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Ukrainian World Congress prepares for Holodomor's 75th anniversary

TORONTO – In preparation for the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine, the Ukrainian World Congress International Coordinating Committee met in Toronto on March 4 to lay the groundwork for global and coordinated commemorations of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide.

The committee, chaired by Stefan Romaniw, chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations, includes representatives of Ukrainian communities around the world, as well as Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko's administration. Participating in the meeting were Ivan Vasiunyk, vice-chair of the Presidential Secretariat of Ukraine, and Dr. Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's ambassador to Canada.

It is the ultimate goal of the committee to ensure that the Holodomor is recognized by national governments and the United Nations as a genocide of the Ukrainian nation. To this end, it

will coordinate commemorative efforts, disseminate information and facilitate the sharing of resources. This tragic period in Ukraine's history will be permanently documented by Ukraine for future generations in a memorial museum to be built in Kyiv.

Committee members participated in workshops highlighting four major areas of activity which will be at the core of the joint project. Subcommittees will continue to work on legal issues – chair Bohdan Futey (U.S.); exhibits – chair Morgan Williams (U.S.), educational issues – chair Nadia Luciw (Canada), and public relations – chair Michael Sawkiw Jr. (U.S.). Strategic plans in each of these areas will be developed for worldwide distribution.

Resolutions from the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee were presented and discussed with President Yushchenko at a meeting on March 19 in Kyiv.

Yurii Lutsenko in the line of fire of Procurator General's Office

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Concern that authoritarianism and political persecution have returned to Ukrainian government resurfaced after the Procurator General's Office announced on March 19 that it had charged former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko with illegal distribution of 51 firearms and abuse of power.

The following day police officers



Oleksander Kosariev/UNIAN

Yurii Lutsenko, Ukraine's former minister of internal affairs.

entered Mr. Lutsenko's apartment at 6:25 a.m. and spent half the day searching for evidence related to the charges, confiscating cash, a gun and two Ukrainian passports.

While authorities said they were merely enforcing the law, allies said the Orange Revolution hero was being targeted by the coalition government just as his People's Self-Defense movement was gaining momentum and was preparing for a spring protest in Kyiv expected to draw up to 100,000 protesters.

"This is a political order sewn with white strings," President Viktor Yushchenko said on March 21, commenting on how obvious the machinations are.

Though the Procurator General's Office determined in December 2006 that Mr. Lutsenko hadn't broken any laws when distributing firearms, many of which were awards given to his allies, officials left the door open to revisit the case by denoting "signs of corrupt activity."

A Kyiv court also had determined in December 2006 that Mr. Lutsenko hadn't violated any laws.

In executing the search, authorities said they were looking for five computer central processing units that Mr. Lutsenko had allegedly received in exchange for guns he awarded, as well as firearms, office furniture and an alleged Israeli passport in his possession.

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Yatseniuk overwhelmingly approved by Rada as foreign affairs minister

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Parliament voted overwhelmingly on March 21 to approve Arsenii Yatseniuk, an independent politician with close ties to both the coalition government and opposition, as Ukraine's new minister of foreign affairs.

National deputies from all five factions cast 426 votes in approving Mr. Yatseniuk's nomination, which President Viktor Yushchenko submitted the prior day after the candidacy of pro-Ukrainian, European-oriented Volodymyr Ohryzko was rejected a second time.

Mr. Yatseniuk is widely viewed as a pragmatic politician who will balance and consolidate Ukraine's polarized foreign policy sphere, which has been a battlefield between the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet of Ministers for half a year.

"I don't think that the foreign policy course will change after Yatseniuk's appointment," said Oleksander Turchynov, assistant faction chair of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. "He will be trying to maneuver in uniting the positions of the president and the government."

In addressing Parliament before its vote, Mr. Yatseniuk said he would adhere to Ukrainian law in serving as foreign affairs minister, recognizing that it's the president who is charged by the Ukrainian Constitution with determining the nation's foreign policy course.

However, his response also revealed that Mr. Yatseniuk is already practicing his likely tightrope walk in balancing the interests of the Western-oriented Secretariat, and the Eurasian-oriented coalition government.

"A separate position from the minister of foreign affairs on foreign policy issues can't exist," said Mr. Yatseniuk, who became Ukraine's youngest foreign affairs minister at age 32. "There is a position of the Ukrainian state, and that position is supposed to be produced by the Ukrainian president, who implements leadership on foreign policy in constructive cooperation with the Ukrainian parliament and government."

A Party of the Regions deputy asked Mr. Yatseniuk to state his approach to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which is among the main sources of conflict within Ukrainian politics and society.

In his response, Mr. Yatseniuk stuck to the legal requirements of his position, without adding affirmative or antagonistic comments.

He pointed out that the constitutional majority in 2003 passed legislation on the foundations for national safety, "which ensures cooperation and membership."

"In this way, as a government official,



Yevhen Orlovskiy/UNIAN

Ukraine's new minister of foreign affairs, 32-year-old Arsenii Yatseniuk.

I would like to certify that such issues will be viewed through the appropriate legislative prism," he said.

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Kinakh leaves opposition, becomes economy minister

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's ruling coalition took a giant leap toward achieving its goal of monopolizing government after Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich announced on March 21 that Anatolii Kinakh had abandoned the opposition to become the new minister of the economy.

Mr. Kinakh had been among President Viktor Yushchenko's closest advisors (his National Security and Defense Council chair), of an Orange Revolution ally and leader the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs – one of six political parties that comprised the Our Ukraine bloc.

"This is a shame of a moral type," Mr. Yushchenko said in disgust, after deliberately avoiding a scheduled event with Mr. Kinakh the prior day. "It's a dishonest concession in politics. But it won't have any effect, except in personal relations."

Mr. Kinakh abandoned Our Ukraine just days after Mr. Yushchenko met with opposition deputies at the Presidential

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ANALYSIS

More setbacks for rule of law in Ukraine

by **Taras Kuzio**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On March 4, 2005, former Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko was found dead with two bullet wounds to the head. The official verdict was suicide. Two years on, Mr. Kravchenko's family has launched a private investigation claiming that two self-inflicted gunshots to the head would be impossible and that therefore he was murdered because he was a key witness in the fall 2000 murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze. Ukraine's forensic specialists have backed up this theory.

The Kravchenko case has raised numerous debates about the nature and number of the agreements reached during the roundtable negotiations that resolved the disputed 2004 presidential election. Specifically, did Viktor Yushchenko grant immunity to outgoing President Leonid Kuchma to secure his election on December 26, 2004? Such a deal would have undermined the Orange coalition's platform stressing the rule of law.

Granting Mr. Kuchma immunity during the Orange Revolution would have been an easy decision for Mr. Yushchenko and his Our Ukraine allies, as they had never supported the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc's demands to impeach President Kuchma for abuse of office. What has disillusioned Orange voters the most is that the December 2004 immuni-

ty deal seems to have reached far wider than just Mr. Kuchma.

Mr. Kravchenko is not the only official implicated in the Gongadze murder to be fired, allowed to flee abroad or granted state honors. Gen. Oleksii Pukach, head of the Internal Affairs Ministry's criminal surveillance branch, allegedly kidnapped and murdered Mr. Gongadze. Mr. Pukach supposedly fled Ukraine in late 2004, but suspicions linger that he, like Mr. Kravchenko, is no longer alive.

Former Procurator General Mikhail Potebenko was more fortunate than Messrs. Kravchenko and Pukach. A February 16 presidential decree awarded him a state medal, the Order of Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise, for his supposed "personal contribution to the building of a rule of law-based state, strengthening of legality, and law-abiding and long years of conscious toil."

Mr. Potebenko was Ukraine's top prosecutor from July 1998 to April 2002 at the time presidential guard Mykola Melnychenko bugged President Kuchma's office, recording conversations that would implicate Mr. Kuchma in the Gongadze death. The European Court of Human Rights believes that Mr. Potebenko headed a sham investigation and covered up evidence implicating senior officials.

Mr. Gongadze's widow told the Jamestown Foundation that awarding a medal to Mr. Potebenko is a de facto

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Corruption probes in Ukraine: the tables are turned

by **Pavel Korduban**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

As leadership has changed at Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, many former officials who fled Ukraine amid accusations of corruption after the Orange Revolution have nothing to fear. Criminal cases against them are being closed one by one. The Orange leaders cry foul, saying that this means a restoration of the old regime.

Representatives of the ruling coalition, which is led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, are saying that most of the high-profile investigations launched by the Orange team in 2005 were purely political, so justice is being restored. Meanwhile, people from the Orange team are becoming the targets of corruption investigations themselves.

Criminal cases have been closed against the former manager of President Leonid Kuchma's office, Ihor Bakai, Vice Minister of Internal Affairs Mykhailo Kornienko told Komsomolskaya Pravda on February 22. Mr. Bakai was one of the main targets of the anti-corruption campaign launched after President Viktor Yushchenko came to power. He fled to Russia and obtained Russian citizenship. In 2005-2006 the Orange authorities insisted that Russia should extradite Mr. Bakai.

Another former official who has nothing to fear is Volodymyr Satsiuk, a former deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). In June 2005, then Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun announced that Mr. Satsiuk was wanted for abuse of office and fraud. It is widely believed that the mysterious poisoning of Mr. Yushchenko in September 2004 was

committed at Mr. Satsiuk's country home. Mr. Satsiuk has reportedly been hiding all this time. On March 2 the Procurator General's Office (PGO) announced that the criminal cases against Mr. Satsiuk had been closed due to the absence of material evidence.

Other former officials who may soon be officially cleared of charges include former Sumy Oblast Administration Chair Volodymyr Scherban and former Odesa Mayor Ruslan Bodelan.

Mr. Scherban fled Ukraine in 2005 for the United States, where he was briefly imprisoned for visa irregularities. He returned to Ukraine in November 2006. On February 26 the spokesman for the Procurator General's Office, Oleksii Bebel, announced that Mr. Scherban should soon be cleared of corruption charges, including abuse of office, tax evasion and extortion.

Mr. Bodelan, who was charged with official abuse in 2005, has become a Russian citizen. He is now a top manager at the St. Petersburg seaport. Internal Affairs Minister Vasyl Tsushko, reporting to Parliament on February 23, said that Mr. Bodelan was no longer wanted by the police.

The report by Mr. Tsushko, who replaced Yurii Lutsenko as minister last December, was a sensation. He said that Mr. Lutsenko had pursued political aims by accusing former top officials of corruption. He also accused the Ukrainian branch of Interpol of lying about the number of officials on the international wanted list. The chief of Ukrainian Interpol, Kyrylo Kulykov, denied Mr. Tsushko's accusation and resigned the same day.

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NEWSBRIEFS**Rada again rejects Ohryzko**

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 20 once again rejected the candidacy of Volodymyr Ohryzko for the post of foreign affairs minister. Mr. Ohryzko was supported by 195 votes from the opposition Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine. He needed at least 226 votes to be approved. It was the second time that his candidacy, submitted by President Viktor Yushchenko, was rejected by the legislature. The first failed vote on Ohryzko took place on February 22. After the vote on March 20, lawmakers from the Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine left the session hall. On March 19 President Yushchenko held consultations with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz, and parliamentary leaders on Mr. Ohryzko's confirmation but apparently failed to persuade the ruling coalition to support his nominee. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Rada approves foreign affairs minister

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 21 overwhelmingly approved Arsenii Yatseniuk as new foreign affairs minister, Ukrainian media reported. His candidacy was backed by 426 lawmakers, while only 226 votes were required for approval. The opposition parliamentary caucuses, Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, left the session hall immediately after the vote on Mr. Yatseniuk. Mr. Yatseniuk, 32, was nominated for the post of foreign affairs minister by President Viktor Yushchenko on March 20, following a failed vote on the approval of Volodymyr Ohryzko earlier the same day. Mr. Yatseniuk was economy minister in the Cabinet of Yurii Yekhanurov from September 2005 to August 2006. He previously served as deputy chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. Speaking in the Rada, Mr. Yatseniuk noted that Ukraine must be "a subject, not object, of foreign policy." He stressed that Ukraine should protect its own interests. He said Russia is a great partner of Ukraine, while emphasizing Ukraine's high-level dialogue with the United States. He reassured national deputies that Ukraine would not stand apart from world processes, referring to combating terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. (RFE/RL Newswire, Ukrinform)

Comments on Yatseniuk appointment

KYIV – Arsenii Yatseniuk is an experienced and skilled professional, according to Yurii Yekhanurov, a former prime minister and member of the Our Ukraine faction. He added that the new foreign affairs minister is experienced in the sector of development of foreign international relations, having held the post of economy minister. The deputy leader of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, Oleksander Turchynov, said the nomination of Mr. Yatseniuk for foreign affairs minister was hasty. He said the nomination weakens the president's team and, as such, is another defeat. Mr. Turchynov added that he has nothing against Mr. Yatseniuk and believes the newly elected minister will handle with his duties. Meanwhile, President Viktor Yushchenko's representative to the Rada, Roman Zvarych, said he believes election of the foreign affairs minister has diminished aggravation in Parliament. Mr. Zvarych noted that the president regulates Ukraine's foreign policy course and stressed that a continuing vacancy in the foreign minister's post could have undermined Ukraine's image. He said Mr. Yatseniuk is a skilled and experienced expert who will professionally run the Foreign Affairs Ministry. (Ukrinform)

Three Cabinet ministers confirmed

KYIV – On March 21 the Verkhovna Rada confirmed the nominations of Anatolii Kinakh, Volodymyr Yatsuba, and Oleh Popov for the posts of economy minister, regional development and construction minister, and housing and public utilities minister, respectively. Mr. Kinakh, head of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, was prime minister in 2001-2002 and held a number of other senior positions in different Cabinets, including the job of first vice prime minister in Yulia Tymoshenko's Cabinet after the 2004 Orange Revolution. The Our Ukraine People's Union, a component of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine bloc, said in a statement published on the Our Ukraine website that Mr. Kinakh's decision to join Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's Cabinet constitutes a "political betrayal"

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Postmaster, send address changes to: **Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz**
The Ukrainian Weekly **Editors:**
2200 Route 10 **Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)**
P.O. Box 280 **Matthew Dubas**
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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator	(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041 e-mail: ukradmin@att.net
Maria Oscislawski, advertising manager	(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 e-mail: adsukrpubl@att.net
Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions	(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042 e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net

NEWS ANALYSIS: Former and current internal affairs ministers ready to confront each other

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian law enforcement agencies are not concealing their displeasure with the behavior of former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko, one of the key figures of the 2004 Orange Revolution. Mr. Lutsenko has set up the People's Self-Defense movement and is touring the regions in order to find out if the current degree of popular discontent with the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich is enough to organize a popular March of Justice in Kyiv sometime this spring. Mr. Lutsenko was ousted from the post of internal affairs minister last December.

Mr. Lutsenko's opponents apparently fear a repeat of the Orange Revolution. Reporting to Parliament in February, Vasyl Tsushko, who replaced Mr. Lutsenko as internal affairs minister, accused him of using the police to further his political goals. The Procurator

General's Office (PGO), meanwhile, has opened a criminal case against Mr. Lutsenko and declared that he is a foreign citizen. On March 20, the PGO searched Mr. Lutsenko's apartment, seized his documents and summoned him for interrogation.

Mr. Lutsenko began to tour the regions in early February. On weekends he has been gathering several thousand people in the central squares of major Ukrainian cities for anti-government rallies. He has already visited such big cities as Poltava, Lviv, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk. He plans to soon go to Luhansk and Donetsk – both Yanukovich strongholds.

In response to the accusations of using "administrative resources" as an aide to President Viktor Yushchenko, Mr. Lutsenko has resigned from that post. But he is being helped by several other people from Mr. Yushchenko's entourage, including tycoon Davyd Zhvania, who is believed to have been one of the financiers of the Orange

Revolution; Yushchenko aide Taras Stetskiv; and MP Mykola Katerynychuk, who was a key legal adviser to Mr. Yushchenko during the revolution. While Mr. Lutsenko's populist group targets mostly young people, Mr. Katerynychuk has organized European Platform, a less radical movement apparently designed to complement People's Self-Defense.

Mr. Lutsenko denies that People's Self-Defense is a party, and he says it will not be transformed into a party even if early elections are called. Instead, one of the goals that People's Self-Defense and European Platform share is the organization of a popular referendum in order to boost presidential powers, reversing the constitutional reform of 2004-2006. Mr. Katerynychuk told a meeting in Cherkasy on February 11.

In a recent interview with Glavred, Mr. Lutsenko listed the key three goals that his movement pursues. These are: "to teach politicians to fulfill their election promises"; "a new social contract" in order to amend the Constitution to prevent the possibility of usurpation of power; and "a search for new, young political personalities." Speaking at a press conference in Lviv on March 9, Mr. Lutsenko added a fourth goal: "protecting Ukraine's political and economic independence" against "anti-Ukrainian forces."

Speaking to Glavred, Mr. Lutsenko denied that he intends to oust the Yanukovich government by force. "We are organizing a constitutionally allowed form of protest against the inefficient authorities," he said. Mr. Lutsenko also pledged loyalty to President Yushchenko, saying that he is the symbol of Ukraine's independence and, as such, he has to be helped "irrespective of his personal qualities."

