine has taken the harder path. But many in Ukraine today question whether it is the right path – they look across the border to their Russian neighbors, and wonder whether they'd ultimately be better off trading in their personal freedoms for short-term prosperity. And there surely are Ukrainian politicians who would gladly facilitate that exchange.

It's this risk that makes it even more critical that we continue our support of democracy in Ukraine. Whatever disappointment we may have in the performance of individual Ukrainian politicians is of little consequence. We must not let those disappointments stand in the way of our support for a vibrant Ukrainian civil society and robust political system. We must be firm in our faith that the inquisitor was wrong.

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

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Global Ukraine

Emigration has sometimes been compared to an escape valve. For the great empires, the exit of countless Irish, Poles, Jews, Ukrainians and others helped keep social pressure below the explosion point of revolution. For the receiving countries, immigration provided the human energy for industry or agriculture. For the migrants, it was a chance to escape poverty or persecution and make a new start.

And to the growing Ruthenian-Ukrainian diaspora, the immigration of the past century and a quarter has seemed like a conveyor belt, ever bringing fresh faces from the homeland. Diaspora organizations – to continue the industrial metaphor – have served as a cultural decompression chamber between the heavy, intense atmosphere of Eastern Europe and the heady freedom of the West.

But what happens at the end of the conveyor? Historically, immigrants have become ordinary Americans. Our post-war Third Wave was exceptional in trying to resist this law of history. As political exiles, they wanted to someday return to their country, or at least preserve what was being destroyed there. With a free Ukraine, these issues are moot, and the law of assimilation comes back into force.

What, then, will happen to the diaspora organizations? They can certainly survive, under two conditions. First, they must adapt, both to the changing character of the emigration and to our changing American society. This means they must appeal, on the one hand, to Ukrainians who have grown up in Soviet and post-Soviet conditions, and on the other, to the progeny of the previous emigrations.

Appealing to these markedly different constituencies is easier for some organizations than for others. Plast, for example, represents a pre-war Galician ethos that might not mean much to new immigrants – though its success in Ukraine suggests it can evolve. The Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches claim the allegiance of most Ukrainians, whether natives or American-born. But they have lost many, and their declining numbers suggest they are losing more. From an array of religious choices, we cannot assume that Ukrainian Americans will always choose the intellectually and morally demanding faith of their ancestors. And do our Churches speak convincingly to the new diaspora of post-Soviet Ukrainians, many of whom did not have the benefit of family religious traditions?

If our diaspora organizations are to be something more than halfway-houses to assimilation, they must offer something lasting and incomparable. Otherwise, as their membership disappears in the American melting-pot, they must rely on a steady stream of new immigrants. That is the second condition of their survival.

But for today's Ukraine, emigration is a massive, debilitating hemorrhage. Several million of the country's most skilled, educated and enterprising citizens have left their homes in search of work. Many never return. Families break up. The intelligentsia is decimated.

We thus have the paradox that the hemorrhaging of the homeland is the lifeblood of the diaspora. So is the diaspora just a vampire, always thirsting for fresh immigrant blood? Isn't there a way for us to remain ourselves, generation after generation, without relying on new

infusions? After all, each of us has a choice.

We may choose assimilation, like some of my Polish American friends, who never learned much Polish but embraced the manners and mindset of the American elite. They went to the right schools, joined the right clubs and now enjoy the genteel, sophisticated life of upper-class America. There is nothing wrong with this. Such individuals can have more influence on American opinion than a legion of small-time activists. But if they lose their ethnic loyalty, in whose interests will they exercise that influence?

Yet sometimes the path of assimilation leads to cultural revival. My high school Chicano chum from East Los Angeles left church and barrio for the rough and tumble of American business. Though he never knew much Spanish, he can now hire a Mexican nanny to teach his children the language of their forebears.

Nevertheless, many of us chose to swim against the assimilationist stream. We cultivated a language no one had heard of, which was dying out even in its own country. We championed a hopelessly quixotic political cause. We perpetuated village customs that clashed incongruously with urban American life. We clung to a church that seemed perversely resistant to modernization. The results were often artificial, even bizarre. I remember a wedding where the groom's party careened down the freeways of Los Angeles to carry out the ritual "kidnaping" of the bride. Once Ukraine became independent, some of us went even further by living, working, even marrying there.

But was this really so unrealistic? Today we live in a world where your doctor may be a turbaned Sikh, your dentist a bindi-browed Brahmin, and your lawyer an Orthodox Jew in a yarmulke. And you may all be living in Kansas. Ethno-religious identity is no longer an obstacle to upward mobility. As Chinese American and Latino as well as Ukrainian American writers and artists have shown, the diaspora experience can produce first-rate culture, not just kitsch. And geographic barriers have fallen. With the Internet, one can keep up with the gossip in Uzhhorod, Uruguay or Uttar Pradesh. We can be loyal American citizens while participating in a culture rooted in a far-away land yet spread out over the world. Assimilation is history.

Some may think the Fourth Wave, as an economic immigration, will melt into American society like most of the first. Not necessarily. They are well-educated, nationally conscious, and in close touch with their homeland. Nor are they lacking in patriotism. Last January 29 a group of them gathered in the bone-cracking cold at the Shevchenko monument in Washington in memory of the heroes of Kruty – an event the older diaspora had almost forgotten. Through e-mail, the commemoration was coordinated with others in Ukraine.

You may remember the joke about the patriot who wanted to buy a globe of Ukraine. Today Ukraine is global. The seeds of the diaspora were sown far and wide. But we are the harvest.

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Foreign policy...

(Continued from page 1)

withdrawal and the property's transfer to the Ukrainian Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

They were greeted by activists from the Russian Bloc organization of Sevastopol, who stood defending the MARS-75 station when the officials arrived.

They removed a Ukrainian flag placed at the station's gates by Student Brotherhood activists and trampled it, Mr. Yatsenko alleged.

Russian officials said they would not follow the court order because the status of Black Sea Fleet sites still hasn't been resolved in negotiations of the Russian-Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet Subcommittee.

"In any case, legal issues related to the operation of the Black Sea Fleet's hydrographic sites are supposed to be decided at the negotiating table, which to this day have had positive tendencies, as recog-

nized by the Ukrainian side," said Igor Dygalo, spokesman for the Russian fleet.

Though negotiations may be pleasant, the Ukrainians have a starkly different view.

In refusing to adhere to the court order, the Russian Federation is violating its agreement on the Black Sea Fleet with the Ukrainian government said Andrii Deschytsia, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ministry's position is that all navigational-hydrographic sites are Ukrainian property, and the Russians should abide by decisions issued by Ukrainian judges.

Relations with European Union

Relations with the European Union have been evolving more positively, though European leaders have lamented the lack of a clear foreign policy course on the state level for the past three months.

Since Mr. Tarasyuk's dismissal on December 1, 2006, President Viktor

Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich have grappled in a political battle to appoint his successor, to the expressed disappointment of European leaders.

"Certainly, the process of reforming does not seem easy for the Ukrainian people and nation," said European Council President Frank-Walter Steinmeier during a February 6 visit to Kyiv. "A certain tension exists in the reform process, which we were able to feel during our visit."

It's difficult to work on an agreement with one foreign affairs minister, and continue discussions with another, he added.

On February 28, Mr. Yanukovich had in an important meeting with Ms. Merkel in Berlin, the result of which was the European Union's expressed commitment to establishing a free trade zone with Ukraine.

Ukraine's eventual accession to the European Neighborhood Policy is another prospective preliminary step to European Union membership, she said at a press conference.

But Ms. Merkel said she didn't yet see Ukraine's prospects for EU membership, stressing that Ukraine should focus on creating a free trade zone as its next step.

Intentionally or not, Mr. Yanukovich overlooked Ms. Merkel's reserved tone in his assessment of Ukraine's relations with the EU.

"We obtained the signal that the EU's doors are open for Ukraine," he told the press conference. "And that will be laid out in the new agreement for the next 10 years."

In fact, Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions have maintained a careful, pragmatic policy of rejecting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), largely unpopular with Ukrainians, and trumpeting its efforts to integrate with the EU, which has public support.

Germany's lack of enthusiasm for Ukraine's EU aspirations drew criticism from Mr. Yushchenko in an interview he gave to Financial Times Deutschland in the days leading up to Mr. Yanukovich's visit. In his view, European politicians aren't doing enough to support Ukraine's EU and NATO ambitions.

More aid to Ukraine

It's possible the president's criticism resonated with European Commission leaders, who on March 8 announced a decision to almost double financial aid to execute the "Ukraine-EU" action plan and support reforms in Ukraine.

More than \$648 million is planned for the next four years - the biggest investment being Ukraine's integration into the European energy market.

Also planned are development of Ukraine's oil and natural gas transport systems, as well as improving energy efficiency.

At the March 6 conclusion of their visit, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) observers Hanna Severinsen and Renata Wohlwend said they were encouraged to see Ukraine's two leaders agree on legislation to reform the judiciary and establish independent courts.

However, Ukraine's constitutional crisis is troubling, Ms. Severinsen said. "The Constitution should be something that makes the rules of the game, but it seems sometimes that the political forces here politicize the constitutional issue and use it as a point of political discussion," she said.

The observers are preparing a report on Ukraine for discussion by the Parliamentary Assembly in October, which will make a decision on whether to continue its full-scale monitoring of Ukraine, or enter a post-monitoring phase.

Tymoshenko's message...

(Continued from page 8)

for electoral support, is ever more viewed as a reliable and capable leader. While many once viewed her as extreme, more are now laying hope on her aggressive and successful tactics as a viable substitute to the void and disorder generated by the Yushchenko-Yanukovich act. The fact that Tymoshenko managed to broker meetings with top U.S. officials at the same level as diplomatic protocols grant-

ed to Yanukovich testifies to her growing recognition as a potential leader of Ukraine. ...

"While it's hard to predict the outcome, perhaps the time has come to roll the dice again by asking Ukrainians how they feel about the current political chaos. Even if repeat elections produce a similar breakdown between Orange and pro-Yanukovich voters, coalition negotiations could produce a different configuration for top leadership, one that is more effective than what we see today."

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Pysanka's enduring tradition on display at The Ukrainian Museum

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – The beautiful pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs), the quintessential and the most widely recognizable representatives of Ukrainian folk culture, are once again making an appearance at The Ukrainian Museum – a welcome reminder that spring is just around the corner.

“Pysanka: Vessel of Life” opened on March 3 and will be on view through July 1. Lubow Wolynetz of the museum's Folk Art Collection, curated the exhibition.

The exhibition features the work of pysanka artist Tania Osadca. Also included in this show are pysanky and embroidered shirts from the museum's own

material, as well as large collections. Both have been invaluable in the study and appreciation of Ukrainian folk art.

The pysanky in this exhibition – the work of Ms. Osadca – are arranged in groups designed to identify the people or institutions who collected the originals and were the sources in her research. Ms. Osadca has done this to credit both individuals and institutions whose efforts pioneered the study of this fascinating art form, promoting its preservation and popularization.

For example, there are groups of pysanky representing the Pelahia Bartosh Lytvynova Collection (collected in 1876) and the Myron Korduba Study (dating from 1899). There are pysanky that mirror those in The Museum of



V. Gritsik

Pysanky displaying the “goddess” motif from various regions of Ukraine. From the Folk Art Collection of The Ukrainian Museum.



Pysanky from the Hutsul region displaying the tree of life motif. From the Folk Art Collection of The Ukrainian Museum.

extensive Folk Art Collection, displaying regional similarities in design and coloration in embroidery and pysanky ornamentation.

Ms. Osadca is a master of the pysanka craft and an esteemed authority on Ukrainian folk art. Ms. Osadca, who studied art history at Kent State University, found a passion for pysanky very early in life, having watched her grandmother and mother decorate the eggs.

She became an expert pysanka artist, demonstrated the craft widely and devoted many years to researching the history, symbolism and application of the ancient pysanky designs. Her work in this field allowed her to develop one of the most important collections of pysanky outside of Ukraine, which have been exhibited throughout the United States, Canada and Ukraine.

A most unique characteristic of Ms. Osadca's pysanky collection is that in her work she has remained true to the original. In each case she has produced faithful reproductions of pysanky that she had found during her years of research in various museums in Ukraine, in her travels throughout the country, as well as in published sources. In her strict adherence to tradition, she has added her part to the thread of continuity in her generation, so vital to the survival of the Ukrainian cultural legacy.

Interest in folk art in Ukraine was born in the early part of the 19th century, heralding a tremendous blossoming of national awareness. Scholars, researchers and collectors went into the country, visiting villages, gathering songs, stories, traditions and customs, and collecting embroidered and woven textiles, examples of intricate woodwork, metalwork and, of course, pysanky. The efforts of these students and collectors of folk art produced comprehensive documented

Ethnography and Applied Art in Lviv, whose collection dates back to 1868, as well as those from the catalogue produced by Serhii Kuzhunskyj in 1899 and those researched by Erast Biniashvskyi, whose drawings were first reproduced in his book, published in 1968.

The part of the exhibition that features pysanky and embroidered shirts from the museum's Folk Art Collection is described by curator Lubow Wolynetz: “The type of ornament and the color scheme in the embroidery of a particular region are very often similar to the design and color combination on the pysanky of that region.” With this premise she calls attention to the fact that the cultural tastes of regions or even individual villages in Ukraine embodied their artistic expressions with favored characteristics unique to their area.

Ms. Wolynetz explained further, “The individual motifs that are combined to create ornamental designs are similar throughout Ukraine, but the great variety of designs stem, to a large degree, from regional tastes and preferences. Each region has its own preferred color combination, rhythmic harmony and compositional style.”

Many of the decorated eggs displayed in this part of the exhibition were created by artist Sofika Zielyk at the request of the curator of the exhibition for the purpose of ornamentation comparison with the embroidery. A native New Yorker, Ms. Zielyk was introduced to the craft by her mother. Today, a successful pysanka artist, Ms. Zielyk is also a teacher of the craft, has lectured on the topic, and exhibited her work widely at numerous galleries and museums. Her work is documented in the book “The Art of the Pysanka” by Sofika, published in 1993 in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian tradition of writing pysanky reaches back to antiquity. Ms. Wolynetz elaborated on this subject: “In

attempting to understand the mystery of life and somehow grasp its fundamental impulse, man created myths about it, as well as cults and rituals surrounding the objects that were deemed to contain or be imbedded with these powers of life. The pysanka – Ukrainian Easter egg – is just such an object: a symbol of the greatest mystery experienced by man – the mystery of life – suffused by nature with the essence of life and through man's intervention with magical powers of protection.”

The advent of Christianity in Ukraine in 988 did not dispel the traditions and the popularity of the pysanka mystique among the people, since they were deeply ingrained in their ages-old social infrastructure. Subsequently, the pysanka and the customs associated with it were incorporated into the Christian religion. Many of the pagan celebrations, especially those associated with the arrival of spring, were interpreted with new Christian meaning and paralleled the observances of the Easter Holiday. Thus, the pysanka became a very visible and viable part of this most dramatic and important Christian celebration.

The Ukrainian Museum has never failed in its 30 years of operations to foster the tradition of the pysanka each spring for its constituents and the general public. The museum's Folk Art Collection has hundreds of magnificent examples of pysanky, representing various regions of Ukraine, showing the diversity in design, color and execution.

In appreciation of the continuity of the pysanka tradition among the Ukrainian immigrant population in the United States and Canada, the museum has numerous times featured the work of contemporary pysanka artists, who faithfully adhere to the time-honored principles of this fascinating craft.

The latest such exhibition was presented in 2000 and featured the work of pysanky artists Jaroslava, Romana and Natalka Bachynsky from Montreal; Ms. Osadca

from Troy, Ohio; Zenon Elyjiw of Rochester, N.Y.; Luba Perchyshyn from Minneapolis; Ihor Slabitsky from Rhode Island; Yaroslava Surmach Mills from West Nyack, N.Y.; and Ms. Zielyk of New York.

In its newly built, elegant facility, The Ukrainian Museum honors and continues the venerable tradition of the Ukrainian pysanka. Once a practice enveloped in mystery, with rituals and symbolism that held deep and sacred significance for the people, the pysanka and its mystique have survived the turbulent passage of history. Shedding its religious relevance, creating a pysanka has remained a beloved custom to be treasured and delighted in.

In conjunction with the “Pysanka: Vessel of Life” exhibition, the museum presents the following programs:

- Pysanky-Decorating Workshops: March 10, 11, 17, 18 and 25, 2-4 p.m. This is a hands-on workshop, allowing adults and children (over age 12) to learn the art of making pysanky. Dyes, bees wax and stylus (a special writing instrument) are used to decorate the eggs with traditional Ukrainian designs. The workshop will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Fee for each session: adults, \$15; seniors and students over 16, \$10; children 12-16, \$5; museum members receive a 15 percent discount. Registration is required.

- Demonstrations in the Making of Pysanky: Saturday, March 31, 1-5 p.m. Artists will create beautiful pysanky for the viewing audience. Slavko Nowytski's award-winning film “Pysanka” will be shown on a continuous basis. Pre-registration is not required.

Admission fee: adults, \$10; students over 12 and seniors, \$8; museum members, \$6; free for children under 12. The fee includes admission to all museum exhibitions.

For further information contact: The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. 6th St., New York, NY 10003; telephone, 212-228-0110; e-mail: info@ukrainianmuseum.org; web page, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.



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CONCERT REVIEW: The Zuk piano duo at Montreal's Pollack Hall

by Thomas Davidson

MONTREAL – On Monday, February 12, Luba and Ireneus Zuk returned to Pollack Hall, where a sizable and appreciative audience enjoyed a varied program that included something for everyone. The Zuks have become well-known for their support of repertoire written by colleagues and compatriots, and this concert was no exception.

"Sonic Shadows" by John Burge, a composition professor at Queen's University, was written specially for them. The second half of the concert began with a premiere performance of a work by Ukrainian composer Hennady Lashenko titled "...and the sound of a mysterious bell, and the rustling of leaves in the wind..." The Zuks uncovered both of these works with the lucidity of a pair of sleuths.

As Zuk fans have come to expect, the high level of artistry and technical display heard in their playing was exemplified

Thomas Davidson is faculty lecturer (piano, musicianship) musicianship area chair and keyboard proficiency coordinator at the Schulich School of Music at McGill University. He is also assistant professor at the School of Music of Queen's University.

ry. However, the experience of a musical event in a way that could only be possible between a brother and sister team was even more impressive. If anyone needs justification for live versus recorded music, this is it.

The duo team anticipated every nuance and unexpected turn of phrase in unity and their control of harmony covered the entire range of the spectrum. This was best exemplified in their performance of "Wasserklavier" by Luciano Berio, where the balance and voicing between pianos was exceptional.