Mr. Tsushko, speaking at his first press conference as internal affairs minister on March 17, said he is ready to counteract his predecessor. What's more, Mr. Tsushko hinted that the police may use

force to repel People's Self-Defense's March of Justice. Mr. Tsushko alleged that the march's organizers are offering \$25 to high school students for participation. "Those children will be used as cannon fodder," he warned. Mr. Tsushko said that Mr. Yanukovich supporters are planning to take some 100,000 people to Kyiv streets to confront the March of Justice, and that the police would interfere so that "they should not kill each other."

Deputy Procurator General Renat Kuzmin, who is believed to be a faithful Yanukovich ally, said on TV on March 13 that a criminal case had been opened against Mr. Lutsenko. According to Mr. Kuzmin, he was charged with the illegal issue of small arms. Mr. Kuzmin also said that he received a copy of a document signed by Israeli officials saying that Mr. Lutsenko was granted Israeli citizenship in the 1990s.

Mr. Lutsenko countered that he did not have any citizenship other than Ukrainian and insisted that the Israeli documents to which Mr. Kuzmin referred had been forged. Mr. Lutsenko promised to turn to the Israeli Embassy to clarify the matter. Commenting on the criminal case, Mr. Lutsenko said that it was launched in order to prevent him from touring Ukraine.

Dual citizenship is forbidden in Ukraine. Even if the reports about Mr. Lutsenko's Israeli citizenship are proven to be false, they are sure to make him less popular with Ukraine's right-wing nationalists, whose support he apparently seeks. And, if Mr. Lutsenko is pronounced guilty on the illegal arms distribution charges, he may face up to 12 years in prison, *Ukrayinska Pravda* reported.

Sources: *Interfax-Ukraine*, February 10, March 10; *ProUA.com*, February 11; *Channel 5*, March 9, 17; *Glavred.info*, March 12; *Inter TV*, March 13; *Silski visti*, March 16; *Ukrayinska Pravda*, March 19.

Yushchenko addresses Ukraine's newly established Holodomor Council

Official Website of the President of Ukraine

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko insists that those who deny the Holodomor and the Holocaust be punished as criminals.

"I insist that such a practice be introduced. I ask the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to pass a bill on criminal responsibility for genocide denial. This will be our contribution to the global cause of fighting disrespect for human life, totalitarianism and national intolerance," he said, adding that similar laws had been enforced in many European countries, among them Germany, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria and Romania.

In his speech to the Holodomor Council, which is in charge of holding events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet-era Great Famine, the president outlined strategic goals, both national and international, to commemorate the anniversary. He described the Great Famine of 1932-1933 as a "page in the history of the world – not only Ukraine's tragedy" and said it is important to persuade the European Union, the European Parliament and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to recognize it as genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

He added that two-thirds of the country's population approved and welcomed last year's parliamentary resolution on the Holodomor.

President Yushchenko said the Ukrainian diaspora abroad played and would continue to play an important role in honoring the victims of the tragedy and asked the Foreign Affairs Ministry of

Ukraine and Ukrainian diplomats to actively inform the international community about that period. He said he would soon ask world leaders to declare the Great Famine an act of genocide and thanked the Ukrainian World Congress for its efforts.

The president said several members of the European Parliament had recently proposed a Holodomor declaration and added that leaders of the European People's Party, one of the leading parties in the European Parliament, had reassured him in Brussels they would support it. He also welcomed plans by the U.S. Congress to erect a monument in Washington honoring the Holodomor victims.

Mr. Yushchenko said the commemoration of the tragedy should include art projects. Among them is a requiem concert that will soon be performed worldwide. Ukraine 3000, the international charitable foundation led by Ukraine's first lady, will open a Holodomor exhibition in the European Parliament next week.

The Ukrainian president also said it was important to create a Nationwide Book of Memory with the names of those who died from hunger and a list of the villages and towns affected by the Famine. The National Institute of Memory is overseeing this project, which will be discussed at an upcoming meeting of the Holodomor Council.

The president asked the country's local governments to register and inventory all the documents associated with the Great Famine by the end of 2007. He then asked the Security Service of Ukraine, the Foreign Affairs Ministry and

(Continued on page 25)

Yushchenko meets with UWC committee

Official Website of the President of Ukraine

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on March 19 met with members of the Ukrainian World Congress committee for observances of the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide.

They spoke about how to mark the Holodomor anniversary and agreed that it was necessary to inform the international community about this tragedy by holding various cultural events. They also discussed plans to erect a Holodomor monu-

ment in Washington and build a Holodomor memorial in Kyiv.

Stefan Romaniw, the chairman of the UWC committee, which is called the International Coordinating Committee, said it had been established to coordinate all these efforts.

President Yushchenko said Ukraine is interested in enhancing cooperation with the diaspora. He suggested publishing a book on the Holodomor and distributing it throughout Ukraine, particularly in schools.

Quotable notes

"...What troubles me and many others is what kind of Russia has returned to a leading role on the world stage.

"Russian officials maintain that their democracy is developing in its own way and in accordance with its own traditions. They accuse the United States of unilateralism in foreign affairs and of seeking to impose the American form of democratic governance on Russia and the rest of the world and hypocritically meddling in the affairs of others.

"To be sure, our attempts to spread the undeniable benefits of the American experience have not always been distinguished by cultural sensitivity. But I get nervous when I hear the phrase 'according to our own traditions and national mentality.' ...

"Let me conclude by mentioning a few things we should not do, starting with not shooting ourselves in the foot. I have in mind the Voice of America. As many of you probably know, the American administration has called for major cuts in VOA broadcasting, including closing down the Uzbek and Georgian Services and ending radio programs while retaining television transmission in Russian and Ukrainian. This, ladies and gentlemen, seems to me to be the height of folly. As I have argued here, the democratic transition in the former Soviet Union is far from secure. VOA broadcasts are one of the most effective, biggest-bang-for-the-buck tools in our arsenal to propagate democratic ideals.

"And in this connection, I want to associate myself with remarks made on Thursday by my good friend Tom Lantos, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a hearing on U.S. assistance. Like him, I simply cannot comprehend why we should now cut our funding for democracy promotion – especially to the tune of 40 percent. He called for more aid to NGOs that try, under ever worsening conditions, to promote freedom in Russia. I am in full solidarity with him and together with like-minded Members of Congress, we hope to roll back the VOA cuts and increase assistance for democracy promotion.

"The same applies to funding for the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], which the budgeters also want to slash. Please be assured that I will fight this. ..."

– Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, speaking on the topic "Russia and Central Asia: The Growing Policy Challenges for the International Community" on March 12 at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Sheptytsky Institute in Ottawa welcomes its new director

by Rosemary O'Hearn

OTTAWA – Over 60 students, professors, support staff and university administrators recently gathered at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute (MASI) of Eastern Christian Studies over a pizza lunch to greet the new director of the institute, Father Stephen Wojcichowsky.

Father Wojcichowsky on February 1 began a three-year term as director of MASI, an academic unit of the Faculty of Theology at St. Paul University in Ottawa. MASI offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in Eastern Christian studies, as well as certificate and summer intensive programs both in Canada and in Ukraine. It is supported by the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation.

The dean of the Faculty of Theology, Prof. Normand Bonneau, welcomed Father Wojcichowsky to the University and to the faculty and offered two wishes: "that through his wisdom and guidance, he might continue the legacy of his predecessors in the institute and help it flourish in the future; and that he might find fulfillment in this new ministry."

Father Wojcichowsky shared some reflections noting that he is not unmindful of God's kindness in his life in bringing him to this moment. Nor is he unmindful of the many kind people who have paved the way for his "coming here to work with and among you." In this, he said he is both honored and humbled: "honored that the administration of the university, the bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Canada and the members of the institute and foundation had the confidence that I could serve our Lord and the universal Church in this capacity; and humbled to be following in the footsteps of my predecessors, Founding Director Rt. Rev. Mitred Protopresbyter Andriy Chirovsky and Very Rev. Canon Andrew Onuferko."

He expressed excitement in working with the other professors of the institute, Fathers Peter Galadza and John Jillions, and with the administrative staff and students who contribute to the life of the institute in so many ways.

Father Wojcichowsky thanked St. Paul University for having the vision to integrate into its very life and identity the Sheptytsky Institute which, though small in magnitude, is great in scope. Referring to the institute's identity as "a center of higher learning, a center of research, a center of ecumenical understanding, and a center of prayer, dedicated to integrating academic study and worship of the Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit," the new director underscored its mission to communicate, in dialogue with contemporary soci-

eties, "the power of Christian faith and living tradition, so that all may share in the very life of God."

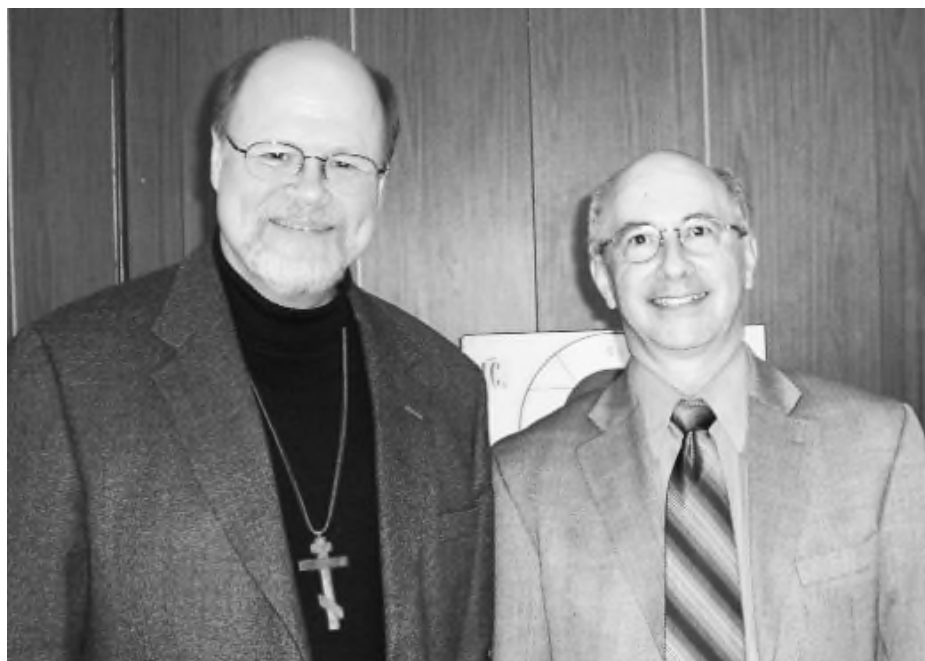
He spoke of the differences and similarities between the Eastern and Western Churches and noted that, while there are differences of emphasis, expression, thought and understanding, there is only one Christ. He said he hopes to use these differences, which are not divisive at heart, as a springboard to dialogue and exchange so that the good relations that exist between St. Paul University, MASI and the community may continue and develop even closer.

In his closing remarks, Father Wojcichowsky

addressed the students in particular saying, "I am edified by your passion for life, your hopeful outlook for the future, your desire to serve, your straining after what is true and right, your appreciation of goodness and beauty wherever you find it. It is with you especially that I wish to work for your joy. Thank you for being here."

Originally from Montreal, Father Wojcichowsky was ordained a priest in 1980 at the Ukrainian Catholic Studite Monastery in Castelgandolfo, Italy. He studied at Loyola College in Montreal, the University of Toronto, University of St. Michael's College and the John XXIII Institute for Eastern Christian Studies in New York, earning degrees in theology, education and political science. Prior to assuming his position as director, he completed the requirements for a Licentiate in Theology in Eastern Christian Studies and is currently pursuing a doctorate in ministry at St. Paul University. Father Wojcichowsky and his wife, Maria, have three adult children and two grandchildren.

For over 30 years, Father Wojcichowsky has combined service to Catholic schools and Ukrainian Catholic parishes as a teacher, principal, school district administrator, lecturer in theology, school chaplain, seminary spiritual director, deacon, assistant priest, pastor and as a member of many committees and boards,



The new director of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute, Father Stephen Wojcichowsky (left), with the Faculty of Theology Dean Normand Bonneau.

both in educational and ecclesial settings on the local and national levels. His most recent appointments were as director of Religious Education Services at the Edmonton Catholic School District and as assistant pastor of St. Josaphat Cathedral in Edmonton.

NATO expansion bill passed by Senate

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate approved S.494, Sen. Richard Lugar's bill that endorses further enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) by voice vote on March 16. The "NATO Freedom Consolidation Act of 2007" would facilitate the timely admission of Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia and Ukraine to NATO.

The House passed a similar version of the bill on March 6; a technical difference must be resolved between the bills before it can become law.

"The goal of this bill is to reaffirm United States support for continued enlargement of NATO to democracies that are able and willing to meet the responsibilities of membership. In particular, the legislation calls for the timely admission of Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia and Ukraine to NATO and authorizes security assistance for these countries in fiscal year 2008. Each of these countries has clearly stated its desire to join NATO and is working hard to meet the specified requirements for membership," Sen. Lugar (R-Ind.) said.

"I believe that eventual NATO membership for these five countries would be a success for Europe, NATO and the United States by continuing to extend the zone of peace and security," he added. "Albania, Croatia and Macedonia have been making progress on reforms through their participation in the NATO Membership Action Plan since 2002. Unfortunately, Georgia and Ukraine have not yet been granted a Membership Action Plan but nevertheless have made remarkable progress. This legislation will provide important incentives and assistance to the countries to continue the implementation of democratic, defense, and economic reforms."

Quotable notes

"I find it unpalatable to have to sit in a House of Commons with a minister of finance, a minister of Canadian heritage and a secretary of state for multiculturalism, who thought it more important to declare through their 'historic' budget that 3-down football is a heritage sport worthy of public support, yet this same budget was completely silent on the terrible injustices suffered by Ukrainian Canadians during the World War I internment operations."

– Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Liberal), reacting on March 19 to the failure of the Conservative government budget to provide funding for an internment settlement agreement with the Ukrainian Canadian community.

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TOTAL: \$1,260.00

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

St. Nicholas Brotherhood holds annual meeting, re-elects Tysiak

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Citizens Club was the site of the annual meeting on February 18 of St. Nicholas Brotherhood which has been cooperatively associated with Ukrainian National Association Branch 13 for more than a century. UNA Branch 13 primarily consists of members from the local communities of Albany, Troy and Watervliet.

The brotherhood currently has 42 members, and UNA Branch 13 has over 200 members.

The annual meeting was opened by Brotherhood President Slavko Tysiak, who, as tradition dictates, opened the meeting with prayer and hymns, followed by UNA Secretary Mykola Fil reading the names of 150 deceased UNA members and a minute of silence to honor their memories. During the year ending December 31, 2006, three members of the brotherhood passed away: Michael Seneta, Roman Maselko and John Romanation.

After honoring their memory, President Tysiak reviewed the agenda and conducted the normal monthly meeting before moving on to the annual meeting agenda.

Brotherhood members elected Peter Urban and John Uruskyj to preside and record the actions adopted during the annual meeting. Mr. Urban presided and requested the presentation of annual reports by the president, secretary, treasurer and UNA secretary, as well as the Auditing Committee.

Mr. Tysiak highlighted the activities of the brotherhood since last year's annual meeting, including the annual trip to Soyuzivka on Father's Day and the memorial service for deceased members held at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Watervliet on Saturday, December 9, 2006. The memorial service was followed by a breakfast at the Ukrainian American Citizens Club prepared by Anna Gebuza and Olya Zendran.

Secretary Taras Myschuk noted that announcements in advance of each meeting had been published and that meeting

minutes had been prepared for the five meetings held during calendar year 2006.

Treasurer John Suchowacki outlined the brotherhood's revenues and expenditures and shared the tribulations of dues collections.

UNA Secretary Fil discussed UNA insurance sales and other products in the area served by Branch 13, his progress toward meeting annual sales goals, and other noteworthy events from 2006, such as the 36th UNA Convention held at Soyuzivka on May 25-29, 2006.

The Auditing Committee, consisting of Mr. Uruskyj, Andrij Demczar and Oleksandr Serdyuk, presented the results of their review of the financial records.

After all reports had been presented and discussed, Mr. Uruskyj, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, put forth a resolution recommending that members accept the 2006 reports filed by brotherhood officers along with the audited financial report. The members voted to accept the reports.

The members then turned to the business of electing new brotherhood and UNA branch officers for 2007. After a reading of the names of the current officers for 2006, Mr. Urban asked if there were any nominations from the members in attendance. A recommendation was made to keep the same slate of officers for 2007 as in the past year with one exception. Mr. Urban was nominated and approved by members for the position of brotherhood vice-president. The members in attendance then cast a unanimous vote to accept the same slate of officers in 2007 as in 2006 with that one change.

Mr. Tysiak then resumed his duties as brotherhood president and voiced his appreciation to all who had agreed to continue in their official duties in 2007. He welcomed Mr. Urban as the new vice-president for 2007 and expressed the brotherhood's and his own personal thanks for the years of service provided by Walter Lytinskyj, most recently as brotherhood vice-president.

President Tysiak stated that in 2007 he wants brotherhood members to concentrate on developing a more contemporary



Participants of the annual meeting of UNA Branch 13 and the St. Nicholas Brotherhood of Watervliet, N.Y.

mission for the brotherhood. The St. Nicholas Brotherhood mission is rooted in an era when health and income protection benefits were rare and the brotherhood filled this community need. A more contemporary mission needs to focus on what's relevant to today's community. In

addition, he identified a possible fundraiser for 2007 to increase the brotherhood's treasury.

The annual meeting concluded with a light meal and a renewed commitment to expanding the brotherhood's and the UNA's membership.