The concert opened with "Introduction and Rondo" by Johann Nepomuk Hummel and closed with the Francis Poulenc "Sonata," two works for two pianos. An arrangement of "Fuga y Misterio" by Astor Piazzola was also heard, and the Zuks were able to conjure up an evocative atmosphere where one could imagine accordion and saxophone back-up.

There were praises all round. The performers enjoyed armfuls of flowers and, in turn, listeners were treated to two encores from the Zuk treasure chest, one by Ihor Bilohrud, the other by the late Clermont Pepin. Ireneus Zuk dedicated the performance of the latter to the memory of the composer.



Luba and Ireneus Zuk during their concert at Pollack Hall in Montreal.

New concert series to present "Bandura – The Soul of Ukraine"

DETROIT – The all-male Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC), under Artistic Director and Conductor Oleh Mahlay, has announced its 2007 concert series "Bandura – The Soul of Ukraine."

The first phase of concerts begin in March and culminates in June. Concerts will take place in Windsor (March 25) and St. Catharines, Ontario (April 1); Syracuse, N.Y. (March 31); Pittsburgh, Pa. (to be announced); New York City (May 6) and Chicago (to be announced).

In October, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus will embark on a 10-day tour of the eastern United States and Canada.

"Bandura – The Soul of Ukraine" will tell a story about cultural identity, survival and mystery through several centuries. Because its development closely reflects the history of the Ukrainian nation, the bandura, a 60-stringed instrument, is more than a national musical

instrument: It is considered the voice of Ukraine. This inspiration has been a guiding force for the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus since its inception in Kyiv in 1918.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of Hryhory Kytasty's birth. Maestro Kytasty (1907-1984), the long-standing conductor of the UBC, was a driving force in re-instilling Ukrainian choral and bandura art in North America. Considered a legend in his own time, this composer, conductor, performer and teacher was a role model and inspiration to young bandura players.

For more information on the concert series, readers may log on to www.bandura.org or call UBC President Anatoli Murha, 734-658-6452. (Check comments newspapers for concert advertisements and announcements).

Founded in 1918, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus has a long and proud history of representing the bandura and Ukrainian choral music on the international stage. Boasting a repertoire of more than 500 songs, this internationally celebrated and award-winning ensemble has captivated audiences in major concert halls in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and Ukraine since immigrating to North America from Europe in 1949.

The chorus has performed for such noted personalities as former President Richard Nixon, former President Ronald Reagan, movie star Jack Palance and former President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk. Most recently, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus was featured at the internationally renowned Stratford

Summer Music Festival and presented "Bandura Christmas International" with Metropolitan Opera soloist Paul Plishka.

As a tribute to its role in preserving and perpetuating the legacy of Ukrainian music, the chorus was selected by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers as the recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize – the highest award that can be bestowed for excellence in the arts.

Stage adaptation gets good reviews

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — C. S. Lewis's "The Great Divorce," a story about a bus ride through heaven and hell, was recently adapted for stage by George Drance, artistic director of The Magis Theater Company, who also directed the production.

Neil Genzlinger of The New York Times called the performance "long on theatrical skill and remarkably short on preachiness." Mr. Drance with a cast of nine "bring the scenes to life" assuming multiple roles.

Mr. Drance, a Ukrainian American who is artist-in-residence at Fordham University at Lincoln Center and a member of the Jesuits, has performed in over 20 countries on five continents. Film credits include "The Light of Eons," which won best short film at the Westchester Film Festival, and "Solidarity," shown at the New York Film Festival. Last year at the Biennale in Venice, Italy, he played Pantalone in Carlo Gozzi's "Il Corvo."

The first run of the 90-minute performance was shown at The Salvation Army's Theater 315, 315 W. 47th St., in New York. A second run of the performance is proposed with dates to be determined; for more information readers may contact the theater company by e-mail, magistheatre@yahoo.com, or phone, 212-592-0127, or log on to <http://magistheatre.tripod.com>.



The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus.

Young artists showcase their works at Kyiv's Center for Contemporary Art

by Larissa Babij

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Clashing guitar noises ricocheted off the 18th century vaulted arches of the Center for Contemporary Art (CCA) at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy the night of February 23.

Young people in mismatched clothes and mod hairdos squeezed past one another between the chaotic performance and adjoining exhibition halls.

Large sheets painted with bright letters and strings of lights approached college dorm décor. Somewhat resembling a frat party, this was indeed a celebration of fraternity – the kind that develops among young artists all pursuing a common goal: to survive in the slippery field of Ukrainian contemporary art.

Initiated by the group REP – which in Ukrainian stands for Radical Experimental Space – the Communities Project is an exhibition on view at the CCA through March 25.

Since the CCA was established by George Soros in 1993, its progressive shows have shaped the artistic education of today's young artists.

Almost all currently active artists in Ukraine claim affiliation with a specific artistic group, REP's Mykyta Kadan said at a gallery press conference on February 22.

photos, X-ray art and a large red alien bound by silver cord.

On one wall, a collage of spray-painted stencils depicts various members of the group in a street-style family portrait.

In Kyiv last summer, the doors to Totoro Garden were open to anyone with a work-in-progress, explained Anatolii Sloyko. The imaginative gallery, featuring work by more than 60 artists, also hosted art shows, conceptual parties and performances.

Its current virtual existence is reflected by its CCA exhibition title: "Transplantation."

SOSka is a gallery-squat in a ramshackle apartment in Kharkiv. Artists Mykola Ridny, Bella Logachova, Hanna Kryventseva and Olena Polyashchenko opened it in late 2005 after collaborating on various projects.

SOSka's CCA show documents politically oriented performances, photo projects and gallery installations.

The highlight is a large video projection of the artists' satirical march through Kharkiv subway cars dressed as beggars behind realistic masks of political leaders Viktor Yushchenko,



Center for Contemporary Art

REP collective installation crowns the show with new symbolic language.

Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yanukovich.

Psia Crew's street art – which includes a series of spray-painted alligator heads and pixelated skulls of painted glass tiles in industrial windows – is documented in large black-and-white photos printed on banner-weight vinyl.

The opposite wall is also hung with graffiti photos, these ironically narrating the urban wilderness of Berlin. They are among the works presented by Karpatskyi Teatr – a collective of Ukrainian, German and Austrian creative professionals.

Formed in 2005, the group has accommodations in the Carpathian Mountains, Cologne and Berlin, for working on projects, exhibiting, and staging performances, readings and film screenings, explained one of its founders, Ivan Bazak. The diversity of its members is reflected in the exhibited works.

Another photo collage blurs the borders between Germany and Romania through a seamless conglomeration of images of urban congestion, technological grace and decay.

Around the corner, a video project creates a comic juxtaposition between a contemporary Carpathian Ukrainian wedding – including a fashionable white bridal gown and traditional folk musicians – and the text of a 1914 Austro-Hungarian travel guide to the region.

The dense installation of Kherson's contemporary artists is varied yet aggressive, ranging from drawings of physical mutilation on stained paper to vivid photos of a woman helplessly tied to a tree, from elegant black-



PENOPLAST performs at the exhibition opening.

The exhibition, featuring seven groups of artists from all over Ukraine, plus a few from Germany and Austria, attempts to identify a grand narrative uniting these diverse practitioners: community.

Unlike capitalist competition, this project resembles socialist contests where participants push one another to excel toward one common goal, Mr. Kadan said. He concluded, "This exhibition is about friendship."

The distinct identity of each artistic community becomes evident when walking through the gallery's six rooms.

REP's collective installation occupies the central hall, its white wall dominated by a large, black, winged handshake.

Below, a lexicon of symbols for the new patriotism reveals the above message as "soaring friendship." Other commanding graphic compositions adorn the walls like rebus puzzles to be deciphered.

Since the 2004 Orange Revolution, the Kyiv-based REP has staged group shows and interactive social projects that manipulate and study the language of political address.

Currently, the REP consists of Zhanna Kadyrova, Lesia Khomenko, Mykyta Kadan, Lada Nakonechna, Volodymyr Kuznetsov and Kseniya Gnylytska.

Projects by Totoro Garden – an ephemeral independent artistic institution that flowered in Kyiv in the summer of 2006 – inhabit an adjoining room.

The mixed-media assortment includes low-tech cardboard viewing boxes, found-object sculptures, travel



The scene as young art lovers attended the exhibit opening at the Center for Contemporary Art.

(Continued on page 16)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

that are there now. "The answer [to the current political standoff in Ukraine] is in a dialogue of mutual understanding. All the rest is provocation, blackmail and psychological pressure, and won't give any result," Mr. Yushchenko noted. The Ukrainian president said he believes that the Party of the Regions could find a lot of unifying points with the opposition Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine if it wanted to discuss "challenges" faced by the country. Meanwhile, Yulia Tymoshenko, who was in the United States, said in an interview with The Washington Times published on March 2 that early parliamentary elections could prevent Ukraine from sliding into autocracy and halt Russia's growing influence in the country. "If this government is in power until [2011], there would be nothing left of a democratic Ukraine. The territory would still exist, but it would not be Ukraine any longer," the newspaper quoted her as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Early presidential election proposed

KYIV – Vasyl Kyseliov, deputy head of the parliamentary caucus of the ruling Party of the Regions, told journalists in Kyiv on February 28 that he intends to submit to the Verkhovna Rada on March 2 a draft bill on holding simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections this coming fall, Ukrainian media reported. "We see that the situation is getting out of control, including the president's control," Mr. Kyseliov said at a news conference. "Therefore I, as a national deputy, am working out a draft bill, or a draft resolution, on simultaneous early presidential and parliamentary elections in the fall, approximately on September 30," he added. Roman Zvarych, President Viktor Yushchenko's representative in the Verkhovna Rada, commented later the same day that Mr. Yushchenko is not considering early parliamentary elections. Mr. Zvarych said there are currently no legal grounds for holding such elections. Mr. Zvarych explained that early legislative elections could be held if the ruling coalition broke up or the Constitutional Court ruled that the 2004 amendments to the Constitution were illegal. Under the Ukrainian Constitution, early parliamentary elections may be called only by the president. The Constitution also stipulates that an early presidential ballot may be held only after the incumbent president has resigned or died, has been unable to perform his duties because of his health, or has been impeached by Parliament. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yanukovych meets with Merkel

BERLIN – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on February 28, Ukrainian and international media reported. At a news conference following their talks, Ms. Merkel said integrating Ukraine is not on the European Union's agenda for the moment. Mr. Yanukovych said the talks focused on drafting a new Ukraine-European Union cooperation agreement to replace the current one, which expires in 2008. "Most importantly, we have received a signal that the doors of the European Union are open for Ukraine. And this will be stated in the new agreement [on relations between Ukraine and the EU] for the next 10 years," Mr. Yanukovych added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

OU, YTB may field one candidate

KYIV – The president's representative to the Verkhovna Rada, Roman Zvarych, speaking on Channel 5 on March 1 said that during the next presidential elections

in 2009 Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc would nominate a single candidate. Mr. Zvarych also stated his satisfaction with the current level of cooperation between OU and YTB. According to Mr. Zvarych, there is no need to worry about the presidents decreasing popularity because as a rule, "ratings change radically closer to the elections." The rating of the incumbent president will grow before the elections, he said. Mr. Zvarych, who held the justice minister's post in the Yekhanurov government, stressed that an early presidential election, which is proposed to be held simultaneously with early parliamentary elections by the Regions party, is possible only after the president's authorities are terminated. However, presently there are no grounds for that termination. He added that one could talk about the expediency of holding early parliamentary elections only after the revocation of the latest political reform by a ruling of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Moroz denies constitutional crisis

KYIV – The co-rapporteur of the monitoring committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Hanne Severinsen, while on a visit to Ukraine described the situation in the country as a "constitutional crisis." She offered this opinion during a March 1 meeting with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz. According to Ms. Severinsen, in October PACE will tackle whether to continue or cease monitoring Ukraine. The Rada chairman stated his disagreement about Ms. Severinsen's assessment, stating that there "is no constitutional crisis in Ukraine." He said the Rada had created a special interim commission to draft bills to bring relations in all spheres in compliance with the Constitution of Ukraine. Mr. Moroz stated his hope that a roundtable, whose holding is supported by the president, the Verkhovna Rada and the government, will remove "destructive factors" in relations among the political forces. "The final run, which we are heading for, is a European model of government with increased regional authority," Mr. Moroz summed up. Mr. Moroz also disclosed that the Rada has proposed that the president submit his own bill on the president of Ukraine, though a similar bill, drafted by the government, has been already registered in Parliament. (Ukrinform)

If elections were held in February ...

KYIV – If Ukrainian presidential elections were held in February, 39.2 percent of respondents said they would vote for Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, a survey of the Kyiv International Sociology Institute said. In second place was Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous bloc, with 28.1 percent of the votes, while President Viktor Yushchenko was in third place with 13.1 percent. Rounding out the top five were Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko (4.9 percent) and Natalia Vitrenko of the Progressive Socialist Party (3.4 percent). Three more political figures have more than 2 percent support: Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz, ex-Chairman of the Rada Volodymyr Lytvyn and ex-Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko. Sixty percent of respondents said they would vote. The poll was conducted between February 7 and 20; 1,996 adults were polled in 110 population centers, including Crimea. (Ukrinform)

Kravchenko case is closed

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office of Ukraine said on February 27 that it has closed the criminal proceedings

(Continued on page 15)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

instituted into the apparent suicide committed by former Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko. Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko announced that all appropriate investigations and relevant examinations in the case have been carried out, resulting in the finding that there was no evidence of a crime committed in the case. Thus, investigators have closed the Kravchenko case. On March 4, 2005, the ex-minister was found in his country home with two gunshot wounds – one to his chin and the other to his temple. He was to visit the prosecutor's office that day as a witness summoned in the investigation of the Heorhii Gongadze murder case. Mr. Kravchenko's sudden death was said to be connected with the Gongadze killing. The public, however, does not believe that Mr. Kravchenko committed suicide, since there were two gunshots to his head. (Ukrinform)

Odesa mayor honored by IRI

KYIV – The U.S.-based International Republican Institute (IRI) has conferred the title "Hero of Democracy" upon Odesa Mayor Eduard Gurvits. The diploma was presented to the nominee by IRI Program Officer Brian Mefford. The IRI confers the title upon public and political figures beyond the borders of the United States. (Ukrinform)

Armenian Consulate in Dnipropetrovsk

KYIV – Armenia opened a Consulate in the Dnipropetrovsk region, Armenian Ambassador to Ukraine Armen Khachatryan said on March 5. The Consulate will provide services for citizens of the Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia regions. The consul of Armenia in Dnipropetrovsk has been appointed; he is Arsen Avetisian. The Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia regions are home to about 20,000 ethnic Armenians. (Ukrinform)

18,500 women serve in military

KYIV – There are more than 70,000 women serving and working in the Ukrainian military, and almost 18,500 out of that number are military women, the Defense Ministry press service reported on March 6. The vast majority of military women, about 7,000, can be

found in units and formations of the land forces; there are about 6,500 women in the Ukraine's air force. (Ukrinform)

Mortality still exceeds birth rate

KYIV – In 2006 Ukraine observed the negative demographic trend of mortality exceeding the birth rate. According to the Justice Ministry, in 2006 462,700 births were registered versus 758,100 deaths. Commenting on the figures, Justice Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych called the situation "disturbing." (Ukrinform)

UAOC asks UOC-KP head to resign

KYIV – The Hierarchal Sobor of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) has called on Patriarch Filaret (Denysenko), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), to resign. The sobor released an appeal to bishops, clergy and faithful of the UOC-KP on March 2. In the appeal, the sobor accuses Patriarch Filaret of "desecrating the idea of the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church." The UAOC bishops call the patriarch "the symbol of schism" and call on him "to voluntarily leave the position of the head of the UOC-KP and, by doing so, to expedite unification processes in Ukrainian Orthodoxy and the recognition of the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Church by the world's national Orthodox Churches." According to the hierarchs of the UAOC, the canonical sanctions against Patriarch Filaret have been recognized by all national Orthodox Churches and the UAOC cannot ignore the position of world Orthodoxy. That is why a decision has been made to avoid eucharistic and prayerful communion with Patriarch Filaret. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Ukraine, Hungary sign cooperation deal

BUDAPEST – Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych and his Hungarian counterpart, Ferenc Gyurcsany, signed a bilateral cooperation accord for 2007 in Budapest on March 6, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Mr. Yanukovych told journalists in Budapest that he offered Hungary the use of Ukrainian gas-storage facilities. According to Mr. Yanukovych, Hungary receives 12 billion cubic meters of gas annually via Ukraine but consumes only 8 billion cubic meters. Mr. Yanukovych also told journalists that the two countries are discussing plans to build a hydropower plant on the Tysa/Tisza River. (RFE/RL Newswire)



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Ukrainian Canadians...

(Continued from page 1)

additional \$10 million.

According to Dr. Luciuk, the Ukrainian group was offered the \$2.5 million by the Liberal government as a minimum and was told that it would likely receive an additional \$10 million to bring about commemorative and educational initiatives it feels are necessary to inform the public about this period of Canadian history. Recently, there has been a squabble in the Parliament between MPs Borys Wrzesnewskyj and Jason Kenney regarding the exact figures promised to the Ukrainian group.

The Ukrainian delegation told Mr. Kenney that they refuse to apply to the CHRP fund for money they were already promised. Dr. Luciuk, director of research for the UCCLA, said that Ukrainians have repeatedly requested an endowment within the community's Shevchenko Foundation, which was established by an act of Parliament, preventing them from having to go "cap in hand" for each project. It is hoped that having the Shevchenko

Foundation involved will alleviate the government's concerns about possible misappropriation of allocated funds. More importantly, the Ukrainian community feels they are better able to determine project priorities and to deliver services more effectively to the community.

According to Dr. Luciuk, a precedent was set by the way in which the government dealt with Japanese Canadians under the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Chinese Canadians under the government of Stephen Harper. He underscored that Ukrainian Canadians are just looking for equality from their government.

At their meeting in February, the group agreed that Mr. Kenney would consider their points and provide a response by the end of March, when the next budget is to be approved.

Time is of the utmost importance for the Ukrainians, Dr. Luciuk explained, as Mary Manko Haskett, 98, the last living survivor of the internment operations is in failing health. In 1916 Ms. Manko Haskett was sent with her family to Spirit Lake Camp near Amos, Quebec, where

her younger sister, Nellie, died.

Of the \$45 million of the estimated wealth of the internees, which was taken by the government during the operation, Ukrainians are requesting \$12.5 million in symbolic redress to be established within the Shevchenko Foundation, in full and final settlement of the Ukrainian Canadian community's claims.