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

Visit the UNA's website:

www.ukrainsnationalassociation.com

With deepest gratitude
to Dr. Bohdan Shebunchak, Medical Examiner
for the Ukrainian National Association
and sincere welcome
to Bohdar Woroch, M.D., F.A.A.C.

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association extends its sincerest gratitude to Dr. Bohdan Shebunchak for his many years of dedication and service to the UNA. As a long time member of UNA Branch 25, Dr. Shebunchak served as a delegate at a UNA convention and for the past 25 years diligently served as Medical Examiner for the UNA, reviewing each UNA application.

This year, Dr. Shebunchak will step down from his duties as Medical Examiner. As of March 1, 2007, Dr. Bohdar Woroch, a member of UNA Branch 25, will assume all responsibilities of the position of Medical Examiner. The Executive Committee of the UNA extends a sincere welcome to Dr. Woroch in his new position and wishes him many years of success in working with the UNA for the good of its membership and the greater Ukrainian community.

To Dr. Bohdan Shebunchak, we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the UNA and wish him all the best for his well-earned retirement.



Dr. Bohdan Shebunchak



Dr. Bohdar Woroch

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A beautiful center, a vibrant community

Only four months ago the Ukrainian community of northern New Jersey celebrated the grand opening of a new community complex whose focal point is the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey. Since then, the center – which is located just down the road from where we are based – has become a hub of activity.

There isn't a single day that the center is not hopping. For locals, it's become commonplace to spend three-four evenings a week at the center, not to mention weekends. Here's why: On Monday there are activities of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, or SUM, while the Morris County Volleyball Club (MCVC) takes over the gymnasium; on Tuesdays there's Sitch men's soccer; on Wednesdays, meetings of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Bible study (in English) and Sitch volleyball; on Thursdays, Ukrainian folk dance lessons (three age groups), fitness classes, Bible study (in Ukrainian) and Sitch men's soccer; on Fridays, Sitch youth volleyball; on Saturdays, Ukrainian studies school and Plast activities; on Sundays, liturgies, followed by coffee hours, plus Sitch soccer and SUM volleyball (soon to come is the Ukrainian community's open basketball). Whew!

What's notable about this list is not only its scope but also the fact that there are activities for all age groups. Plus, there are special events that enhance the UACCNJ's regular programs.

A quick visit to the center's website (www.uaccnj.org), reveals a host of activities: a panel discussion on political developments in Ukraine, with the participation of Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S.; the New Jersey premiere of the Ukrainian-language version of the hit movie "Cars"; a seafood dinner to raise funds for SUM; an Easter bazaar and pysanky demonstration; a wine-tasting event to benefit SUM and the local Ukrainian MCVC; "Rock the Center with Hrim," a dance geared toward the youth of the community; and an art show sponsored by the local branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. And those are the offerings only for the period from this weekend through the end of April.

All this takes place in the beautiful new center located near Routes 10 and 287, at 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, N.J. The center boasts a grand ballroom, gymnasium, meeting rooms, classrooms, a social club, reading room, kitchen facilities and all-purpose room – in short, the facilities can accommodate all sorts of events and all sorts of groups. The UACCNJ also houses the offices of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and the Chornomorska Sitch Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association, as well as the "domivka" of Plast.

The UACCNJ is a Ukrainian center that makes our entire community proud. And it's a Ukrainian center that is worthy of our support. Stop on by – it's worth a look.

March
31
2002

Turning the pages back...

The first time a political organization other than the Communists won the most votes in a parliamentary election was five years ago on March 31, 2002, as reported by The Ukrainian Weekly. Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc won 23.6 percent

of the vote, grabbing nearly a quarter of the seats in the Verkhovna Rada, with the second largest showing coming from the Communist Party of Ukraine with 20 percent.

By Western standards, voter turnout was high – at nearly 65 percent – but was less than usual for Ukraine, which generally had 70 percent voter participation. The most active voters were from western cities, where turnout was at 70-75 percent, while the least active were from Crimean voters at 55 percent.

Election observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States declared the election "super transparent" and "super democratic," while most observers – domestic and foreign – said the various infractions and improprieties that did occur did not substantially alter the results.

President Leonid Kuchma remarked, "The choice they made is the ultimate verdict. The will of the people cannot be doubted."

Four other parties/blocs also gained the minimum 4 percent support to obtain parliamentary seats. The pro-Kuchma bloc, For a United Ukraine, came in with 11.81 percent, followed by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc with 7.24 percent, and the Socialist Party with 6.88 percent. The Social Democratic Party-United (SDPU) finished closest to the margin with 6.27 percent.

According to Ukraine's election law at the time, 50 percent of the Verkhovna Rada seats were chosen in multi-mandate districts by-party polling, while the remaining 50 percent of the seats were determined by single-mandate voting, whereby voters choose a single individual to represent their district.

The For a United Ukraine bloc remained only slightly behind Our Ukraine due to its strong showing in the single-mandate district voting, where it won 66 seats. Our Ukraine came second with 42 seats, followed by seven other parties with single-digit numbers.

Seat totals for the next Parliament were: 112 seats for Our Ukraine, followed by For a United Ukraine with 102 seats, the Communist Party of Ukraine with 66 seats, the Socialist Party with 24 seats, the SDPU with 23 seats and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc with 21 seats.

Independent candidates won the remaining 93 seats, but it was revealed that 18 candidates were sympathizers of the For a United Ukraine bloc and eight others revealed various party ties, while the remaining 67 were unaligned.

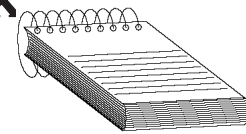
Geopolitically, the Our Ukraine bloc dominated the western oblasts, while the Communists retained control of the south and parts of the eastern oblasts, although they suffered a loss in the heavily populated oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk, where For a United Ukraine established a near monopoly. For a United Ukraine's other victories included Kharkiv, and scattered areas throughout Ukraine. Showing strongest across most of central Ukraine was the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which was supported from Vinnytsia to Poltava.

Source: "Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc wins nearly 25 percent of by-party vote in parliamentary elections," by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 7, 2002.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



Take a look in the mirror

President Viktor Yushchenko told reporters on March 20 that he regrets standing alongside Anatolii Kinakh during the Orange Revolution, calling it a big mistake and referring to Mr. Kinakh's defection from Our Ukraine as "a moral shame for Ukrainian politics."

Well, perhaps Mr. Yushchenko has some idea of the sense of betrayal felt by hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians when he sacked Yulia Tymoshenko, shook Viktor Yanukovich's hand and famously declared, "The Orange Revolution is over."

It's painful to be here in the center of Kyiv, watching the Revolution's gains evaporate so quickly.

Reports of censorship are sprouting. Yurii Lutsenko is being persecuted. Russian pop music videos are now part of the programming on the national television network.

Watching President Yushchenko's influence being carefully dismantled by the coalition government is sad, reminding me of how a cat slowly plays with and tortures a mouse, before finally putting it out of its misery.

But it is hard to empathize with a man who loads a gun and shoots himself in the foot.

Dismissing Ms. Tymoshenko on September 8, 2005, has proven to be a disastrous decision with enormously harmful ripples, not only for Mr. Yushchenko or the Our Ukraine bloc, but also for the Orange Revolution and its Western ideals. How Mr. Yushchenko viewed Mr. Yanukovich as a better ally than Ms. Tymoshenko is beyond my comprehension.

If Mr. Yushchenko's millionaire buddies, who financed Our Ukraine and the Orange Revolution thought that a partnership with the Party of Regions would provide the stability that they need to conduct business and make a profit, then I'm glad to see they have fallen flat on their faces.

As a result of their pursuit of profit and their disregard for the hundreds of thousands who risked their lives and health to support them, the gradual collapse of Our Ukraine is the just punishment for abandoning Ms. Tymoshenko and the Revolution.

Mr. Kinakh's defection from Our Ukraine is a direct consequence of Mr. Yushchenko dismissing Ms. Tymoshenko. In doing so, Mr. Yushchenko set a self-destructive precedent.

Intended or not, his message was that the Orange Revolution was a temporary alliance of convenience.

The seed that Mr. Yushchenko sowed, of making and breaking alliances out of convenience, is now bearing its poisonous fruit.

It's no longer convenient now to be an ally of Mr. Yushchenko, just as he felt it wasn't convenient to be allied with Ms. Tymoshenko.

And why should Mr. Yushchenko demand loyalty if he didn't demonstrate it himself? No appetite for power or desire for spotlights on Ms. Tymoshenko's part could have justified his decision.

Mr. Yushchenko has a poor judgment

of character, in the view of Oleksander Palii, a Kyiv political expert. "We've seen an enormous amount of personnel mistakes," he said. "The one single mistake that ruined everything is that the president didn't know how to judge people, firstly."

"Second, there weren't people around him who could advise him adequately on whom he could trust. A person by himself can't objectively understand everything," he added.

Never mind the strange personnel decisions, like selecting Roman Zvarych to be the president's representative in the Verkhovna Rada. (How does the president select a politician synonymous with scandal to be his mouthpiece in Parliament?)

It was Mr. Yushchenko himself who appointed the current procurator general, Oleksander Medvedko, the Donetsk prosecutor who is carrying out political orders and "isolating the political activity" of Mr. Lutsenko, in the president's words. Mr. Yushchenko recently criticized Mr. Medvedko for selecting mostly Donetsk officials as his assistants.

It's amazing that after all he's seen and been through – poisonings and backstabbing – the president hasn't grasped the trademark Donetsk gangster approach to politics.

The defection of Mr. Kinakh, who sat at the president's immediate right-hand side as chair of the National Security and Defense Council, marks an enormous change in the political tide in favor of the coalition government.

As in a horse race, members of Ukraine's business elite have switched their bets from Yushchenko to Yanukovich, said Oles Doniy, an astute political observer in Kyiv.

After his December 1 sacking, Mr. Lutsenko launched a People's Self-Defense movement, organizing activists to lead demonstrations against the authoritarian government.

But Mr. Lutsenko's old buddies aren't interested anymore. Oleksander Moroz is busy leading the Parliament, and Mr. Kinakh is managing the economy for Mr. Yanukovich. Let's remember, however, that Mr. Kinakh was among the many who joined the revolution in the ninth inning. (Heck, even Mykola Azarov was on the maidan stage at one point.)

Not even Pora is interested in giving Mr. Lutsenko a hand. The former grassroots movement is now an establishment political party. And its most prominent leaders, including Vladyslav Kaskiv and Vitali Klitschko, have stated publicly that they are not supporting Mr. Lutsenko or his People's Self Defense.

Unless something drastic happens, such as a dismissal of the Verkhovna Rada and pre-term elections, Mr. Yanukovich and his gang will have a lock on the Ukrainian government for the next four years.

But instead of blaming others for betrayal, Mr. Yushchenko and Our Ukraine's so-called leadership should be looking in a mirror.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY.

Send contributions to: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

NEWS AND VIEWS

A breach that was, and one that wasn't

by R.L. Chomiak

WASHINGTON – Now playing at a theater near you is Billy Ray's new film "Breach." It tells about the end of the career of a major, major American traitor, Robert Hanssen. For more than 20 years, as a counterintelligence agent with the FBI, he sold big American secrets, first to the Soviet Union and then to Russia. The film shows how the FBI finally caught one of its own after he did tremendous damage to American intelligence activities – all for money.

Interestingly, there is a Ukrainian angle to the Hanssen story. His Soviet handler was Victor Cherkashin, now head of a Moscow security firm, guarding banks and bankers that can afford his services. Thirty years ago Mr. Cherkashin was a colonel of the Soviet KGB and tried to recruit a Ukrainian American diplomat. Unsuccessfully, I hasten to add.

Two years ago Mr. Cherkashin published his memoirs ("Spy Handler: Memoir of a KGB Officer: The True Story of the Man Who Recruited Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames," New York: Basic Books, 2005). In this book Mr. Cherkashin also describes his unsuccessful attempt to recruit Ukrainian American diplomat Constantine Warvariv.

That was in 1977 when Mr. Warvariv

worked in Paris at the U.S. Mission to UNESCO. That summer a UNESCO conference was scheduled to take place in Tbilisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia, writes Mr. Cherkashin in his book, and the KGB colonel was a member of the conference preparatory committee ("orhkomitet" in Soviet and post-Soviet parlance). From his colleagues in Paris, Mr. Cherkashin learned that the American delegation would be headed by Mr. Warvariv, a native of the Volyn region of Ukraine, who emigrated during the second world war and eventually settled in Washington and landed a job at the State Department.

From the moment of his arrival in the Soviet Union, writes Mr. Cherkashin, Mr. Warvariv was under KGB surveillance. In the evening of the first day of the conference Mr. Warvariv retired to his hotel room, and at 11 p.m. Mr. Cherkashin knocked on his door. For five hours – until 4 in the morning – Mr. Cherkashin writes that he cajoled, threatened, implored Mr. Warvariv to agree to work for the Soviet Union. He tried to intimidate him by lying that he had evidence of Mr. Warvariv's collaboration with the Germans during the second world war. Mr. Warvariv's protests that he had diplomatic immunity did not move the "chek-

(Continued on page 18)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Countering attacks on Christianity

Dear Editor:

In the article "Gudziak speaks on Church and society in post-Orange Ukraine" (February 18) it is reported that "Within 10 years the hierarchical structures of all religious organizations in the country had been destroyed."

I'd like to suggest one simple way we can counter that terrible attack on Christianity. I learned recently that Ukrainians make up a very significant percentage of the world's mariners. The Seamen's Church Institute's Easter at Sea program is dedicated to making Easter special to mariners on ships that enter U.S. waters.

They are looking for people to donate Bibles printed in Ukrainian that they can distribute to seamen. If you'd like to donate Ukrainian Bibles to the program, they can be ordered from the American Bible Society at their Internet home page, <http://www.bibles.com/>. Ask to ship the Bibles directly to: The Rev. Jean R. Smith, D.D., Executive Director, The Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey, 241 Water St., New York, NY 10038. (Phone number: 212-349-9090.)

I just sent 15 to them.

Robert Kent
Riverhead, N.Y.

More on immunity of parliamentarians

Dear Editor:

Re: The letter to the editor by Ulana Pasicznyk of Toronto (December 31, 2006), I have reviewed the parliamen-

tary immunity for parliamentarians in France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Austria and Spain. These countries provide parliamentary immunity in their respective parliaments and in their activities outside of parliament which are directly related to parliamentary duties. They have no immunity for criminal and illegal activities in their countries.

The underlying point is that they have immunity for their performance in parliamentary activities and parliamentary duties, inside or outside of their parliaments.

When a member is apprehended in "flagrante delicto," then the member is not protected from prosecution.

I. I. Mayba, M.D.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

We welcome your opinion

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

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

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



March: Women's History Month

Our son was an infant as we drove past the White House back in 1991 when you could still do that. Looking in the rear view mirror to the back seat where he was strapped in, I said, "Take a good look, Mykhasiu. Maybe you'll be living there some day." At 6 months, he didn't understand, but my wife, without skipping a beat, replied, "Wow! You think he'll be married to the president some day?"

Great line then, but no longer unthinkable. Today, Hillary Clinton is the Democratic front-runner for the presidential nomination; Speaker Nancy Pelosi is second in line of presidential succession; Angela Merkel is chancellor of Germany; Yulia Tymoshenko, former prime minister of Ukraine, is a potential presidential candidate.

Like the cynical cigarette commercial used to say, "You've come a long way, baby!" Only men don't dare call women "baby" anymore, unless they're looking for trouble or admiring a newly born daughter, like I did our Olesia. Now 12, she's already held elective office, selected by her fifth grade classmates to represent them in Student Council. I remember when she was 3 and announced in triumph, "Tato, I'm a woman ... me and Mama – we're womens!"

You've come a long way ...

It wasn't always like that: although they constitute half of all the people who have ever lived, women have had a much lighter footprint in history than men. Women we remember from antiquity were either goddesses or associated with a powerful man: David and Bathsheeba; Samson and Delila; Priam and Hecuba; Odysseus and Penelope; Antony and Cleopatra. The exceptions stand out: in his histories, Herodotus describes the legendary Amazons, fascinating because their assertive, warlike reputation contrasts so sharply with the image of women as passive and dependent on males.

Indeed, history for the most part has been virtually the exclusive domain of men: monarchs, generals, rank-and-file soldiers who conquered neighbors and distant territories, or manned the fortifications to defend the homeland.

By dint of its location, Ukraine endured more than its share of "history" – from the Goths and Huns to the most recent invasions of the Bolsheviks and the Nazis. Throughout, women stayed home caring for children and praying they might avoid destruction of their village, seizure of the crops, plunder, rape and the prospect of a husband never coming home.

Rarely, a woman of stature appeared on the scene – none greater in Ukraine's history than Grand Princess Olha, who took command in Kyiv after her husband, Ihor, was seized and executed by rebellious Derevlans. Counting on perceptions of her as weak because of her gender, Olha invited tribal leaders to a banquet, asking only that they bring a dove as a sign of conciliation. When they showed up, Olha plied them with food and drink before sealing the doors to the banquet hall and ordering it set on fire where they all perished. As for the doves, a burning brand was attached to their legs before they were released to fly to their villages, which burned to the ground. With that, survivors accepted Kyiv's suzerainty and Olha consolidated her rule. Next, she ventured to the Byzantine capital, Constantinople, where she concluded trade agreements and con-

verted to Christianity. Upon her death in 969, she passed on the foundation for empire to her son, Sviatoslav.