The Ukrainian Canadian community, at its own expense, has erected commemorative plaques at all but five of the 26 internment camp sites. Dr. Luciuk said that community members would also like to organize educational commemorations for schools, and possibly underwrite

plays, dance performances, theater presentations and books, but lack the necessary funding.

"We came out [of the meeting] with a sense that Mr. Kenney is anxious to be seen as a doer, not just a talker," added Dr. Luciuk. "The next step is up to him."

Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Ihor Ostash said, "We believe that a full and honorable resolution to this tragic episode in Canada's history will be successfully achieved and that public acknowledgement of the responsibility for the wrongs done to the Ukrainian Canadians will certainly prevent a mass violation of the human rights and civil liberties in the future."

Young artists...

(Continued from page 13)

and-white chrome photos of solitary figures to a series of portraits of drab-hued Soviet heroes against backgrounds of brightly colored dots.

The Kherson Museum of Contemporary Art in the apartment of Vyacheslav Mashnytskyi opened in 2004 and became the first of its kind in Ukraine. Kherson artists eschew mainstream trends and work outside the context of globalization, said Stanislav Voliazlovsky, whose artwork is part of the Kherson exhibition.

The art performance ensemble Pank Panic Electronic Super-Group-Dream PENOPLAST entertained visitors at the exhibition opening with music and the multi-lingual commotion of theatrical antics. Its motto: the "absurdization" of mass consciousness.

REP's activity as resident artists at the CCA in 2005 signaled "the beginning of a certain re-orientation," said board chairman Yurii Onuch, who served as

CCA director between 1999 and 2005. This year REP set up headquarters ("Shtab") at the gallery to encourage the development of Ukraine's young artistic generation.

Current director Yulia Vaganova welcomed the more laboratory-oriented approach the gallery is embracing. As a result of meager funding through donations and Ukrainian and foreign partnerships, she said the CCA is continually teetering between closing and enduring.

The gallery has a contract to maintain its current space until 2009.

Mr. Onuch noted that the arrival of the well-publicized PinchukArtCentre in Kyiv has allowed the CCA to play a more experimental role on the Ukrainian contemporary art scene.

The next two years may provide the best opportunity for this young creative generation to develop their talents and earn recognition, he added.

"We need to focus on the internal discourse among you," Mr. Onuch said, speaking to the participants of the Communities Project gathered around the conference table.

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New York curator meets with colleagues and public in Edmonton

EDMONTON, Alberta – While spending the past week in Edmonton, Lubow Wolynetz, curator of The Ukrainian Museum in New York, spent a lot of time visiting the Edmonton area and speaking with residents. With many smaller Ukrainian museums in the area there was a great demand on her time and advice.

Invited to Edmonton by the Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore, Ms. Wolynetz came to present two public lectures for Edmontonians.

Her first lecture at the Royal Alberta Museum was on the growth of The Ukrainian Museum in New York. She spoke of its development from a cramped space and community-run organization to its present, state-of-the-art facility, professionally run and widely supported. With displays that focus on folk culture from its collection of over 8,000 pieces, to presentations of fine art by renowned Ukrainian artists such as Alexander Archipenko and Jacques Hinzdovsky, the museum is showing Ukrainian culture at its best, Ms. Wolynetz said.

Throughout her lecture she emphasized the importance of professionalism in both the administration and design of exhibits. "Presenting a display that both old and young can take pride in is essential to the success of the museum," noted Ms. Wolynetz. "The youth of today are very sophisticated; they need to be exposed to their history in a progressive way that allows them interaction and understanding."

As part of its programming The Ukrainian Museum hosts a wide number of community educational sessions. People from all cultures come to the museum to learn about Ukrainian culture and to begin their individual, lifelong connection with it.

In her second talk at the University of Alberta on Thursday, Ms. Wolynetz spoke about the importance of Ukrainians' strong ties to their folk culture.

"As a nationless and nameless group of people for so many years, due to wars and occupations, it was essential that, to hold on to their 'Ukrainian-ness,' they held on to their traditions. These traditions have allowed them to maintain their ethnic identity, an identity that is still strong today as you can easily see from the Edmonton community," Ms. Wolynetz said.

She also spoke of the importance of folk art in its demonstration of patriotism. In a time when Ukrainians were not allowed to express their ethnic pride verbally, they would use the traditional colors of blue and yellow, and the Ukrainian national emblem, the "Tryzub" (trident) in their embroidery of ritual items. Today, Ukrainians worldwide still proudly use these symbols of "Ukrainian-ness."

Summing up her presentation, Ms. Wolynetz spoke of the importance of folk culture in general. "In order to understand the direction we are heading we must be able to see clearly where we as a



Lubow Wolynetz speaks in Edmonton.

people are going. We learn from our past; we build on our history. To see far into the future we must stand on the shoulders of something that is bigger than ourselves. Folk culture is the giant upon whose shoulders we stand," she underscored.

Ms. Wolynetz had the opportunity to visit Edmonton's various Ukrainian museums and historical sites, as well as the groups who run them. She was very impressed and said she is looking forward to coming back in the near future with some of her associates from The Ukrainian Museum. "There are a lot of lessons that New York can learn from Edmonton," she said.

"Edmonton is definitely on par with New York, if not farther ahead," she

commented. "Amazing resources, great facilities and a community that supports it so strongly; Edmonton is truly blessed." She encouraged the Edmonton groups to work together to build something amazing. "Edmonton's museums have such great possibility for growth and development. Such a rich community with so much possibility. It is important that the groups here unite and build, and do not allow ego to get in the way," Ms. Wolynetz said.

Reflecting on Ms. Wolynetz's visit to Edmonton, Kule Center Director Andriy Nahachewsky said, "She has been a great resource for our community, and future collaboration with her and the New York museum is not only a must, but also a great pleasure."

Osinchuk to perform at West Point

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Internationally renowned pianist Juliana Osinchuk will inaugurate the U.S. Military Academy's Department of Foreign Languages Performing Arts Series, with a piano concert featuring works by Mozart, Chopin and Gershwin. The concert will take place in Eisenhower Hall, West Point on Friday, March 23, at 7 p.m.

This performance series is part of the department of foreign languages initiative to bring back culture to the West Point area, and to expose U.S. Cadets to classical music repertoire as performed by internationally recognized artists.

Dr. Osinchuk, is one of today's most versatile artists. She has been performing to great critical acclaim nationally and internationally since age 11 when she made her surprise debut in Carnegie Hall performing Beethoven's Sonata, Op.10, No. 1, to rave reviews. Her "superior technique, discipline and talent" (Los Angeles Times) have dazzled audiences and critics in many of the world's great concert halls. Musical America selected her as a "Young Artist to Watch."

As a much sought after chamber pianist, Dr. Osinchuk has collaborated with many great artists, including Ruggiero Ricci, Daniel Heifetz, Nathaniel Rosen, Leslie Parnas and Lee Wilkins.

Among Dr. Osinchuk's teachers were



Pianist Juliana Osinchuk

Nadia Boulanger, Rosina Lhevinne and Nadia Reisenberg. She received her formal education from the Conservatoire de Musique in Paris and the Juilliard School, graduating with bachelor's, master's and doctor of musical arts degrees.

Dr. Osinchuk is on the Steinway Piano Roster of International Artists and currently serves as artistic director of the Anchorage Festival of Music – Soiree Series and Young Alaskan Artists Award Programs.

Her concert at West Point is a formal gala concert. Admission is by invitation only and free of charge. The public may call in and inquire about invitations. For information call Dr. Rajaa Chouairi, 845-534-5489.

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*Ukrainian Students Association
at Buffalo resumes its activity*

by **Katrusia Miecycjak**

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Ukrainian Students Association at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, held a club night fund-raiser on January 26 at La Luna Nightclub in downtown Buffalo.

The fund-raiser's goal was to help the club get back on its feet after it was taken over by the Russian Club in the previous year.

The theme for the night was "Decades of Dance" with music by "DJ Aduk" from Detroit who spun music from the 1970s and 1980s, all the way up to today, including the popular songs by current Ukrainian artists such as Ruslana.

Club members agreed that the outcome of the event was tremendous, bringing in people from all over the city and even some out-of-towners. The night was a complete success, raising enough money to help the club start over and to provide the UB stu-

dent body with a clearer view of what the Ukrainian Students Association really is.

In the beginning of the year, there was no Ukrainian Students Association as there had been in years past, because the club was combined with the Russian Club to make RUSA – the Russian Ukrainian Student Association. However, there was no actual Ukrainian aspect to this club, so it had to be separated.

A group of students decided to split the group into two separate clubs. This was a success and now the Ukrainian Students Association is independent with its own agenda. The club night fund-raiser was imperative to help the club get stabilized and to promote knowledge about what the club is and what it does.

Club officers are: Katrusia Miecycjak, president; Yelena Dyatel, vice-president; Stefan Moroz, treasurer; Pavel Gadzovich, secretary; and Tanya Brown, e-board consultant.

Retribution...

(Continued from page 3)

the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, a major opposition force in the country, seems to be interested in having such polls.

According to recent sociological surveys, the Tymoshenko Bloc could count on some 28 percent of the vote in parliamentary elections – that is, 6 percent more than it won in the March 2006 ballot.

Surveys also suggest that the Party of the Regions could repeat its election result from 2006 by winning 32 percent of the vote. The heaviest losers would be Our Ukraine with only 7 percent of the vote (14 percent in 2006) and the

Socialist Party, which currently scores below the 4 percent voting threshold required for parliamentary representation.

Yulia Tymoshenko, who had a series of high-profile meetings and talks in Washington last week, returned to Kyiv with the news that the West would support early parliamentary elections in Ukraine if they were "constitutional, democratic and legal."

She appears determined to pursue the early-election idea for some time.

Tetyana Yarmoshchuk from RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service contributed to this report.



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An open invitation to local community activists

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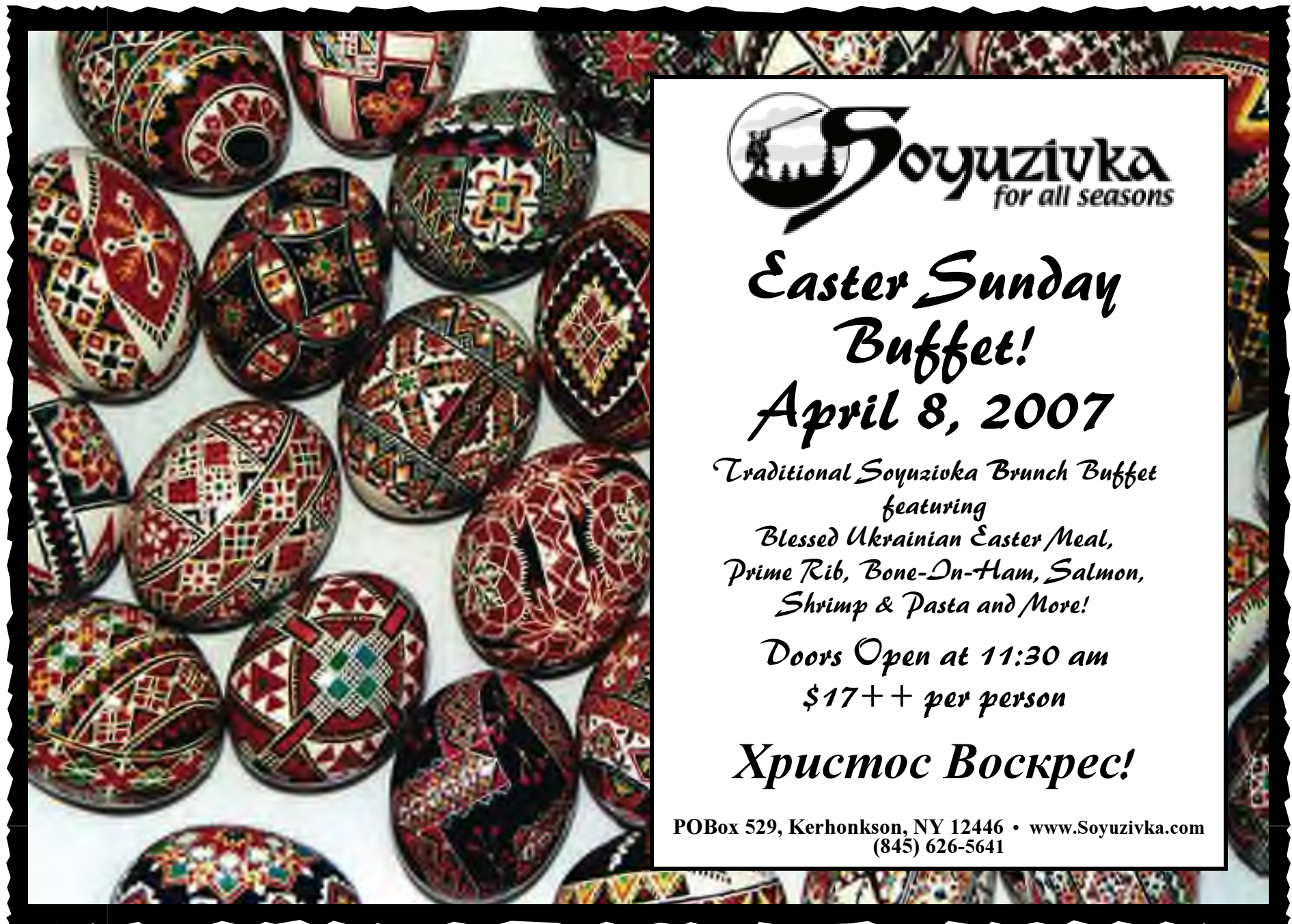
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Summer Work Travel Program announced for Ukraine's university students

WASHINGTON –The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation has launched the 2007 Summer Work Travel Program, an exchange initiative that can bring up to 800 university students from Ukraine to work and travel in the U.S. during the summer months.

Authority to sponsor students from abroad emanates from the U.S. State Department's Exchange Visitor Program, derived from the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-256, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2451, et. seq., 1988), also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act.

The purpose of the act is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through educational and cultural exchanges. Activities specified in the act are facilitated, in part, through the designation of public and private entities as sponsors of the Exchange Visitor Program.

The U.S. State Department's Summer Work/Travel category allows foreign post-secondary students to enter the United States to work and travel for a maximum of four months during their summer vacations.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation earned its Summer Work/Travel sponsor designation in November 2006. Since then the foundation has been busily setting up the 2007 program. Readers can visit the foundation's comprehensive Summer Work Travel Program website at www.exchangeusa.org for more information.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's (USUF) role is to ensure that students and employers meet the criteria established by the U.S. Department of State, to pair students with potential employers, and to provide administrative support throughout the program.

Full-time, Ukrainian college students

between the ages of 18 to 28 whose English proficiency is at the intermediate level are encouraged to apply. Summer Work Travel jobs include unskilled or entry-level positions such as amusement park ride operators, retail staff, cashiers, hotel desk clerks, lifeguards and parking attendants.

"It should be noted that the Summer Work Travel Program is not only beneficial to students, but also provides a unique seasonal staffing solution for U.S. employers. There is no charge for employers to participate in the program. Employers also benefit financially as students hired under this program are exempt from Social Security provisions and the students do not need employer-paid health coverage. We highly encourage interested employers to contact the foundation as soon as possible," said John A. Kun, vice-president of the USUF.

"Youth involvement in U.S.-Ukraine

cross-cultural activities is a strong interest of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. Today, we have an opportunity to bring even more American and Ukrainian students together to gain greater knowledge and understanding of one another," added Nadia K. McConnell, the foundation's president.

Other student-oriented activities of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation are the Youth Leadership Program, the Internship Program, the Books for Libraries Project, and its three scholarship programs – the Kovaluk, Maryniuk and Sutruk funds.

Employers and students interested in the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation's 2007 Summer Work Travel Program should visit www.exchangeusa.org. They may also contact the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation by phone at 202-223-2228 or by email at contact@exchangeusa.org.

Yulia Tymoshenko...

(Continued from page 7)

Do you think a victory is realistic in an atmosphere in which power and money games are played?

I'll tell you even more than that. The "wheelers and dealers" of the Party of the Regions are constantly saying that they will not allow for early elections to be held, that this time around they will not be as "soft" as they were in 2004 during the Orange Revolution, that they've been battle-hardened and are ready to bring in the armed forces. But in reality they know that their "wheeling and dealing" will not stand the test of time, and they are too cowardly to undertake such unconstitutional actions. And I am convinced that the [pro-]constitutional forces will prevail in early elections.

What is your general impression from your visit to the United States?

First and foremost, I have a very positive impression, but I would like to set the record straight about some rumors that are circulating – that the democratic world is disillusioned with Ukraine, and that some other questionable emotions are being expressed, but this is far from the truth. Ukraine is being viewed as a leading democratic catalyst among post-Soviet countries, and Ukraine has not lost this special status.

Ukraine is [also] being viewed as a very important [partner] in the formulation of a balanced energy policy in the entire region. Ukraine is not [synonymous with] disillusionment. It is [synonymous with] hope. And this is the sentiment I heard along with expressions of support for democratic forces in Ukraine, as well as support for our aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration.

I have been wanting to ask you this question for the past 10 years now. Why do you bother with all this? Why struggle against this giant, seemingly invincible machine, why endure prison sentences, worries, loss of health?

Every person throughout his or her life tries to pursue some kind of ideal. Everybody sees different ideals. Some want to make big money. Others want to make a career in science hoping to make a unique discovery for mankind. My lifetime ideal is to see a Ukraine that is beautiful and a worthy member of the European community, a country that can offer the world unique beautiful standards in the establishment of its social order.

This is my personal dream, my driving force. And nobody can make me alter my course or take this goal away from me.

This can't be achieved through prison sentences, repressions or any type of extraordinary measures that one would choose to take. Simply put, this is my purpose in life. And I will pursue it.

Besides, being familiar with the politics in Ukraine, I ask myself: "Who can make this happen, if not our team?"

Have you never woken up in the morning thinking "what do I need all these troubles for?"

It happens. For about five minutes until I'm fully awake. And things get to me sometimes, because like anyone else I, too, feel disillusioned at times. And then there are the insults... But I can endure all these things if there is a goal that is much higher than engaging in some kind of personal vendettas. Even exhaustion I can endure.