In the centuries that followed, Ukrainian history records but a handful of women and, again, only because of association with powerful men: Anna, daughter of Yaroslav the Wise who married the king of France and became regent; Anna Yaroslavna, wife of Ihor Sviatoslavych in the epic poem "Slovo o Polku Ihorevi" (Song of Ihor's Campaign). Roxolana, daughter of a Ukrainian priest, stands out more in Ottoman history than Ukraine's. Seized as a slave and sent to the sultan's harem in Istanbul, she used her intelligence and charm to become the exclusive wife of Suleiman the Magnificent and then maneuvered to have her son succeed him as sultan.

Women also played a role in Khmelnytsky's revolution in 1648 and Mazepa's revolt against Tsar Peter half a century later, but only as objects of intrigue – a Polish nobleman stole Khmelnytsky's wife; Ivan Mazepa's mistress, Motria – fifty years his junior – was the daughter of a nobleman who informed the tsar about Ivan's plot.

One woman who certainly made a difference was Katrusia Shevchenko, who helped her younger brother Taras after their parents had passed away in the 1820s. But for her love and care, the course of Ukrainian and Russian history would have been utterly different. And that's largely the role Ukrainian women played through the ages. Without fanfare, they've been serving anonymously as mothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, friends – cooing lullabies and poems to babies, reciting prayers, telling stories about ancestors, shielding children from enemies, scrounging for food in a famine.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries Ukrainian women emerged as authors, editors, journalists, teachers, health providers, organizers of day care centers, cooperatives, etc. They were true leaders in the struggle for the culture and national liberation. We remember their names: Lesia Ukrainka, Olha Kobylanska, Marko Vovchok, Natalia Kobrynska, Olena Pchilka ... and many others.

Women also stepped in during the great 20th century cataclysms as nurses, pharmacists, couriers and in some cases warriors, serving in the Austrian, Russian and Ukrainian Sich Rifleman armies in World War I, in the Red Army and Ukrainian Insurgent Army in World War II. They worked in factories and fields and, tragically, as slaves in the gulag and Nazi concentration camps. The dissident movement in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s relied heavily on women like Oksana Meshko, Nadia Svitlychna and Nina Strokata. In the U.S. Congress, women like Mary Rose Oakar, Millicent Fenwick, Marcy Kaptur and others supported their efforts, working closely with Ukrainian American human rights groups, where women arguably outnumbered men.

Writing this column, I realize I can't possibly do the topic justice; I can merely pay tribute and acknowledge that history is no longer the exclusive domain of men. With women as partners – indeed, leaders – let's hope they help members of my own gender to do a better job.

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

FOR THE RECORD

Ukrainian World Congress statement on human trafficking

Following is the text of the statement by the Ukrainian World Congress to the 51st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held at the U.N. Headquarters in New York on February 26-March 9.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), established in 1967, is a global organization representing Ukrainian communities outside Ukraine with affiliates in some 30 countries, including Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uzbekistan as well as contact organizations in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and Portugal. In 2003 the UWC was registered as a non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC [the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council]. Over the course of the ensuing years the UWC has closely followed the activities of relevant United Nations bodies, regional and global governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations on issues of concern.

In this regard, the illegal trafficking of persons is among the most acute of global issues confronting Ukrainians. The profound impact of the slave trade on

Ukrainians is confirmed by Oleksandr Dolzhenkov, deputy rector for scholarly research at the Institute of Law of Odesa University, who recently reported that "more than 400,000 Ukrainian women are currently being held abroad in sex slavery." On its part the International Organization for Migration (IOM) put the figure at 500,000 Ukrainian women being trafficked to the West. Other researchers have confirmed that the number of Ukrainian women and girls who are victims of the slave trade is staggering. A report on "Trafficking in Women from Ukraine" prepared by Donna M. Hughes of the University of Rhode Island and Tatyana Denisova of Zaporizhia State University states: "From 1995 to 2000, approximately 400,000 women under the age of 30 left Ukraine."

In the same report, Ms. Hughes acknowledges the numbers could even exceed these statistics, as it is difficult to estimate the exact number of Ukrainian women being trafficked. First, the trade is secretive, the women are silenced, the traffickers are dangerous. The nature of the enterprise itself, therefore, complicates its study. Moreover, hundreds of thousands of anonymous women are simply described as Eastern European or Russian. Pinpointing a precise nationality is exceedingly difficult. Second, the term "trafficking" still does not have a universal usage. Thus, universal categorization and estimation of the numbers of these women differ from one definition to the

next. With the information available, it is estimated that:

- Ukrainian women are the largest group trafficked in Turkey;
- Ukrainian women are the second largest group outside U.S. military bases in Korea;
- Women from CIS countries comprise 70 percent of trafficking in Israel;
- Ukrainian women constitute the largest foreign group trafficked in the Netherlands;
- 70 percent of Ukrainian women in Poland were trafficked; and
- women from Central and Eastern Europe and CIS countries constitute 80 percent of trafficking in Germany.

Other large markets for the slave trade in Ukrainians include: Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Croatia, United Arab Emirates, Syria, China, Canada and Japan. These markets are expanding. In 2005 the number of destination countries for Ukrainian women increased, with 50 countries now serving as destination points throughout Europe and eastward, including China. This relatively new yet significant dimension of the international slave trade should be accorded the requisite attention and resources by the international community. Clearly, existing relevant United Nations Conventions constitute formidable international instruments, including the 1949 United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish the Trafficking of Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The UWC strongly supports the U.S. government's recent passage of the Trafficking Persons Protection Reauthorization Act. This law requires an interim assessment of countries placed on the Special Watch List, encouraging the more vigilant awareness and, thus, better cooperation by countries. In 2006 Ukraine was not placed on the Special Watch List, although it was classified a Tier 2 state.

Additionally, the UWC commends the U.S. reaffirmation of its commitment to combat the trafficking of women in a letter from U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in which she stated on June 5, 2006, that, "We work with international partners to secure the freedom of those who are exploited and call on governments to be effective and accountable in prosecuting those who exploit." Moreover, Secretary Rice reiterated the State Department's efforts to abolish this form of slavery as part of the State Department's new policy of transformational diplomacy. Published in 2006, the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPA) of 2003 added to the original law a new requirement: that foreign governments provide the Department of State with data on trafficking investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences in order to be considered in full compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking (Tier 1). This international collaboration in the struggle against the trafficking of women is essential to its success.

The European Union has made several significant steps toward combating the trafficking of women. In 2005 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Ukrainian government, launched a campaign to combat violence against women. In that same year the Ukrainian government passed legislation that criminalized human trafficking, even creating a 50

person anti-trafficking department.

In order to attempt to comprehend the complexities of the trade, one must view the trafficking of women as a business, based on supply and demand. In a 2005 article Donna Hughes and Tatyana Denisova credited the promulgation of the trade to increasing demands. The demand was perpetuated and enhanced by the legalization of prostitution, which was supported as a solution to the multiple forms of violence inherent in trafficking and prostitution. Ms. Hughes and Ms. Denisova argue that decriminalizing sex work to lessen the vulnerability of women was made without the consent of the majority of Ukrainians. They conclude that the new regulations may shift the terminology of the trade, but the trafficking of women persists and increases. For example, Germany legalized brothels and pimping in 2001. There were 40,000 women characterized as prostitutes in Germany, and 75 percent of them were believed to be Eastern European. Numbers did not decrease, only terms changed. Moreover, Ms. Hughes and Ms. Denisova claim that, "the trend from abolition to regulation of the flow of women is a tribute to the power of the transnational political criminal nexus." Consequently, the UWC advocates a recalculation of recent legislation, which de facto legitimizes the slave trade.

The UWC recently established a Task Force on the Trafficking of Children, Women and Men. The task force coordinates the activities of member-organizations of the UWC worldwide. In this, we look forward to close collaboration with relevant bodies of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, NGOs and government agencies. The UWC shares the view of virtually all NGOs engaged in exposing and combating this scourge: trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery and a grave violation of human rights. We further agree that the international community must do more, much more meaningful, tangible work. To this end, we call on the United Nations system and governments to:

- marshal the political will to combat trafficking;
- undertake prevention and awareness campaigns;
- encourage and support the activities of non-governmental organizations;
- promulgate national legislation to punish traffickers and their facilitators;
- prioritize law enforcement efforts to arrest and convict traffickers;
- provide humanitarian services to victims and their reintegration into society;
- ratify and implement the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish the Trafficking of Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- address and interrupt the international financial underpinning of this trade;
- develop international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin transit and destination countries; and
- accord special focus on the new front for traffickers in Eastern and Central Europe.

In this regard, the Ukrainian World Congress Task-force on the Trafficking of Children, Women and men and its global network of member-organizations stand ready to work with the appropriate agencies of the United Nations, relevant regional governmental organizations, individual governments and NGOs in the implementation of these recommendations. By coordinating with national, regional and global programs, we look forward to more effectively applying the resources of the UWC in ridding the world of the scourge of human trafficking.



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COMMENTARY: The Our Ukraine convention's hard choices

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

The decisions to be made at the upcoming Our Ukraine bloc convention are awesome – they have the potential of re-setting Ukraine on a pro-Russian or pro-Western course. The key decision-makers on March 31 will be President Viktor Yushchenko, the honorary head of the bloc, and the voting delegates.

The convention offers President Yushchenko the opportunity to seize the moment and bring Ukraine back to the course it set during the Orange days. For this to happen, he must categorically decline to run again as a presidential candidate – a position he is now favoring. Declining is key to ensuring a united support for the other potential Orange contender, Yulia Tymoshenko. One candidate consolidates the Orange vote, two split it.

The Prime Minister's Party of the Regions is paying attention to the convention lead-up like the good watchdog of Russia's interests it is alleged to be. Therefore, recent support for Mr. Yushchenko's next bid for the presidency by party spokesman Taras Chornovil must be viewed with alarm.

What is behind this newly acquired interest by the president to stay in office? And by his opponents to want him there?

It's not as if the president has done well in office. Supposedly pro-Western, Mr. Yushchenko has alienated many who staged a revolution to elect him. He failed to hold his Orange government and emasculated his own Our Ukraine party. His Universal of National Unity, the quid pro quo for putting Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich in power, is all but ignored. During his watch, Russia grabbed the control of Ukraine's energy sector. Ukraine's greatest asset, its grain, rotted in terminals while many went hun-

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn is the President of U*CAN, a consulting company specializing in Ukraine since 1991. She is a frequent commentator on Ukraine's political scene.*

gry in unheated homes.

As a result, his popularity rating hangs around 10 percent. International opinion also is low.

The president is drowning. Is he attempting a miraculous rescue by lately endorsing the rapprochement between the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine? Are personal ambitions behind a new willingness to accept greater leadership of Our Ukraine at the convention and run again as a president? Such thinking is too naïve.

There is something more sinister at play here. Surely, the man realizes that if he runs he will split the Orange vote and prevent it once again from holding power in Ukraine. As Machiavellian as it might seem, that may be the real reason for Mr. Yushchenko's renewed interest in the presidency and the accompanying endorsement by the Party of the Regions.

It looks very much like Mr. Yanukovich and his handlers are aiming to play the Yushchenko card against Ms. Tymoshenko once again. Many believe that the president cut a deal to keep her out of power in the past. If so, he's been keeping his promise. He dismissed her as prime minister. He denied the Orange forces their right to govern after the last parliamentary election in order to keep her out again.

Yet, she has not cowered. Since the betrayal of the Orange Revolution and the post-March elections shenanigans she has rallied as the standard bearer for Ukraine's pro-Western democrats as their opposition leader in Parliament. She fights Mr. Yanukovich and Russia for Ukraine's control of the energy issue. There is 98 percent approval for the cancellation of parliamentarians' immunity, and calls for the separation of politics and business. She completed a successful visit to Washington, aiming to convince a powerful friend not to lose sight of the seriousness of Ukraine's fight for democracy.

There is no question that pro-Russian forces have no interest in seeing the resurrection of strong Orange forces in

Ukraine with Ms. Tymoshenko as president. They mean to divide and conquer. Their strategy goes something like this: have Mr. Yushchenko run on behalf of the Orange forces against Ms. Tymoshenko and split the pro-Western vote in favor of the third presidential candidate from the regions, perhaps Mr. Yanukovich.

A recent poll reported by the UNIAN press service supports this. If all three ran for office now, Mr. Yanukovich would obtain about 26 percent of the vote, Ms. Tymoshenko about 16 percent and the incumbent about 11 percent. The splitting of the Orange vote is critical to the Party of the Regions and deadly to the Orange forces.

The Regions handlers know that a union of the Orange blocks into a single political front would be a godsend to Ukraine's confused Orange supporters. A unified Orange surge would give the country clear choices between pro-Western and pro-Russian options; between democratization and a reversal; between greater national independence and greater Russian supremacy over Ukraine.

Thinking Ukrainians know this too. In the presidential election polls nearly 50 percent declined to state their preference for any of the three candidates. They may be waiting for a clearer choice.

The clear choice must emerge from the Our Ukraine convention. For that to happen the delegates must answer some hard questions: Should they trust the president again after his betrayal of their Orange agenda? Should they destroy their party's future by splitting a possible political Orange victory? Should they deny the pro-Western voters of Ukraine a chance to rule by letting Mr. Yushchenko run again? Or should they thank him, offer him an honorary title and give an Orange victory another chance by uniting behind Ms. Tymoshenko?

Our Ukraine delegates alone, not some Machiavellian manipulators, decide what they want Mr. Yushchenko to do. Given

the political scenario of divide and conquer that is unfolding in Ukraine, the significance of the delegates' decision rivals that of the Orange Revolution itself.

For Mr. Yushchenko the convention could be his moment of redemption, his chance to leave a noble legacy as a man who was poisoned for leading a freedom charge, won but was duped by enemy forces, only to come back to set the country on a path to greater prosperity for all. For this to happen, he must think of Ukraine and do the honorable thing. He must say that he will not – repeat, not – be a candidate in the next presidential elections. Should he fail to do so he will fall into the trap laid for him and drag any chances for victory for the Orange forces down with him.

So, what will he choose to do?

If he is a man of the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yushchenko will strengthen the union among the Orange forces by choosing to leave politics after this presidential term ends. However, if he is to be a Russian-pawn in the hands of the Party of the Regions, he will declare his candidacy for the next presidential elections. An equally bad choice would be for him to equivocate, postpone his decision and play for time – as he has done with disastrous consequences to the Orange coalition in the past.

Both his running and stalling must be prevented by the convention delegates.

At the end of the day, they hold the power to accept or reject him as their leader, presidential candidate or both. That is the purpose of a convention.

If Mr. Yushchenko fails to agree to a clear and gracious exit after the current presidential term, the only acceptable choice for the convention will be to vote him out. The delegates must do this because it is the right thing to do. The prestige of the presidency, their party and an Orange victory are more important than one failed man, manipulated by the enemy.

Will they do it? Or is the enemy manipulating them as well?

Kinakh leaves...

(Continued from page 1)

Secretariat and asked them to resist succumbing to the coalition government's enticements to defect.

That the switch won't affect Ukraine's political map may be wishful thinking, or denial, on the president's part.

In wooing Mr. Kinakh and his party's eight parliamentary deputies, the coalition government drew closer to achieving a 300-vote constitutional majority that would enable it to override all presidential vetoes.

Mr. Kinakh's defection may throw open the floodgates to more national deputies aligning with the Anti-Crisis Coalition in order to protect their business or political interests, political observers said.

"The nomenklatura doesn't want to be in the opposition – it can only feel comfortable in power," said Oles Doniy, chair of the Kyiv-based Center for Political Values Research.

While Mr. Kinakh viewed President Yushchenko as the key power broker in the days leading up to the Orange Revolution, the business community views aligning with the president as disadvantageous, he said. "Kinakh's switch to the coalition is a signal that the Ukrainian nomenklatura is gradually placing its bets on a new favorite, which is Viktor Yanukovich," Mr. Doniy said.

Defecting members of Parliament aren't allowed to switch factions, and

Ukrainian law stipulates they must leave the Verkhovna Rada if they abandon or are dismissed from a faction.

However, defectors have managed to cling to their posts because the coalition government is interested in securing their votes. They are attempting to form their own parliamentary faction, called Independent Ukraine, which is likely to support the coalition government.

Mr. Kinakh's abandonment drew repeat accusations of betrayal, reminiscent of how another Orange Revolution leader, Oleksander Moroz, decided to unite his Socialist Party with the Party of the Regions and the Communists after signing an agreement to re-unite the Orange forces.

Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc Faction Vice-Chair Oleksander Turchynov compared Mr. Kinakh's deed to the biblical Judas. "Judas also obtained silver coins for betrayal, but ultimately strangled himself," Mr. Turchynov said. "Such a fate awaits many betrayers in this world, and others."

After Mr. Kinakh's defection, Our Ukraine Faction Chair Viacheslav Kyrylenko announced that Our Ukraine had dismissed him from its political faction.

Likely to follow is the entire Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and its eight national deputies, who were welcomed into the parliamentary coalition by Party of the Regions Faction Chair Raisa Bohatyriova.

"The coalition is widening further at the expense of all factions, without

exception," she said. "Our goal isn't 300 votes in Parliament. Our goal is to consolidate all 450 deputies and unite Ukraine in this way."

In fact, coalition leaders appeared triumphant after Mr. Kinakh's announcement, with Mr. Moroz declaring his confidence the coalition would secure a constitutional majority by May.

Parliamentary opposition leader Ms. Tymoshenko said on March 18 that the parliamentary coalition is bribing national deputies to join their ranks. "I can tell you that I spent the weekend talking to deputies," she said. "Each of them told me groups were formed in Parliament to offer between \$3 million and \$8 million, as well as government positions for family members."

Mr. Moroz firmly denied that any bribery is taking place. Our Ukraine National Deputy Serhii Holovatyi said on March 21 that he's been never offered a bribe as deputy.

Mr. Kinakh had served as chair of the National Security and Defense Council before the current coalition government ascended to power. In that role, he was privy to most of the activity within Mr. Yushchenko's governments, and had close contact with the president, making his defection particularly hurtful, said Oleksander Palii, coordinator of international programs at the Democratic Initiatives Fund. "Maybe the president will learn something from this, but he's made a very large number of personnel mistakes," he added.

In fact, Mr. Yushchenko acknowledged

his mistake of allying with Mr. Kinakh, and expressed regret that he stood alongside him during the Orange Revolution and gave him the fifth position on Our Ukraine's election ballot.

Mr. Kinakh's decision surprised few political experts in Kyiv, who pointed out that his responsibility to his businessmen constituents was to retain influence in government in order to protect their interests.

As a former prime minister, Mr. Kinakh began to feel uneasy with being in the opposition, said Yurii Yakymenko, the director of political and legal programs at the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Research.

"As leader of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Mr. Kinakh feels pressure from the members of this organization," he said. "They also felt discomfort with their leader being in the opposition. In this way, they can become familiar with certain persecution from such a status, or absence from power."

When announcing Mr. Kinakh's appointment, Prime Minister Yanukovich declared the coalition was changing its name from the Anti-Crisis Coalition to the National Unity Coalition, given his conviction that no crisis exists in Ukraine.

While the president had proposed a National Unity Coalition last year on equal terms, the unique version proposed by Mr. Yanukovich and Ms. Bohatyriova requires submission to the Party of the Regions.

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Ukrainian Debutante Balls

CAAU Debutante Ball raises funds for Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv

by Anne Kokawa Prokopovych

LOS ANGELES –The 2007 Debutante Ball of the California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) featured a weekend of activities with the charitable goal of raising funds for the Ukraine 3000 Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv.

On February 16, the Friday evening before the ball, contemporary music lovers enjoyed a casual "CAAU on the Rox" pub night at the Roxy Theater in Hollywood, featuring the Grandville band. On the sunny and balmy Saturday afternoon before the evening festivities, golfers teed off at the first annual CAAU Charity Golf Tournament.

The highlight of the weekend was the Debutante Ball held on Saturday, February 17, at the Manhattan Beach Marriott, located about 25 miles from downtown Los Angeles. The annual ball is a major fund-raising and community-building event for CAAU. About 350 guests were in attendance at this year's gala benefit.

In addition to dinner, dancing to the music of Vechirka from Rochester, N.Y., and the presentation of the debutantes, guests enjoyed the silent auction and a multimedia presentation by representatives from Ukraine 3000. The silent auction has become an outstanding feature at the annual event, offering guests the opportunity to bid on items ranging from hand-crafted pysanky to tickets to the Magic Mountain theme park, while raising funds for the Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv.

Guests also responded generously to CAAU's appeal for donations of stuffed animal toys that will bring joy and comfort to hospitalized children in Ukraine.

Children's Hospital of the Future

The honorary chair of the 2007 CAAU Ball was First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine. Mrs. Yushchenko is head of the supervisory council of the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation.

Donations and proceeds from the 2007 ball will benefit the Ukraine 3000 project to create the Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv. The focus of the funding will be advanced training of doctors at medical institutions in the United States to address critical care for children and expectant mothers in Ukraine.

The Children's Hospital of the Future is envisioned as a state-of-the-art children's medical institution, involving advanced technologies, trained professionals and intellectual resources. The Kyiv hospital will be a central resource of medical assistance to children with serious pathologies in all regions of Ukraine, will offer facilities so that families of children receiving treatment may stay close for emotional support, and will address pregnancy pathologies, premature birth and other reproductive technologies.

Due to conflicting schedule commitments, the honorary chair of the 2007 CAAU Ball was unable to attend the event in person. However, a video recorded address delivered Mrs. Yushchenko's personal message of gratitude, hope and vision to those in attendance.

Following opening remarks by CAAU Chair Luba Keske, the program began with the video recording, in which Mrs. Yushchenko warmly greeted the guests and expressed her appreciation for their attendance and support of the benefit ball. Mrs. Yushchenko also gratefully acknowledged the overwhelming support in Ukraine and abroad for the Children's Hospital of the Future project.

She described this generous response as a symbol of Ukraine's revival and renewal as a civil society with long and cherished traditions of charity and community involvement. "We strongly believe that Ukraine should and is capable of saving and giving hope to its children. It is a great honor to be a part of this effort," stated the first lady of Ukraine.

In attendance at the ball were Oleksander Maksymchuk, head of the board of directors of Ukraine 3000; and Dr. Vira Pavlyuk, head of the board of directors of the Children's Hospital of the Future. Mr. Maksymchuk was accompanied by his wife, Yuliya, director of the Museum of Radio and Television of the National Television Company of Ukraine.

Mr. Maksymchuk and Dr. Pavlyuk each addressed the guests in attendance, providing some background and recent accomplishments of the Children's Hospital of the Future project. In addition, they presented a second video recording that had been shown in regions across Ukraine as an informational and inspirational



Don Hagopian

(From left) Escort Vasily Pavdun with debutante Marta Kateryna Hura and debutante Maria Louise Haras with escort John Kopinski.

introduction to the project's concept.

Ukraine's consul general of Ukraine in San Francisco, Mykola Tochytskyi, also addressed the audience, conveying his gratitude for the generous support for Ukraine 3000 and the children's hospital in Kyiv. He commended those in attendance for contributing to the improvement in relations between Ukraine and the United States.

In addition to the representatives from Ukraine 3000, Consul General of Ukraine Tochytskyi and his wife, Tamara, and Vice-Consul Serhiye Nikolaychuk, CAAU was honored to welcome about 30 guests representing Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Founded in 1902, Cedars-Sinai is the largest non-profit hospital in western United States. More than 1,800 physicians in virtually all medical specialties are affiliated with Cedars-Sinai; they are leaders in basic and clinical research, bringing advancements in medicine from the laboratory to the bedside. In addition, six of Cedar-Sinai's specialties ranked among the nation's best in U.S. News and World Report's 2006 guide to "America's Best Hospitals."

In June 2006 Mrs. Yushchenko and Dr. Pavlyuk met with officials at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to explore possibilities for improving healthcare services in Ukraine. On Monday, February 19, the representatives from Ukraine 3000 and the consul general met with officials at Cedars-Sinai for more specific discussions regarding the development of physician training programs for the Children's Hospital of the Future and related institutions. This meeting initiated a collaborative effort that will develop health professional training pathways applicable to child and maternal healthcare in Ukraine.

Presentation of debutantes

Master of Ceremonies Roman Mykytyn was assisted by Brianna Hill (a CAAU debutante of 2003) with the introduction of each of the two young ladies. Both graceful and poised debutantes already have impressive accomplishments in the arts, academics, leadership and service.

Maria Louise Haras has won several academic awards, including the 2006 South Pasadena High School Spotlight on Excellence Award in Science, and is an active volunteer with church mission projects in California and Mexico.

Marta Kateryna Hura dances both classical ballet and Ukrainian folk dance, while her volunteer work at the Honolulu Zoo and the Honolulu Humane Society combined with her interest in science have led her to consider a career in veterinary science.

Before dinner, all guests were invited to join in the singing of "God Bless America" and "Prayer for Ukraine," led by Gregory Hallick, conductor of the

Kobzar Choir. The invocation was led by the pastors of the three local church parishes, the Rev. Myron Mykyta of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rev. Vasyl Sauciu of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Vasyl Shtelen of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

CAAU awardees

The board of directors of CAAU awarded special recognition to several exceptional individuals for their outstanding achievements. CAAU Chairperson Keske and Consul General Tochytskyi presented trophies and certificates of achievement signed by the consul general. All of the awardees were born in Ukraine and immigrated to the United States after World War II. They all have been continuously active as volunteers in projects that have benefited the local Ukrainian community, as well as the people of Ukraine.

Three visionary community leaders were presented with CAAU Founder Awards. Around 1990, in response to the early signs of democratic developments in Ukraine, they formed the California Association to Aid Ukraine as a means of channeling local support to meet the emerging needs in Ukraine.

Bohdan Mykytyn served as treasurer during CAAU's first 12 years and later continued to assist the board with his advice and experience as a member of the Advisory Committee. Lubomyr Osadca was a member of the board of directors until his retirement in the mid-1990s, including several terms as president. Zenon Zachariasevych served as the organization's first president and, later, as chairman. His participation in CAAU continued for many years until his relocation to Detroit.

The CAAU Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Taras Kozbur. Mr. Kozbur has spent his lifetime generously contributing his professional and leadership skills with passionate devotion to his native Ukraine. Mr. Kozbur has combined his technical skills as an architect and planner with his business and administrative skills to execute a number of successful projects that have had a lasting positive impact on the local community and in Ukraine.

One of his most notable achievements was the design, construction and installation of the Holodomor memorial in the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration, providing a permanent and public remembrance of the millions of victims of the 1932-1933 artificial Famine-Genocide in Ukraine during the Soviet era. Mr. Kozbur also has served as chair of CAAU's board of directors for several years, and continues to serve on the Advisory Committee.

The CAAU Humanitarian Award was presented to Col. John S. Kark, Ph.D. Although he was not able to

(Continued on page 13)

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Ukrainian American Youth Association presents its debutantes



Wovk Photography

Debutantes and their escorts at the 2007 ball of the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

by Orest Kozicky

TARRYTOWN, N.Y. – The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) sponsored its 43rd annual SUM Debutante Ball on Saturday, February 10, at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, N.Y.

The chairperson of the ball's organizing committee, Genya Kuzmowycz-Blahy, reflected upon the pervasive significance of this event, so deeply steeped in SUM tradition that it continues to

attract a large number of participants from the extended SUM family. She formally opened the ceremonies by welcoming Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Stamford, Conn., together with the debutantes, their escorts and the assembled guests.

She then introduced the masters of ceremonies, Marta Kolinsky-Bojko and Pavlo Figol, who presented the 16 debutantes individually, elaborating upon each debutante's academic, SUM and commu-

nity-based achievements and upon their future career plans as each made an elegant entrance onto the ballroom floor.

After enjoying an affectionate exchange with her parents, each debutante was joined by her escort, whereupon together they performed a gracious and appreciative bow before the warmly applauding audience. The debutantes and their escorts, adorned in classic cotillion dress white and tuxedo black, enthralled their admiring audience with a vibrant yet elegant

waltz choreographed by Hryhorij Momot.

The celebratory spirit in the ballroom was enhanced by the introduction of a special SUM member, Bishop Chomnycky who affectionately congratulated the debutantes, shared his views about their coming of age and conferred his blessing upon the debutantes and their escorts before leading the entire ballroom in prayer.

Bohdan Harhaj, the president of the

(Continued on page 13)

Chervona Kalyna cotillion introduces five debutantes

RUTHERFORD, N.J. – On Saturday, February 17, the Chervona Kalyna cotillion presented five debutantes and their escorts to the Ukrainian community: Ivanna Ganushchak of Staten Island, N.Y., and Stephan Luchanko of Washington Crossing, Pa.; Yuliana Kletsun and Adrian Chernyk, both of Manhattan; Natalie Lyszyk of Bridgewater, N.J., and Alexander Mosco of Perth

Amboy, N.J.; Christina M. Samborsky of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Jaroslav Grytsayo of Ridgewood, N.Y.; and Katerina Syzonenko of Randolph, N.J., and Vitalij Simonian of New York City.

The couples made their grand entrance to the melody of "Oy u Luzi Chervona Kalyna," the debutantes clutching bouquets of orange-hued roses, which

echoed the glow of their cheeks and the warmth with which they were received by the many gathered guests. The official presentation hosted by Marta and Orest Kebalo culminated in an elegant "debutante quadrille" choreographed by Anya Bohachevsky-Lonkevych.

By all accounts, everyone had a wonderful time, from dancing to the familiar beat of the Tempo orchestra and Oles Kuzyszyn's Luna, to executing the "Hopak" at midnight in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Meadowlands.

Distinguished guests, including Ukraine's General Consul in New York Mykola Kyrychenko, his wife, Olena, and their daughter, Oksana, together with acting Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations Viktor Kryzhanivskyj and his wife, Olena, shared a table with the Chervona Kalyna Committee's chairman, Ihor Sochan.

At the height of the zabava, Mr. Sochan also had the singular pleasure of welcoming the president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA), Dr. Viacheslav Briukhovetsky. Accompanied by Marta Farion, president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation (KMF); Serhij Kvit of NUKMA's social science department; Oksana Khanas, KMF treasurer; and Irene Jarosewich, representing the NY/NJ Friends of NUKMA; Dr. Briukhovetsky arrived in time to enjoy the atmosphere of this Ukrainian American pre-Lenten tradition.

Sincere thanks were offered to the various members of the Chervona Kalyna Organizing Committee: Yaroslav Stawnychyj, vice-chairman, Olya Stawnychy (flowers), Marika Sochan-Tymyc (program booklets and tableau), Bohdan Tytla (invitations) and Vladimir Artymshyn, videographer.

Thanks to Wovk Photography – Andriy and Liarysa Wovk, assisted by Deanna Yurchuk – a beautiful slide show of the presentation of the debutantes was available for viewing during the entire zabava.

Next year's Chervona Kalyna once again will be held at the Sheraton Meadowlands in Rutherford, N.J.; the date: Saturday, February 2, 2008.



At the Chervona Kalyna debutante ball (from left) are: Ivanna Ganushchak and Stephan Luchanko, Yuliana Kletsun and Adrian Chernyk, Katerina Syzonenko and Vitalij Simonian, Natalie Lyszyk and Alexander Mosco, and Christina Samborsky and Jaroslav Grytsayo.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Fifteen debutantes presented in Philadelphia at Engineers' Ball



The debutantes and their escorts, with members of the Debutante Committee: (from left) Marc Chuma, master of ceremonies; Nila Pawluk, Debutante Committee; Thomas Maksymiuk, escort, and Alexandra Strockyj, debutante; Markian Wirstiuk and Victoria Graudins; Marc Kostrubiak and Melanie Cybriwsky; Gregory Fat and Julia Knihnickij; Andrew Melio and Stephanie Kozak; Leo Wolansky and Joanna Karaman; Nicholas Woznyj and Tetiana Bilynsky; Stefan Kozak and Erica Patrylak; Natalia Tarasiuk and Demyan Hryciw; Adrianna Fedyna and Andrij Melnyk; Natalia Leszczyszyn and Nicholas Patrylak; Christina Hryhorchuk and Stephen Dubenko;

by Metodij Boretsky

PHILADELPHIA – The 53rd Engineers' Ball of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) was held here on Saturday, February 10, at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

This year's Engineers' Ball included a banquet, presentation of debutantes and ball. The Tempo orchestra provided music for guests' enjoyment.

After the cocktail hour, Petro Hewka, head of the Philadelphia Chapter of the UESA, opened the event and greeted the guests gathered for this occasion in the

hotel's Grand Ballroom. He also introduced the master of ceremonies, Marc Chuma. The dinner began with an invocation delivered by Rev. Ivan Demkiv.

After the dinner, at 9 p.m., 15 debutantes and their escorts were formally presented by the MC. They were as follows (escorts' names are in parentheses): Tetiana Melania Bilynsky (Nicholas Woznyj), Larissa Tamara Wiazivsky (Zdan Korduba), Christina Maria Hryhorchuk (Stephen Dubenko), Victoria Graudins (Markian Wirstiuk), Joanna Maria Karaman (Leo Wolansky), Julia Anna Knihnickij (Gregory Fat), Stephanie Elizabeth Kozak (Andrew Melio),

Melanie Elizabeth Lesiuk (Andrew Loginsky), Natalia Maria Leszczyszyn (Nicholas Patrylak), Erica Helene Patrylak (Stefan Kozak), Alexandra Tamara Strockyj (Thomas Maksymiuk), Melanie Christine Siokalo (Mark Kochan), Natalia Oleksandra Tarasiuk (Demyan Hryciw), Adrianna Maria Fedyna (Andrij Melnyk) and Melanie Nina Cybriwsky (Marc Kostrubiak).

The debutantes and their escorts were greeted by Dr. Hewka and introduced by the master of ceremonies. Dr. Hewka congratulated each debutante and placed sashes on them with the assistance of his wife, Orysia. Nila Pawluk, Marijka

Cyhan and Alex Knihnickij prepared the debutantes for the presentation ceremony.

The debutantes and their escorts began the grand "zabava" with their first dance. Next, the parents of the debutantes danced with their daughters and their escorts.

Over 400 people attended the dinner, and more than 600 enjoyed the dance held afterwards.

The Organizing Committee of the 2007 Engineers' Ball was composed of: Dr. Hewka, Metodij Boretsky, Larissa Zaika, Myron Bilas, Daria Lissy, Orest Shwed, Marko Jarymowych, Mychajlo Komanowsky and Walter Kuzyk.

CAAU Debutante...

(Continued from page 11)

receive the award in person, he was honored for his dedication to assisting and inspiring young orphans in Ukraine. After a distinguished career in the United States Army, he founded the Committee to Assist Ukrainian Orphans and Children without Parental Care, and continues to serve as its executive director.