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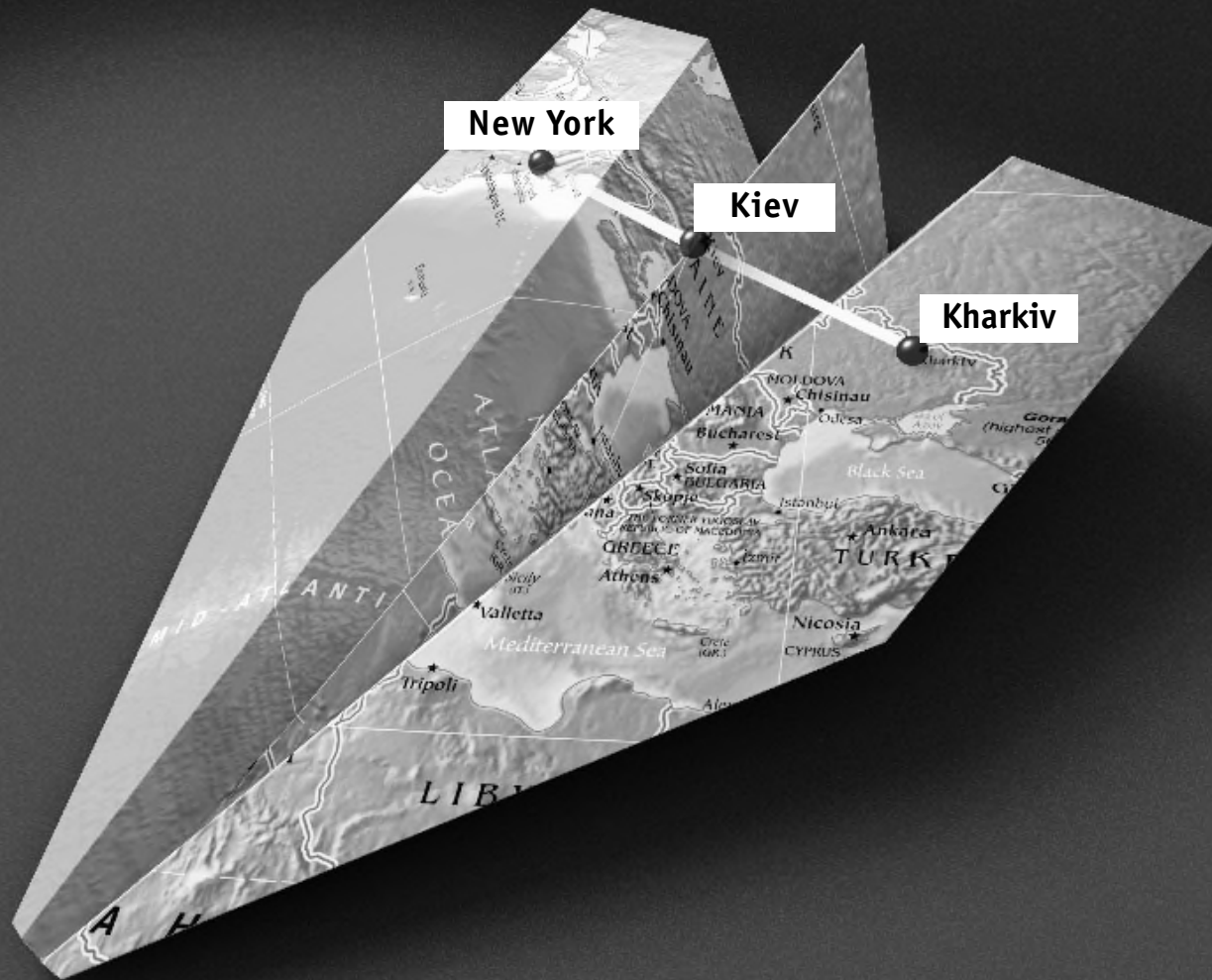
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OUT AND ABOUT

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| Through September 30
New York | Art exhibit, "Pysanka: Vessel of Life,"
The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 | March 22
Winnipeg, MB | Tarnawecky Distinguished Lecture by
Myrna Kostash, "How I lost my hyphen and
found my groove," University of Manitoba,
204-474-8905 |
| March 15-May 6
Oshawa, ON | Art exhibit, "Vera Jacyk: Chysto, Chysto,
Chysto," Robert McLaughlin Gallery,
905-576-3000 | March 22
Athabasca, AB | Concert, "Paris to Kyiv - Live Fragmenti,"
Nancy Appleby Theater, 780-525-2161 or
780-916-6871 |
| March 15
Buffalo, NY | Pysanka class by Judie Hawryluk, West
Seneca Community Education Center,
716-674-5185 | March 23
Toronto | Lecture by Serhii Plokhii, "Remembering Yalta:
The Politics of International History,"
University of Toronto, 416-946-8113 |
| March 16
Winnipeg, MB | Lecture by Orysia Tracz, "Songs Your Mother
Should Never Have Taught You: Erotic
Symbolism in Ukrainian Folk Songs,"
University of Manitoba, 204-474-9681 | March 23
Bonnyville, AB | Concert, "Paris to Kyiv - Live Fragmenti,"
Lyle Victor Albert Center, 780-526-3986 |
| March 16
Toronto | Ukrainian modern art workshop, "Modernity,
Identity, Tradition," University of Toronto,
416-946-8113 | March 24
Burlington, ON | Concert, "Songs of Ukraine," featuring the
Canadian Bandurist Capella, Music at St. Luke's
2007, 905-639-7643 |
| March 16
New York | "Literary Café at the Institute," featuring
readings by Vasyl Makhno, Yuriy Tarnawsky
and Alexander Motyl, Ukrainian Institute
of America, 212-288-8660 | March 24
Edmonton, AB | Concert, "Paris to Kyiv - Live Fragmenti,"
Maclab Theater, 780-424-2915 or
780-916-6871 |
| March 17, 18, 25
New York | Pysanka workshop, The Ukrainian Museum,
212-228-0110 | March 24
New York | Lecture by Mykola Kravets on aircraft
designer Ihor Sikorsky, Shevchenko Scientific
Society, 212-254-5130 |
| March 17
New York | Lecture by Andriy Legkyj, "Trends in
Contemporary Instrumental Chamber Music
in Ukraine, Names and Works," Shevchenko
Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | March 25
Washington | Presentation by Iryna Kowal, "Afternoon at
the Theater," Embassy of Ukraine,
202-349-2937 or 202-244-8836 |
| March 17
Philadelphia | Women's Day, "Women Nurturing Women:
A Celebration of Women's Spirit," Immaculate
Conception Cathedral Hall, 215-627-0143 | March 25
Windsor, ON | Concert, "Bandura - The Soul of Ukraine,"
Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, St. Joseph
Secondary School, 519-256-2955 |
| March 18
New York | Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble performs
at the European Folk Festival, Fashion
Institute of Technology, 212-217-5800 | March 25
Leighton, PA | Pysanka Workshop, Ukrainian Homestead,
215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621 |
| March 18
Chicago | Presentation by Norman Golb, "Khazars in
Ukraine," University of Chicago, 773-883-9737 | March 25
Jenkintown, PA | Banquet fund-raiser, to benefit Ukrainian
Catholic University, Ukrainian Educational
Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 |
| March 19
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Roman Szporluk, "The Traditional
Scheme of 19th Century Ukrainian History
and the Problem of Rational Restructuring
of the History of Eastern Europe,"
Harvard University, 617-495-4053 | March 25
New York | Yara Arts Group presents "Janyl," La MaMa
Theater, 212-475-7710 or www.lamama.org |
| March 21
Washington | Lecture by Taras Kuzio, "Ukraine: Political
Crisis or Normal Politics?," George Washington
University, 703-548-8534 | | |
| March 22
Buffalo, NY | Pysanka class by Judie Hawryluk, West
Seneca Community Education Center,
716-674-5185 | | |

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Session 1: June 24– July 1, 2007
Session 2: July 1– July 8, 2007

UKRAINIAN HERITAGE DAY CAMP AGES 4-7

Formerly known as Chemney Camp, this day camp exposes kids to their Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Price includes tee-shirt and daily lunch.

Session 1: July 15– July 20, 2007
Session 2: July 22– July 27, 2007
\$150 Per Camper
\$190 if not an overnight guest

A \$75 deposit is required to register a child into camp (For Sitch camp- register directly with Sitch Sports School. For Plast camp- register directly with Plast) For more information & for camp applications call: (845) 626-5641

or
check out our website at:
www.Soyuzivka.com



DISCOVERY CAMP AGES 8-15

Calling all nature lovers for this sleepover camp filled with hiking, swimming, scuba, organized sports, & bonfires.

Week: July 15– July 21, 2007
\$400 UNA Members
\$450 Non UNA Members

SCUBA DIVING COURSE AGES 12-ADULTS

One week course will complete academic, confined water and open water requirements for PADI open water certification. Classes given by George Hanushevsky, scuba-diver instructor.

Pre registration is required.
Week 1 : July 15– July 21, 2007
Week 2 : July 22– July 28, 2007
\$400 for Course
\$120 Deposit Required
All fees payable to George Hanushevsky

UKRAINIAN "SITCH" SPORTS CAMP AGES 6-18

This is the 38th Annual Ukrainian "SITCH" Sports Camp run by the Ukrainian Sitch Sports School. This camp will focus on soccer and tennis & is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Registration for this camp is done directly by contacting Marika Bokalo at (908) 851-0617.

Session 1: July 22– July 28, 2007
Session 2: July 29– August 4, 2007
\$350 Per Camper
\$150 for Day Campers

TRADITIONAL UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE CAMP AGES 8-16

Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky). Expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced dancers. The camps will end with a grand recital which is always a summer highlight!