The organization has delivered over

20,000 pairs of eyeglasses for school-age orphan children across the nation of Ukraine and stimulated government and private industry support in Ukraine for ongoing attention to vision care for these children. It has recently completed the Stipends for Student-Orphans in Ukraine project, distributing 11,398 stipends directly to individual students in all 1,194 institutions of higher learning throughout Ukraine, as financial and symbolic support for these promising orphan students.

During the past several years, CAAU has entrusted Col. Kark to personally deliver over \$76,000 in stipends and other financial assistance to orphans in Ukraine.

CAAU unveils new logo

When the organization was formed in the early 1990s, CAAU's projects focused on coordinating local support for relief efforts in Ukraine. As the situation in Ukraine has evolved, CAAU has expanded the range of its projects to advantage of emerging opportunities that will have a lasting and increasing developmental impact in Ukraine.

To reflect the growing sophistication of its approach to philanthropy, CAAU has selected a new logo that was officially introduced at the ball. As described by the designer, Levko Rakowsky, the new CAAU logo is a simple spiral that draws upon ancient, traditional Ukrainian folk

art forms, like Trypillian pottery, and reflects concepts of nature, life and the spiritual world.

The spiral also conveys the evolution of the CAAU mission and its path to the future. The center of the spiral forms an eye, or sun, speaking to vision and vitality. The vibrant colors – the blue sky of Ukraine and the orange bounty of California – represent the deep, intertwined connection between the two communities. Simple decorative elements are woven together into a dynamic spiral tapestry. Symbolically, they suggest that many small acts can have a lasting benefit and contribute to a brighter future.

CAAU is a non-profit 501 (3) (c) corporation. Contributions and inquiries may be addressed to CAAU, c/o Roman Wasylyn, 4645 Noeline Ave., Encino, CA 91436, or by e-mail to caau_info@earthlink.net.

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 12)

SUM National Executive Board, also warmly congratulated the debutantes and reflected upon their accruing responsibilities, wishing them luck in their future endeavors.

The banquet was embellished by the virtuoso piano music provided by Andrij Stasiw and followed by a grand "zabava" to the music provided by the Zolota Bulava and Na Zdorovya bands. The festive evening culminated in a traditional "Kolomyika" that lasted over 30 minutes.

A special tribute for the success of this memorable event was given to the organizing committee which consisted of chairperson, Ms. Kuzmowycz-Blahy, Lida Mykytyn, Petro and Julia Kosciolik, Natalka Kudryk and Laryssa Blahy.

This year's debutantes were: Tatiana Palylyk (Yonkers, N.Y.), escorted by

Adam Klymko; Larissa Gojdydz (Yonkers), escorted by Peter Kolinsky; Adriana LiGreci, escorted by Mykola Perich; Nadya Leniw (Passaic), escorted by Yuriy Symczyk; Marianna Zajac (New York), escorted by Michael Naumenko; Kate Laszyn (Passaic, N.J.), escorted by Mark Leszczyszak; Christine Terlecky (Yonkers), escorted by Andrew Bybel; Christine Uzdejczyk (Hartford, Conn.), escorted by Gregory Sawchuk; Larysa Filewicz (Yonkers), escorted by Andrew Kobylecky; Natalya Surmachevska (New York), escorted by Bohdan Vitenko; Christina Melnyk (Hartford), escorted by Stefan Doboszczak; Stephanie DeBruin (Yonkers), escorted by Andrew Kuzmiak; Juliana Horbachevsky (Yonkers), escorted by Roman Palylyk; Julie Doboszczak (Hartford), escorted by Adam Gojdydz; Monica Kapitula (Passaic), escorted by Michael Porada; and Olesya Alamanchuk (Passaic), escorted by Peter Capar.

Attention, Students!

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

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

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

UMANA Illinois Branch sponsors 45th annual debutante ball

CHICAGO – The Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA Illinois) hosted the 45th annual Charity Ball and Presentation of Debutantes on January 27 at Chicago's historic downtown Hotel InterContinental.

The evening began with cocktails in the Empire Room, overlooking the famous "Magnificent Mile" – Michigan Avenue. Anticipating the start of formalities, 400 guests and friends at this traditional event greeted each other warmly throughout the hour.

Statuesque calla lilies graced the entrance into the historic art deco Grand Ballroom, with the procession of the debutantes, their parents and escorts marking the opening of the debut. The escorts stood on the beautiful curved staircase, eagerly awaiting the formal presentation. Dr. Roman Saldan, president of UMANA Illinois, presented the 10 debutantes to the community.

Under the expert choreography of Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak, an intricate and beautiful dance program materialized in the ballroom. The debutantes, in their flowing white gowns, waltzed gracefully with their fathers and escorts. Dr. Saldan then welcomed the debutantes, their parents, escorts and guests, who came from all over the United States and Canada for this charity ball.

Marta Kozbur and Orlana Wyshnytzky, speaking on behalf of the debutantes' proud parents, warmly addressed their daughters and wished the debutantes well in their future endeavors.

On behalf of all the debutantes, Alexandra Melnyk, Olya Witkowsky, Katya Baranowska and Zenovia Forowycz presented members of the Debutante Ball Committee with tokens of their appreciation.

After the delicious dinner, many more guests arrived and danced the night away to the music of the Veseli Chasy-Good



MVP Studio

Chicago's debutantes of 2007: (front row from left) Christina Powers with Christopher Rizanow, Motrya Kozbur with Andrew Lasiy, Cianna Wyshnytzky with Gregory Homick, Alexandra Charysh with Roman Chajkowsky, Olya Witkowsky with Michael Sidelnik, and Natalie Szulyk with Matthew Saulka; (back row) Katya Baranowska with Michael Watral, Alexandra Melnyk with Gregory Sidelnik, Zenovia Forowycz with Mark Wesolowskyj, and Natalia Kecalá with Adrian Hulyk.

Times band. Although the hall was overflowing with guests, the participants enjoyed the camaraderie and made room for all the dancers. Ukrainian tortes were the highlight of the dessert table that brought the banquet to a close.

As is traditional at debutante balls, the event helped raise funds for charity. The proceeds from this year's Charity Ball will

benefit the foundation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. The foundation helps to advance healthcare of Ukrainians worldwide through education, publications and scholarships.

Special thanks went to the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union for its support with a matching grant fundraising campaign. Victor Wojtychiw, vice-

chair of Selfreliance, presented the foundation with the resultant \$3,000 check, along with an additional \$5,000 contribution.

The 2007 organizing committee included Dr. George Kuritza, Dr. Saldan, Dr. Maria Hrycelak, Larissa Iwanetz and Kathryn Hrynewycz. Their dedicated efforts resulted in a memorable and enjoyable event for all involved.

Pittsburgh UNWLA hosts "Vyshyvani Vechernytsi" debutante ball

PITTSBURGH – On the warm autumn evening of September 23, 2006, five young ladies were presented to the Ukrainian community at the Greentree Holiday Inn. Marika Zaliszczuk, president of Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 27 welcomed the guests, families and friends in both Ukrainian and English, wishing them a wonderful evening at the annual "Vyshyvani Vechernytsi."

The debutantes entered on the arms of their escorts to the music of the Ostap Stakhiw Band playing "Rushnychok," and were met by their parents. The walls of the ballroom were adorned with Ukrainian embroideries that enhanced the beauty of the ceremony as the parents of each debutante presented their daughters.

The grand ball began as the debutantes danced a waltz that was choreographed by Luba Hlutkowsky.

The debutantes were:

- Amy Larissa Dolnack, daughter of Jeffrey and Christine Konecky Dolnack, a graduate of Penn Hills High School and now a student of Allegheny College majoring in biology. Her escort was Anthony DeLuca.

- Emily Marie Dabney, daughter of Robert and Mary Dabney, a graduate of State College High School and now a junior at Duquesne University majoring in advertising. Her escort was Gregory Barbone.

- Anya Lematovych, daughter of Volodymyr and Oksana Lematovych of Lviv, a graduate of Lviv Gymnasium and Carlynton High School, who is now a sophomore at Duquesne University. Her escort was Alexander Begey.

- Dalena Elyse Klavin, daughter of Edward and Toni Marie Klavin, a senior at Upper St. Clair High School, an International Baccalaureate diploma student. Her escort was Alex McDaniel.

- Nicole Ariana Petroski, daughter of Darrel and Brenda Petroski, a senior at Peters Township High School who has been accepted to Duquesne University. Her escort was Gregory Yovetich.



Michael E. Haritan

Pittsburgh 2006 debutantes and their escorts.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Twelve Plast members presented at New Jersey debutante ball

WHIPPANY, N.J. – On Saturday, February 3, Plast-Pryiat of Newark, N.J., held its traditional Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization Debutante Ball at the Hanover Marriott.

The black-tie event began with a cocktails and hors d'oeuvres reception followed by the presentation ceremony in the hotel's Grand Ballroom. Following opening remarks, masters of ceremonies Lida Moczula and Lubodar Olesnycky had the pleasure of introducing the 12 young ladies from the Plast troop (hurtok) "Berizky" into Ukrainian society.

As family, friends and guests anxiously awaited, a graceful promenade choreographed by Oksana Bauer began the presentation. The debutantes and their escorts were welcomed by all, as each young lady was individually introduced, highlighting her achievements and interests in the Ukrainian and American communities.

The program included a warm and inspiring welcome from George Shypailo, the president of the Newark Plast branch, as well as remarks by Tania Jachens, the Plast troop's "hurtkova." Miss Jachens fondly reflected on the girls' years together and graciously thanked their parents who raised them to become successful young ladies. A special thank you was extended to all the troop counselors who dedicated their time and helped raise the debutantes in the true spirit of Plast. Finally, thanks went out to Orest and Dora Dekajlo, Lisa Milanych and Ihor Mykyta for their roles as dance instructors in preparation for this special evening.

The 12 debutantes were: Laryssa Borkowsky, escorted by Demyan



Gabelli Studio

Plast debutantes of 2007 with their escorts.

Hryciw; Katusia Charchalis, escorted by Matthew Liteplo; Lana Denysyk, escorted by Andrew Rud; Andrea Pitio, escorted by Eric Anderson; Nina Godbee, escorted by Sviatoslav Lesko; Andrea Shypailo, escorted by Roman Kanarsky; Tania Jachens, escorted by Alexander Myskiw; Dianna Shypailo, escorted by Andrew Balytsky; Chrystyna Lazirko, escorted by Gregory Fat; Viktoria Zwarycz, escorted by Christopher Rizzano; Arianna Lebed,

escorted by Alex Drabyk; and Justina Michel, escorted by Leo Wolansky.

Following an invocation by the Rev. Roman Mirchuk, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, the ball began. Over 500 guests enjoyed the dinner, and several hundred additional guests arrived to dance to the music of Tempo and Zolota Bulava. It was an elegant and magical evening for all the guests – especially the young ladies

introduced to Ukrainian society.

As in the past, the Debutante Ball Committee members thanked the Self Reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union of Newark for its support in funding all printing and advertising costs for the event.

The 2007 Debutante Ball Committee members included Irka Turynsky, Zenia Olesnycky, Laryssa Nahnybida, Lida Moczula and Daria Semanyshyn.



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More setbacks...

(Continued from page 2)

"amnesty" to men behind the murder of her husband. "For me, the award is a sign of a signal that it is possible to undertake similar illegal actions in the future," Myroslava Gongadze added.

Mr. Potebenko's award also reflects the disorganization in the Yushchenko administration, which granted the award eight days before Our Ukraine signed an agreement on opposition unity with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Mr. Potebenko was instrumental in preparing the trumped up criminal case that placed Ms. Tymoshenko in Lukianivska prison from February 13 to March 27, 2001.

Discredited Kuchma-era officials continued to receive honors even after the Orange Revolution. In summer 2005, Donetsk and Kyiv oligarchs Rynat Akhmetov and Hryhorii Surkis were awarded state medals. Last month, Valentyn Zgursky, who helped Social Democrat leader Viktor Medvedchuk and Mr. Surkis build their business empire in Kyiv in the 1990s, was honored with a medal.

The rule of law is under threat in Ukraine because senior officials continue to believe that they are not responsible for their actions and they are above the law. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich reported that allegations of election fraud in 2004 have "not met with success." Mr. Yanukovich said that the accusations "do not show there was falsification as there are 48 million inhabitants and only 1,000 cases."

M.I. Melnyk's "Criminal Responsibility for Crimes against Election Laws," published last year in Kyiv, investigates the criminal cases brought by the authorities for election fraud after the Orange Revolution. Though 1,297 cases were brought by the prosecutor against the perpetrators, no case has been brought against the organizers of the fraud. Of the perpetrators, the courts found only 265 guilty, but they were either given suspended sentences or received amnesty. Mr. Yushchenko granted the amnesty, without any invested legal right, in a September 23, 2005, memorandum signed with Mr. Yanukovich.

After coming to power on August 4, 2006, the Yanukovich government moved quickly. It ended speculation regarding a further re-privatization of oligarchs' assets – a policy that had divided Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko in 2005.

It also closed criminal cases against senior Kuchma-era officials, cases that Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions had always attacked as "political repression." Our Ukraine issued a statement condemning the prosecutor and asserting, "The court system and legality in Ukraine is increasingly becoming an arm of corporate interests of the Party of the Regions."

However, the real problem is the lack of reform in the legal system and the Procurator General's office. Since the Orange Revolution, the prosecutors appointed by the president have been either unable or unwilling to follow through on criminal investigations of abuse of office by senior elites. As internal affairs minister, Yurii Lutsenko accused the Procurator General's Office of sitting on the documents that his ministry had submitted regarding criminal cases. Ms. Tymoshenko dismissed this explanation as "child's talk."

Three conclusions follow.

- First, the return of former Sumy Oblast Administration Chair Volodymyr Shcherban to Ukraine after he fled to the United States in April 2005 and the subsequent dismissal of the case against him confirms that senior Ukrainian officials are convicted only in the United States – never in Ukraine. In 2006 a U.S. court sentenced former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko to nine years in prison.

- Second, the failure to act on these issues has undermined voter support for Mr. Yushchenko, which is now at a catastrophic low of 11 percent. In a November 2005 poll by the Razumkov Center, one-third of western and central Ukrainians were dissatisfied with the authorities because of inaction in this area. These voters have moved to the Tymoshenko bloc.

- Third, Mr. Yushchenko's amnesty to the organizers of the Gongadze murder, and his unwillingness to abide by the European Court of Human Rights Resolution 1516 on observing the rule of law, undermines international faith in whether his support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration is genuine.

Instituting equality before the rule of law was a key objective of the Orange Revolution, an objective that now is unlikely to be fulfilled under Mr. Yushchenko.

Sources: *Zerkalo Nedeli*, November 19-25, 2005; *Ukrayinska Pravda*, February 1, 15, 2006; March 1, 5; razom.org.ua, February 28; president.gov.ua, February 16.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

and a "stab in the back" of the united opposition and the president. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Gongadze marker installed in Kyiv

KYIV – A marker in memory of slain journalist Heorhii Gongadze and other journalists who died while performing their duties has been placed on Chervonoarmiiska Street in Kyiv, it was reported on March 20. The marker, which is located at 115-121 Chervonoarmiiska St., near the Maria Zankovetskyi Museum, was unveiled by Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi. The inscription says: "On this site will be built a monument to journalist Heorhii Gongadze and other journalists who died under unknown circumstances." The mayor commented that Mr. Gongadze died for democracy and said he was a hero for standing up to the authorities. A contest has been announced for the design of the monument, which is expected to be erected by 2008. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

Working group holds first meeting

KYIV – The head of the Our Ukraine parliamentary faction, Viacheslav Kyrylenko, stated that the working group created by the majority and the opposition during consultations with the president, had reached no principled decision at its first sitting on March 19. He said the Anti-Crisis Coalition made no step toward meeting the 17 demands of the opposition, having rejected the recall of bills that violate the constitutional balance. The only thing the parties have managed to agree on is to discuss a bill on tariffs, Mr. Kyrylenko said. The deputy head of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc faction, Oleksander Turchynov, stressed that the Anti-Crisis Coalition agreed only to "consideration" of a series of issues, but not on their efficient voting. A contrasting opinion about the first sitting of the working group was offered by the first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Adam Martyniuk, who said positive decisions were adopted on the majority of the opposition's demands. (Ukrinform)

New law on procurator general

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on March 20 adopted amendments to the law on the Procurator General's Office. According to the amended law, the top

prosecutor is appointed and dismissed by the president upon the Verkhovna Rada's consent. Earlier, the president appointed the procurator general upon the Rada's approval but didn't need the consent of the Rada to dismiss him; however, the Verkhovna Rada could vote no-confidence in the minister, which could lead to his resignation. (Ukrinform)

Tymoshenko alleges bribery attempts

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, head of the eponymous political bloc, said during consultations between parliamentary leaders and President Viktor Yushchenko on March 19 that a group of unidentified persons in the Verkhovna Rada is working to expand the ruling majority into a constitutional majority of at least 300 votes by way of bribery, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "I can tell you that I spent this weekend talking to deputies," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "Each of them told me that groups had been formed at the Parliament, and from \$3 million to \$8 million had been offered alongside official positions for family members. They are offering everything, and 300 votes are being actually handpicked. Is this democracy?" Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz said earlier this month that a constitutional majority of 300 deputies will be formed in the Verkhovna Rada in two months. The Ukrainian Parliament currently has five caucuses: the Party of the Regions (186 deputies), the Socialist Party (31) and the Communist Party (21), which form the ruling majority; the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (186) and Our Ukraine (79), which are in the opposition. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Our Ukraine deputies may defect

KYIV – The head of the Socialist Party faction in the Verkhovna Rada, Ivan Boky, said on March 20 that 10 national deputies from the Our Ukraine bloc intend to defect to the Anti-Crisis Coalition. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich and Kinakh sign pact

KYIV – The government and the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs have signed a cooperation and partnership agreement at a sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers, it was reported on March 20. The document will pave the way for the creation of joint working groups to draw up documents. The document was signed by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich on behalf of the government and National Deputy Anatolii

Kinakh on behalf of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko appeals for Danish support

AARHUS, Denmark – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko told Danish journalists in Aarhus on March 15, the first day of his official visit to Denmark, that Ukraine needs Danish support in working out a new, enhanced agreement on cooperation with the European Union, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "We [also] need [Denmark's] support in the European Football Association's voting on the possible hosting of the Euro 2012 [soccer] championship by Ukraine and Poland," Mr. Yushchenko added. Speaking in the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen later the same day, Mr. Yushchenko suggested establishing a "panel of wise men" composed of senior European figures with the experience and expertise needed to help Ukraine on its path toward European Union membership. He made the same proposal in a commentary titled "Realistic Kyiv" that was published in The Wall Street Journal Europe on March 15. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Tymoshenko criticizes president's weakness

KYIV – Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko has criticized President Viktor Yushchenko for his political weakness, it was reported on March 19. The leader of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc offered her comments in an interview on Channel 5, adding that it seems the president is suffering from acute political romanticism. "It is so acute," she added, "that it seems to me this acute romanticism needs to be treated." Ms. Tymoshenko said she came to this conclusion when she heard the president was returning to the issue of the Universal of

National Unity and new talks with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

Lutsenko denies Israeli citizenship

KYIV – Former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, who is organizing the People's Self-Defense civic movement, said in a television interview on March 14 that the recent allegation by Deputy Procurator General Renat Kuzmin that he has both Israeli and Ukrainian citizenship is a lie, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and the Ukrayinska Pravda website reported. "I know that in our country, to become a politician, you need to be called first a fascist, a rascal, a [Ukrainian ultranationalist Stepan] Bandera follower, a citizen of Israel and an agent of Moscow," Mr. Lutsenko said. "There have been no changes in dirty [publicity] techniques of the authorities, the only difference is that earlier private provocateurs engaged in such behavior, now these functions have been taken by the Procurator General's Office," Mr. Lutsenko added. He also said on television that the public statement about his purported Israeli citizenship was made by an "official whose face has never been distorted by intellect." (RFE/RL Newswire)

Babyn Yar film to be shot in Ukraine

KYIV – The Ukrainian film production studio PRO-TV will embark on shooting the film "Babyn Yar," by Anatolii Kuznietsov, it was reported on March 20. The project will be produced by Anatolie Fradis. The movie will feature Anthony Hopkins, Meryl Streep, Jessica Lange and others. The project is expected to cost \$25 million. The film will be shot in Kyiv and Chernivtsi. (Ukrinform)



MYROSLAVA "MYRA" KOVALCHICK (NEE TOMASZEWSKY)

With deepest sorrow, we regret to inform you of the passing of our beloved Mother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt and Wife on March 13, 2007, in her 52nd year of life. Myra was laid to rest on March 19 at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in New Hamptonburgh, NY.

Beloved Mother of: Sons - Christopher & Nicholas
Daughters - Autumn & Tatiana

Beloved Wife of: Husband - Joseph (predeceased in 2000)

Loving Daughter of: Father - Michael (predeceased in 2002)
Mother - Julia

Loving Sister of: Brothers - Walter, George & Michael,
Sisters - Sophia, Veronica & MaryAnn
Brothers-In-Law - Vladimir & Yury,
Sisters-In-Law - Irene, Ulana & Oksana

Loving Aunt of: Stephanie, Mark, Boris, Taissa, Jarema,
Jonathan, Jason, Adrian, Teresa, Julianna,
Christie, Stefan, Katya, Mateyko and Lukian

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Kovalchick Children's Fund to support Myra's children. Donations may be sent to Self Reliance (NY) FCU to the attention of Paul Liteplo/Genya Blaha, acct. #36667; 108 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003

Ділимося сумною вісткою, що у четвер,
15 березня 2007 р. відійшла у вічність наша дорога
МАМА, БАБЦЯ, ПРАБАБЦЯ І СВАХА

СВ. П.

ІВАННА НИЧКА з дому ГОРНЕЦЬКА

нар. 11 вересня 1913 р. у Львові.

ПАНАХИДА буде відправлена в п'ятницю, 23 березня 2007 р. о год. 2-ій по пол. в Gray-Parker Funeral Home, 100 Main St. Port Jervis, NY.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбудуться в суботу, 24 березня о год. 10-ій ранку в Українській католицькій церкві св. Володимира, 447 High Rd., Glen Spey, NY, а відтак на цвинтарі в Glen Spey.

У смутку залишені:

син – д-р БОГДАН з дружиною ЛЕСЕЮ
внуки – д-р АРІЯДНА ГОЛИНСЬКА з мужем ОЛЕГОМ та доньми
АЛЕКСОЮ і СОФІКОЮ
– д-р ДІЯНА ТРАСКА з мужем ЯРЕМОЮ
– д-р АНДРІЙ з дружиною РЕНАТОЮ та сином МАРКІЯНОМ
– МАРТА БОГОСЛАВЕЦЬ
– РОМАН БОГОСЛАВЕЦЬ з дружиною ХРИСТИНОЮ та сином РАЄН
свати – д-р ОЛЕКСАНДЕР і СОФІЯ СОКОЛИШИН
зять – СТЕФАН БОГОСЛАВЕЦЬ

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Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Verification of minutes of the previous Annual Meeting
3. Reports: Management
Credit Committee
Supervisory Committee
4. Discussion and approval of reports
5. Election of three members to the Board of Directors
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

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Ukrainian Catholic University announces summer program

LVIV – Building on the success of previous years, the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv has once again developed a summer program that provides an intensive course of daily Ukrainian-language instruction with a complementary schedule of activities to offer students full immersion into Ukrainian culture.

An international faculty of native speakers, experienced as teachers of Ukrainian as a foreign language, expertly pace Ukrainian-language instruction in the classroom. Outside the classroom, a key element of the program is the staff of tutors who are always available to assist program participants and guide them through a variety of planned activities.

The Ukrainian Language and Culture Summer Program at UCU, now in its fifth year, is organized into two three-week sessions: June 22 through July 14, and July 15 through August 4.

Each three-week session can be audited or can be taken for university credit (each session is equivalent to a 4-credit semester course in North American colleges). Participants can enroll in one, or both, summer sessions. Upon arrival at the UCU for the summer program, students will be tested for placement in the appropriate level of language instruction. No prior knowledge of Ukrainian is required.

The full-day language program is provided at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Intensive language classes normally meet for four to five hours per day in the morning and afternoon during the week. Work outside the classroom usually requires between two and three hours per day. Besides class instruction, participants will have time for conversational practice with tutorial staff.

The summer program has always attracted a lively and interesting group of students from North America, Europe

and Ukraine. To accommodate students, a Western-style dormitory is available, however, choosing to live with a host family can enhance a student's experience of Ukraine. Participants in previous summer programs have included university students, professionals improving their language skills, as well as adults who want to learn, or re-learn, their native language and become more aware of their Ukrainian heritage.

"Of course, as a university, we are focused on students who will be taking our course for class credit," noted UCU Summer Program Director Orysia Hachko. "Nonetheless, we sincerely encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the intensive language and culture program, which is also designed to be accessible to busy professionals and adults with responsibilities who cannot take more than a few weeks to participate in a summer course."

Lviv, a UNESCO cultural heritage center, is the largest city in the world in which Ukrainian is spoken. Evening activities and weekend field trips include the cultural events and museums of Lviv, expeditions to monasteries, castles and villages in the countryside, as well as the possibility of travel to Ukraine's capital city, Kyiv, and other cities.

The deadline for applications is May 15. An application can be completed online and is available at www.ucu.edu.ua/uss. Information about fees, payment schedule, visa requirements, etc., is also available online. Further information can be obtained by contacting Orysia Hachko, Ukrainian Language and Culture Summer Program, Ukrainian Catholic University, vul. Ilariona Svetsitskoho 17, Lviv, 79011, Ukraine; telephone: 38-032-240-99-40, 76-82-73, fax: 38-032-240-99-50; website, <http://www.ucu.edu.ua/uss>; e-mail, ukrainiansummer@ucu.edu.ua.

A breach...

(Continued from page 7)

ist," who felt confident, because he was operating on his territory. Furthermore diplomatic immunity would not do much good if the American diplomat "fell out of a window," for example.

By 4 a.m. a wearied Mr. Warvariv agreed to cooperate with the KGB, relates former Col. Cherkashin, but adds that, as he was leaving the hotel room, he had some doubt about the recruitment of the American.

And he was right. In the morning Mr. Warvariv reported the recruitment attempt to American security officers. Diplomatic notes were exchanged between Washington and Moscow. Mr. Cherkashin was in trouble with the Communist Party hierarchy, because this was the time of detente preparations, but he weathered it and in time was posted to Washington.

Helpful in saving Mr. Cherkashin's KGB career were two high-profile fellow chekists: Vladimir Kryuchkov, who as chief of the KGB was one of the Soviet putchists in August 1991, and Oleg Kalugin, then KGB general and now a U.S. citizen. The Russian Federation considers Mr. Kalugin a traitor under a death sentence.

Americans Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames helped Mr. Cherkashin's career soar. And Mr. Cherkashin didn't have to recruit them. They came to him when he worked in the Washington Embassy as the KGB "rezident." Mr. Hanssen came to him directly with the proposal to sell secrets, because it was

Mr. Hanssen's job in the FBI to know who the Soviet intelligence officers were. Mr. Ames, who was working on the Soviet desk at the CIA, contacted the Soviet Embassy and was handed over to Mr. Cherkashin.

What the two sold to the Soviets was incalculable. Among other things they fingered Soviet agents who worked for the United States. Those were executed.

Both Messrs. Hanssen and Ames offered their services to the Soviet Union for money – not for some ideological love of the Communist empire. Both are serving life sentences in U.S. prisons.

And Kost Warvariv? He completed his tour in Paris, returned to the State Department in Washington, then fell ill and died prematurely. The following entry appeared in The Ukrainian Weekly's 1982 year in review issue in the section listing prominent Ukrainians who passed away:

"Constantine Warvariv, 57, high-ranking U.S. diplomat who served as director of UNESCO affairs at the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, and also as U.S. delegate to UNESCO, as well as social officer in the office of Multilateral Policy and Plans, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the State Department – April 6."

It is worth noting that the two American-born traitors handled by Mr. Cherkashin were men with pedigrees and good connections. They sold out to the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the naturalized American who was born in Ukraine stuck to his oath to preserve and protect the American Constitution. And he died five years after refusing to take the KGB bait.

by Halyna Kuzyszyn-Holubec

PAMA, Ohio – Where there's a will there's a way.

This motto – complemented with quick-thinking, collaboration, community support and a desire to instill Ukrainian language and culture in future generations – helped two young Ukrainian moms from Parma re-open the Ukrainian pre-school (“Svitlychka”) program in the Cleveland area.

As part of the newly developed Branch 130 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, the

State University's Graduate School of Management and a degree in physics and mathematics from the Zhytomyr State Pedagogical Institute.

Mrs. Bodnar attributes the success of the pre-school and enthusiasm of the children to the efforts of the young parents who desperately wanted their children to be in a Ukrainian environment.

Once a week for about 45 minutes, the children have professional music instruction and singing with Nadiya McAdoo, and Mrs. Polatajko acts as the teacher's assistant, helping with whatever needs to be done in the classroom.



Preschool teacher Natalia V. Bodnar reads the children a Ukrainian story.

Ukrainian pre-school has been successfully operating at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Astrodome on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for close to six months.

Children are dropped off for “school” from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., for three hours of fun-filled Ukrainian language instruction, storytelling, singing, games and crafts projects. There are currently 10 pre-schoolers with hopes of expanded enrollment next year.

“The buzz is positive!” says pre-school co-founder Aretka Kulchytsky. After securing both a room at the Astrodome and a highly qualified teacher, Mrs. Kulchytsky, along with co-founder Teresa Polatajko, organized a group of volunteers to paint the classroom an inviting yellow color and spruce up the space for the pupils ages 3-5. Other preparation included fund-raising and administrative work done with the help of spouses, family and friends and, of course, the moral support from the UNWLA which now not only boasts a new branch with significant membership, but also the continuance of the Ukrainian pre-school legacy. Generous donations from both the Osнова Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (\$750) and the Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (\$2,000), and a \$500 donation from UNWLA Branch 12, helped alleviate start-up costs.

Since opening day on October 30, 2006, the children have not only learned numerous songs, stories, words and phrases, but also have created several arts and crafts projects. Pre-school instructor Natalia Bodnar of Kent – who is also a co-director and teacher at the Ukrainian Saturday School in honor of Taras Shevchenko at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral – says she enjoys the interaction with her young charges.

A bilingual native of Ukraine, Mrs. Bodnar has taught extensively in schools in Ukraine and in U.S. She holds a master's degree in accounting from Kent

“We wanted our kids to enjoy all the benefits of a Ukrainian preschool,” says co-founder Mrs. Polatajko, “and Mrs. Bodnar is a wonderful teacher! Sometimes she leads exercises with the children in the form of games. ‘Kotyky’ (kittens) is their favorite. If the kids' attention is wandering she switches activities.”

An activity never goes beyond 20 minutes, says Mrs. Polatajko. A little bell is rung to let the children know it's time to switch to a different subject, at which point they finish what they're doing and sing a song.

During the Christmas season, the children performed a mini-program/concert for their parents and guests, which included Bishop Robert M. Moskal, eparch of St. Josaphat in Parma. The bishop prepared and distributed small grab bags for the children, while the children sang three songs (one of which included a little dance) and presented the famous Ukrainian “Ripka” play. Each child then recited a poem on his or her own.

Dr. Katrina Rakowsky of North Royalton, Ohio, whose daughter Sophia, age 3, attends the Ukrainian pre-school is overjoyed that such a program exists in the greater Cleveland Ukrainian community. “I wanted my kids to be with other children, learn Ukrainian songs and play games with children their own age,” she says.

Dr. Rakowsky also believes enrollment in the Ukrainian pre-school may help with enrollment in kindergarten at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral School, thereby fostering friendships for years to come and supporting our schools. In addition to the activities already mentioned, Dr. Rakowsky says Sophia has also learned Ukrainian letters and prayers, and has produced many interesting drawings. Most importantly, says Dr. Rakowsky, the children learn to like school and all the learning, routines, discipline, sharing, listening and taking turns that goes along with it.



Ukrainian preschool children and administration (seated from left) Mykola Jarosewicz, Darien Kulchytsky, Emilia Polatajko, Sophia Rakowsky, Olenka Sadowsky, Melania Polatajko. (seated in back): Preschool teacher Natalia V. Bodnar, Adrianna Zura, preschool co-founder and administrator Aretka Kulchytsky, Christopher Lawriw, preschool co-founder and classroom assistant Teresa Polatajko and Andrijko Popadiuk.

Mrs. Kulchytsky and Mrs. Polatajko have big plans for the future of this pre-school and also for the development of their newly formed UNWLA branch. Their hopes are to encourage more local young Ukrainian parents to enroll their kids and continue the great tradition of the “Svitlychka” as started over 50 years ago,

and which continues in many other cities where there are branches of the UNWLA.

For more information about the Ukrainian preschool in the Cleveland area e-mail the administration at levaretka@cox.net.

Yatseniuk...

(Continued from page 1)

At a March 21 ceremony presenting Mr. Yatseniuk, President Yushchenko charged the new minister with the responsibility of developing Ukraine's relationship with NATO from partnership to prospective membership.

"I would really like for this subject not to become politicized in Ukraine," the president said. "We should rationally take this path and in the necessary moment, when the conditions allow for it, pose the question of whether the subject of direct membership is necessary for Ukraine, and ask this of the nation and finally place a period."

Although Ukrainian law stipulates that the foreign affairs minister must promote

NATO integration as part of its national security interests, Mr. Yatseniuk will face pressure from the coalition government to slow that process, said Oleksander Pali, coordinator of international programs at the Democratic Initiatives Fund.

"Yatseniuk is fairly qualified, intelligent enough and knows how to defend his point of view," he said. "But to what extent he will be effective in this position, and how much he will be able to resist the pressure that will be on him from the Anti-Crisis Coalition is hard to say at the moment."

Mr. Yatseniuk received across-the-board support despite having no official diplomatic experience or training, most recently serving as assistant chair of the Presidential Secretariat.

The young politician wasn't intimidated by his lack of experience. "In Ukraine,

there are many more worthy people than me," he told the Parliament. "But if you vote for me, then I'll drag this cart."

Despite Mr. Ohryzko's 28 years of diplomatic service, his strong commitment to Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures and as well as his evident Ukrainian patriotism, that drew opposition from the Russian-oriented Party of the Regions.