Session 1: July 22– August 4, 2007
Session 2: August 5– 18, 2007
\$610- UNA Members
\$660- Non UNA Members
+\$300 Instructors Fee /Student



UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Children to present “Enchanted Tunes” in Philadelphia area

PHILADELPHIA – On Sunday, March 18, two organizations that are strongly tied to the educational development of Ukrainian children are presenting “Enchanted Tunes,” a program for kids from age 2 to 102.

These two organizations are the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Music Institute, and the Svitlychka Cooperative Nursery of the Ukrainian Gold Cross at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC).

The program will open with talented drummer/singer/song-writer George Hrab, who will present a fun lesson about music. The children will have an opportunity to hear and play instruments.

The first part of the program will

present an abridged version of “Little Red Riding Hood” by the Children’s Choir of UMI. The original composition is by composer Vasyl Bezkorovayniy. The growing orchestra of the Ukrainian Music Institute will present the Overture to the operetta.

In the second part of the program, the Svitlychka School has invited the well-known singer Olya Fryz, who will be performing popular children’s songs from her CD “Scho Za Hamir.” This will be a fun interactive performance for the children.

“Enchanted Tunes” starts at 2 p.m., at the UECC.

The cost of tickets is \$10 per adult; children accompanied by adults are free.



The Children’s Choir of the Ukrainian Music Institute.

Advance tickets may be purchased by calling the Svitlychka office at 215-663-0381. Tickets

may also be purchased on Monday evenings at the UECC during the dance and choir rehearsals.

Parma parish hosts special youth event

PARMA Ohio – The annual “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday,” sponsored by the Junior Ukrainian Orthodox League Chapter of St. Vladimir’s Cathedral, was held here on February 18 at the 8:30 a.m. divine liturgy.

Although a heavy snow had fallen in Parma throughout the night, the parish youth braved the weather to

attend the liturgy.

The clergy welcomed the visitors and gave a brief introduction and explanation of the Orthodox faith and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Each visitor was presented with a remembrance of the visit and all participated in a special breakfast in the parish center following the liturgy.



Clergy, Junior UOL members and visitors to St. Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio, during “Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday.”

Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the words on the list below in the Mishanyna grid. This month’s theme: ABC’s – Ukrainian cities and towns starting with the letters A, B and C. See how many of these you can find on your map of Ukraine.

- Alupka
- Anratsyt
- Artemivka
- Baranivka
- Berezhany
- Cherkasy
- Chop
- Chortkiv

- Alushta
- Apostolove
- Balaklava
- Baturyn
- Boryslav
- Chernihiv
- Chornomorka

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

OUR NEXT ISSUE

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated April 8, please send in your materials by March 30. 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.

Soyuzivka's Datebook

March 23-25, 2007

Plast Sorority "Chornomorski Khvyli" Rada

April 8, 2007

Traditional Blessed Ukrainian Easter Day Brunch, doors open at 11:30 a.m.

April 13-15, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at SUNY New Paltz

April 20-22, 2007

BUG (Brooklyn Ukrainian Group) Spring Cleaning/Volunteer Weekend

April 21, 2007

Alpha Kappa Sorority Semi-Formal Dinner Banquet Wedding

April 27-29, 2007

Plast Sorority "Shostokryli" Rada

April 28, 2007

TAP New York Beer Festival at Hunter Mountain - 10th Anniversary! Round-trip bus from Soyuzivka, special room rate \$60/night
Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity Semi-Formal Dinner Banquet

May 4-6, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at SUNY New Paltz

May 13, 2007

Mother's Day Luncheon

May 19, 2007

Tri Valley High School Prom

May 25-27, 2007

Memorial Day Weekend BBQ, Orchidia Patrons' Reunion, Summer kick-off and zabava

June 1-3, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion Weekends offered at SUNY New Paltz

June 4-8, 2007

Stamford Clergy Days - Spring Seminar

June 9, 2007

Wedding

June 10-15, 2007

UNA Seniors Week

June 17, 2007

Father's Day Luncheon and Program

June 21-24, 2007

UMANA Convention

June 24-July 6, 2007

Tennis Camp

June 24-July 1, 2007

Plast Camp - Tabir Ptashat, Session #1

June 25-29, 2007

Exploration Day Camp Session #1, ages 7-10



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, March 16

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America is pleased to announce a Literary Café, featuring readings by Vasyl Makhno, Yuriy Tarnawsky and Alexander Motyl. Dr. Makhno will read in Ukrainian from "Coney Island," a tragicomic play about Ukrainian emigrants in Brooklyn. Mr. Tarnawsky will read in Ukrainian and English from his collections of poetry and prose. Dr. Motyl will read in English from his novels "Whiskey Priest" and "Who Shot Andrei Warhol." The UIA is located at 2 E. 79th St. The event begins at 7 p.m. Admission: general public, \$10; students, \$5. Beverages and appetizers will be served during the café. RSVP by calling 212-288-8660 or e-mailing programs@ukrainianinstitute.org.

Sunday, March 18

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago invites members and the community to a presentation by Dr. Norman Golb on "Khazars in Ukraine." Dr. Golb, professor of Hebrew studies at the University of Chicago, will discuss recent findings on Khazars, a nomadic tribe that established a powerful kingdom that extended as far as Kyiv and lasted until the early 11th century. Dr. Golb is author of numerous books and articles on Jewish history, including the book "Khazarian Hebrew Documents of the Tenth Century," co-authored with the late Prof. Omeljan Pritsak of Harvard. The lecture will be held at 3 p.m. at the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago (Breasted Hall), 1155 E. 58th St., preceded by optional independent tours of the galleries at 1 p.m., and a film about Persepolis at 2 p.m. An optional group dinner for \$20, including wine, will follow the presentation. For dinner reservations and additional information, call 773-883-9737. Admission is free, with a suggested \$5 donation to the museum.

Monday, March 19

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture by Roman Szporluk, Mykhailo S. Hrushevsky Research Professor of Ukrainian History, Harvard University. His lecture, "The Traditional Scheme of 19th-Century Ukrainian History and the Problem of Rational Restructuring of the History of Eastern Europe," will be held at 4-6 p.m. in Room S-050 (Concourse level) of the South Building of the Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS), located at 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA 02138. For more information contact HURI at 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

Sunday, March 25

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group Cultural Fund, under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, invites the public to an "Afternoon at the Theater" during which Iryna Kowal, a Ukrainian American playwright, will speak about her work and will present dramatic readings from her plays by local actors in Ukrainian and English. The presentation will take place at 3 p.m. at the Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M St. NW.

Suggested donation: \$20. Seating is limited. RSVP to ibezverkha@ukremb.com or 202-349-2937; for more information call 202-244-8836.

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: A presentation and luncheon spotlighting the Ukrainian Catholic University will be held at 2 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Tickets to the event cost \$40; donations are also welcome. All proceeds from the luncheon will support the Ukrainian Catholic University. To purchase tickets send a check to: Philadelphia Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University, P. O. Box 19, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006; for more information call 215-947-2795. All friends and supporters of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, as well as all interested persons, are invited to attend. Organizations are also most welcome.

Through Sunday, March 25

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group has created "Janyl," an original theater piece based on a Kyrgyz epic about a woman warrior, with the Sakhna Theater of Bishkek, and will present the show at La MaMa Theater in New York. "Janyl" is directed by Virlana Tkacz, designed by Watoku Ueno, with movement by Shigeo Suga, photography by Margaret Morton, video by Andrea Odezynska and translation by Ms. Tkacz, Roza Mukasheva and Wanda Phipps. "Janyl" features a cast of Yara and Sakhna artists, as well as Kyrgyz epic singing and music. Show times: March 9-11, Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; March 15-18 and 22-25, Thursday-Saturday, 9 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Venue: La MaMa Theater, 74a E. Fourth St. (at Second Avenue). Tickets at \$15 may be purchased at the box office, 212-475-7710 or www.lamama.org.

Saturday, March 31

HORSHAM, PA.: The Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub, County Line and Lower State roads, (Philadelphia area), invites you to a wine tasting, seminar and dinner. Learn a sommelier's secrets of food and wine pairing; enjoy the company of good friends. The seminar and wine tasting will be presented by Old Wines LLC of Philadelphia. (For information and a demo video see www.MarnieOld.com.) Doors open at 7 p.m.; the seminar and wine tasting will commence at 7:30 p.m., and will be followed by a bountiful buffet banquet, elegant sweets, coffee and tea. The seminar, dinner and wine are all included in the price: \$35 in advance; \$40 at the door. Reservations and advance ticket purchases are highly recommended, as seating will be limited. Call Nika Chajkowsky, 215-860-8384, or Natalia Luciw, 215-362-5331. Information is also available at www.tryzub.org.

SAVE THE DATE

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America presents "Casino Royale, An Evening in Montenegro," on Saturday, April 21. More info to come.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES:

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

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. 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 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, preview@ukrweekly.com.

Easter Greetings 2007

Continue your tradition.

Send best wishes to your family and friends, colleagues and clients on the occasion of Easter with a greeting in The Ukrainian Weekly.

Holiday Issue Publication Date Advertising Deadline

April 1

March 20

1/16 page – \$35; 1/8 page – \$50;
1/4 page – \$100; 1/2 page – \$200; full page – \$400

All advertising correspondence, reservations and payments should be directed to Mrs. Maria Oscislawski, advertising manager, tel. 973-292-9800, ext. 3040, or e-mail: adsukrpubl@att.net

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