Mr. Yatseniuk, on the other hand, has worked closely with such figures as Minister of Internal Affairs Vasyl Tsushko, who has threatened to crack down on spring protests, and former National Bank of Ukraine Chair Serhii Tyhypko, a close associate of former President Leonid Kuchma.

Mr. Turchynov said the Tymoshenko Bloc voted for Mr. Yatseniuk because it

agreed to categorically support the president's foreign affairs minister nomination as part of the unified opposition agreement.

However, the president didn't secure a victory for the opposition in selecting Mr. Yatseniuk, he said. "This was a rushed decision that demeans the president," Mr. Turchynov said.

He also expressed regret that the president didn't use the lack of a foreign affairs minister as a pretext to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada.

Such a possibility emerged after presidential representative to the Verkhovna Rada, Roman Zvarych, stated on March 19 that the president had the legal right to dismiss Parliament if a foreign affairs minister wasn't approved within 60 days following a dismissal.

A native of Chernivtsi, Mr. Yatseniuk began his meteoric rise in Ukrainian politics when he was appointed as acting minister of the economy of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in September 2001, when he was 27 years old.

Less than two years later, Mr. Yatseniuk was working as first assistant to Mr. Tyhypko at the National Bank of Ukraine.

Following the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yatseniuk left his post to serve as first assistant to Mr. Tsushko, who was serving as Odesa Oblast State administration chair.

Mr. Tsushko is a Socialist, and his party was aligned with the Presidential Secretariat when Mr. Yatseniuk worked with him.

When Mr. Yushchenko appointed Yuri Yekhanurov as his prime minister in September 2005, Mr. Yatseniuk was tapped to serve as minister of the economy.

After Mr. Yanukovich became prime minister, Mr. Yatseniuk was selected as the first assistant to Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha.

Through his political career, Mr. Yatseniuk was never a member of any political party.

Corruption probes...

(Continued from page 2)

In his report to the Verkhovna Rada Mr. Tsushko also accused his predecessors of replacing highly qualified policemen in top positions with people who had no professional experience, of financial violations amounting to embezzlement and of illegal covert operations, such as wiretapping.

Speaking at a press conference on the same day, Mr. Lutsenko denied Mr. Tsushko's accusations and said that he would sue Mr. Tsushko. Lutsenko said that Mr. Tsushko was "whitewashing the mafia" and "betraying the 15 years that he spent in the opposition to Kuchma." Ironically, Messrs. Lutsenko and Tsushko spent many years in the same Socialist Party, which was in staunch opposition to President Kuchma. Mr. Lutsenko left the party last year to protest its joining the ruling coalition with Prime Minister Yanukovich. Now Mr. Lutsenko is an

advisor to President Yushchenko, and he leads a pro-Yushchenko movement, People's Self-Defense.

The situation with another ally of Mr. Yushchenko, former chairman of the Naftohaz Ukrainy national oil and gas company, Oleksii Ivchenko, looks more serious. The PGO opened a criminal case against him, Deputy Procurator General Tetiana Korniakova said on February 28. She said that under Mr. Ivchenko, who chaired Naftohaz in 2005-2006, the company's top managers illegally received bonuses, used charter flights to transport their families on Christmas, and transferred funds to a company linked to Mr. Ivchenko.

Mr. Ivchenko denied Ms. Korniakova's accusations, accused her of executing a political order and threatened to sue her for libel. Mr. Ivchenko is protected from prosecution by parliamentary immunity, but Segodnya, a newspaper close to Mr. Yanukovich's Party of the Regions, reported that it may be easily lifted, as the ruling coalition has enough votes in

Parliament for that. Mr. Ivchenko is the leader of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, which is allied with Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine.

The serious corruption accusations flying between the camps of President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yanukovich for the past two to three years have not raised the public approval ratings of either of the two. But it is the public image of the law-enforcement agencies that is often suffers the most.

Sources: *Komsomolskaya Pravda Ukraina, February 22; Obkom.net.ua, February 23; ProUA.com, February 26; Ukrayinska Pravda, February 27; Interfax-Ukraine, Ekonomicheskije Izvestiya, March 1; Segodnya, March 1, 2.*

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E-mail: memberservice@sumafcu.org

Yonkers Branch

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Atlanta's destiny defined by deadline deals

Four Ukrainians ride Thrashers trade shuttle

Don Waddell knows the blockbuster trades he pulled off on the last weekend of February will raise many eyebrows. The Atlanta Thrashers General Manager acquired Ukrainian star forward Keith Tkachuk from the St. Louis Blues in exchange for a first-round draft choice in 2007, a third-round choice in 2007, a second-round draft choice in 2008 and journeyman Ukrainian forward Glen Metropolit.

"Some people are going to say it's too much," Waddell said in a trade-day chat with the Canadian Press. "You know what? Talk to me at the end of the year about it."

The Tkachuk trade, combined with a deal a day earlier (February 24) to acquire Ukrainian Alexei Zhitnik, signals the future is now for a Thrashers team trying to make the playoffs for the first time in its seven-season history. Waddell gave up top prospect defenseman Braydon Coburn to get Zhitnik from the Philadelphia Flyers.

"We really needed a defenseman and I really wanted to get that done," Waddell told The Canadian Press. "Then I knew what I had in terms of assets to put a package together for Keith. I called (Blues GM) Larry Pleau after I was done with the Philly deal and we started talking even more and more late into the night about getting this deal done."

The 34-year-old Tkachuk had to waive his no-trade clause to approve the transaction.

"It was a pretty obvious decision for me," Tkachuk said during a publicized conference call. "This is a team with a lot of great, young hockey players, and they've had a great year so far with some of the guys they have like Kovalchuk [he's Russian] and Hossa, I thought it was a no-brainer."

"I'm excited to get a chance to be in the playoffs and maybe win a Stanley Cup. So I thought it was the right decision," he added.

There will be pressure on Tkachuk to deliver given what the Thrashers had to give up to get him.

"It makes you feel good that they wanted you that bad," said Tkachuk in the conference call. "I feel confident that I can go in there and help out. And hopefully accomplish the goal that everybody else wants in the Atlanta Thrashers organization: win a Stanley Cup. I'm ready to take that journey."

Tkachuk fills the No.1 need for Atlanta since training camp began: a top line centerman.

"He's a top-line guy," said Waddell. "He brings competitiveness to our team, he plays with grit. And our intention right off the bat is to play him with [Ilya] Kovalchuk. We think they can make things happen."

Much like their expansion cousins in Nashville (Atlanta actually came into the NHL one year after the Predators), the Thrashers have stockpiled draft picks and prospects over the years and felt it was time to finally sacrifice some of them. The Predators gave up a sizeable package for Peter Forsberg and Atlanta copied them in their aggressive move for Tkachuk.

"We've been very protective of our draft picks," said GM Waddell. "We have a very good crop of young players. We think we have some premier players. And in the last two days we've added 2,000 games of experience and about 175 playoff games. You're adding veteran guys and that will really help us down the stretch here."

Unlike the Predators, the Thrashers aren't challenging for the conference lead. They've struggled in the second half of the season and sit on the bubble of playoff participation. The pressure was on Waddell to salvage what had been such a promising season. That pressure is now shared by new acquisition Tkachuk.

Tkachuk notched 43 points (20 goals, 23 assists) in 61 games with St. Louis this season. He ranked second on the club in goals and points, while leading the club with eight power-play goals and 92 penalty minutes.

The 6-2, 225-pound forward has twice been named to the NHL Second All-Star Team (1995 and 1998) and played in the NHL All-Star Game four times (1997, 1998, 1999 and 2004).

Tkachuk, 34, was seven points shy of reaching 50 for the 12th time in 14 NHL seasons and has scored 20+ goals 13 times, 30+ goals eight times and 40+ goals four times. He recorded a career-best 52 goals with Phoenix in 1996-1997 and a career-high 48 assists and 98 points with the Winnipeg Jets in 1995-1996. He has played in at least 70 games in a season seven times in his career.

At the time of the trade, the native of Melrose, Mass., had earned 911 points (466 G, 445 A) and 1,999 minutes in penalties in 958 NHL games with Winnipeg, Phoenix and St. Louis. He has another 53 points (27G, 26A) in 81 career playoff games.

Tkachuk has represented the United States in international competition on six occasions, including the 1992, 1998, 2002 and 2006 Winter Olympics, winning a silver medal in 2002. He also participated in the 1996 and 2004 World Cup of Hockey, helping the United States win the championship in 1996.

Originally selected by Winnipeg in the first round of the 1990 NHL Entry Draft, 19th overall, Tkachuk was acquired by St. Louis from Phoenix (formerly Winnipeg) for Michael Handzus, Ladislav Nagy, Jeff Taffe and a 2002 first-round draft pick (Ben Eager) in March of 2001. He played

one season of collegiate hockey with Boston University.

When Anaheim completed a deal with Tampa Bay on February 24 to acquire a first-round pick, Waddell knew the stakes were raised. The Ducks and Detroit Red Wings were also believed to be bidding on Tkachuk before the February 27 trade deadline.

"We knew we had serious contenders and bidders for the player," admitted Waddell. "At the end of the day we felt this was a price we were willing to pay."

Should Tkachuk, an unrestricted free agent as of July 1, re-sign with the Thrashers, the Blues also get a first-round draft pick in 2008.

The other Ukrainian player in the Atlanta-St. Louis swap, Glen Metropolit, 32, played in 57 matches with the Thrashers this season, recording 28 points (12G, 16A) along with 20 penalty minutes. The 6-0, 195-pound forward had played a total of 160 NHL games as of the day of the trade, amassing 75 total points (22G, 53A) while playing for the Washington Capitals, Tampa Bay Lightning and Atlanta.

The Toronto native was originally

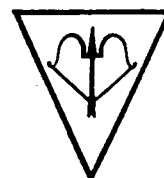
signed by Washington as an undrafted free agent in July of 1999. Metropolit was signed by Atlanta as a free agent on July 3, 2006, after three very productive seasons playing in Europe.

Blueliner Zhitnik joins forward Tkachuk

In the second of two major deadline deals involving Ukrainians, the Atlanta Thrashers also acquired Ukrainian defenseman Alexei Zhitnik from the Philadelphia Flyers in exchange for young defenseman/top prospect Braydon Coburn.

Zhitnik, who played in the NHL All-Star Game in 1999 and 2002, had tallied 23 points (5G, 18A) in 60 games with Philadelphia and the New York Islanders this season. The 5-11, 215-pound defender scored 11 points (2G, 9A) in 30 games with the Islanders prior to being acquired by the Flyers for Freddy Meyer and a conditional draft choice last December 16. He added 12 points (3G, 9A) in another 30 games since joining the Flyers.

(Continued on page 22)



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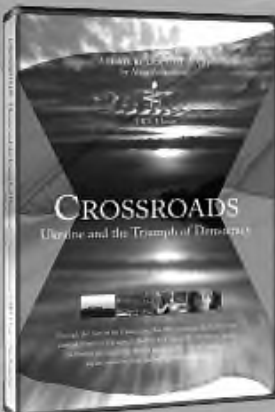
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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 21)

The native of Kyiv has accumulated 448 points (91G, 357A) and 1,194 minutes in penalties in 1,001 NHL games as of the day of the trade. He has laced up his skates in Los Angeles, Buffalo, Long Island and Philadelphia before shuttling southward to Atlanta. Zhitnik became the eighth non-North American defenseman to reach the 1,000 NHL games plateau at Buffalo on February 20. He had 5G-24A-29 pts. in 59 games with the Islanders last season, missing the final 18 games due to a fractured ankle suffered against New Jersey in March.

Zhitnik, 34, was seven points away from reaching at least 30 points for the ninth time in 13 NHL campaigns. He registered a career-high 40 assists and 52 points with the Kings in 1993-1994, with a career-best 15 goals with Buffalo in 1997-1998. He has played in at least 70 games in a season 10 times in his career. Zhitnik has totaled 39 points (9G, 30A) in 94 career Stanley Cup playoff games, making two trips to the Stanley Cup finals with the Kings in 1993 and the Sabres in 1998.

Zhitnik has represented Russia in international competition on five occasions, including the 1992 and 1998 Olympics, and the 1996 World Cup of Hockey. He helped the Russians capture the silver medal at the 1998 Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

Originally selected in the fourth round of the 1991 NHL Entry Draft, 81st overall, by the Los Angeles Kings, Zhitnik was traded to Buffalo with Robb Stauber, Charlie Huddy and a draft choice for Grant Fuhr, Philippe Boucher and Denis Tsygurov in February of 1995. He signed as a free agent with the Islanders in August 2005.


Preds acquire hitman Vishnevski

The Nashville Predators traded center Eric Belanger to the Atlanta Thrashers in exchange for Ukrainian defenseman Vitaly Vishnevski in a pre-Valentine's Day deal. The Predators had just recently acquired Belanger from Carolina in a swap for Josef Vasicek.


Vishnevski, 26, posted 3G-9A-12 pts. totals with 31 penalty minutes in 52 games with Atlanta prior to the trade. The 6-2, 215-pound blueliner led the Thrashers and ranked high among NHL leaders in hits with 128. He finished seventh in the NHL with a team-high 196 hits in 2005-2006 with Anaheim. Vishnevski has played in 70+ games over each of his past five NHL campaigns. He was picked up by Atlanta from the Ducks in August of 2006 after skating in all of Anaheim's 82 regular season games last season and helping to lead his team to the 2006 Western Conference Finals.

"With Vishnevski, we are adding a big, strong, physical defenseman with over 400 NHL games of experience and two deep runs into the post-season," said Nashville General Manager David Poile in an official team press release the day of the transaction. "We have been carrying 15 forwards on the roster for most of the season. This gives us some veteran depth on the blue line and gives our roster more balance."

Originally drafted fifth overall in the 1998 NHL Entry Draft by Anaheim, Vishnevski has registered 60 points on 14G-46A with 434 minutes in penalties in 468 pre-trade NHL games. He was a teammate of current Nashville star forward Paul Kariya for four seasons in Anaheim. The Kharkiv native has represented Russia at the 2006 Olympics, the 2004 World Cup of Hockey and the 2001 World Championships. He helped Russia capture a gold medal at the 1999 World Junior Championships and was named the tournament's top defenseman.



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Yurii Lutsenko...

(Continued from page 1)

On the afternoon of the search, Mr. Lutsenko was summoned to the Procurator General's Office, where he was questioned for more than two hours and informed that he would not be jailed because a local district court had paused the prosecution to determine the charges' legal validity.

Officials asked Mr. Lutsenko to sign a pledge that he would not leave Kyiv, which he refused. However, Mr. Lutsenko is required to inform the prosecution if and when he leaves.

"Obviously, the tactical and permanent goal was to limit Yurii Lutsenko's movement throughout Ukraine and isolate his political activity," President Yushchenko said. "Obviously, that's the key goal, which was given as an order."

The unified opposition in Parliament has already called for Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko's resignation, and Mr. Yushchenko has criticized the Donetsk prosecutor that he himself appointed.

Throughout the day's events, Mr. Lutsenko said he was confident his prosecution was a form of political persecution against him because his People's Self Defense movement posed a threat to the ruling coalition.

The current government doesn't want an active Ukrainian citizenry defending its rights and engaging in demonstrations, he said.

"This is simply the current government's hysteria, which clearly understands that they are in power thanks to sell-outs and lies," Mr. Lutsenko said the day after his search. "And that's why any emergence of organized citizenry is scary to them. And, in panic, they are beginning to repeat what they learned in November and December of 2004."

Coalition government officials denied any political motivation to the investigation.

The vice-chairman of the Party of the Regions, Vasyl Kyseliov, claimed Mr. Lutsenko isn't even perceived as a legitimate political player.

"He's not a political leader," Mr. Kyseliov said. "He's a leader today of a civic organization. He's not a minister today, as a political figure. He's not a deputy, as a political figure. He's nobody today. He's a citizen, like millions of others."

Not quite, political observers said.

Mr. Lutsenko gained invaluable political advertising after television networks nationally broadcast images of police officers rifling through his apartment, as he and his wife sat in their pajamas while their school-age son hid in his room.

"The Party of the Regions and the Anti-Crisis Coalition are either really smart, or really stupid," said Oleh Medvedev, vice-president of the Ukrainian League for Public Ties. "The coalition is providing him with his starting advertisement. Thanks to this and Lutsenko's charisma, he has practically broken the 3 percent barrier (for elections)."

Mr. Medvedev even surmised that the coalition government may have intentionally sought to boost Mr. Lutsenko's popularity in order for the People's Self Defense to draw votes away from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc in anticipation of pre-term elections, which are growing more likely.

Mr. Lutsenko was Ukraine's internal affairs minister, or the nation's top law enforcement authority, when the coalition government ascended to power in August.

He is among the few Orange Revolution leaders who survived the

Yushchenko administration with an untarnished image. His sheepish personality, as well as his political independence and avoidance of scandal, projects a common-man image that appeals to many Ukrainians.

The 42-year-old Rivne native had been a citizen activist for many years prior to the Orange Revolution, when it was unpopular and dangerous under the Leonid Kuchma presidency.

Among the leaders of the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement of 2001, Mr. Lutsenko later emerged as one of the brightest leaders of the Orange Revolution, serving as a field commander.

During his ministership, Mr. Lutsenko conducted investigations of businessmen suspected of murder in Donetsk and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, many of whom had close ties to the Party of the Regions or were its members.

Although charges were brought against some of them, they were eventually dropped by the Procurator General's Office led by Sviatoslav Piskun and his successor, Mr. Medvedko.

Since its first day in power, the Anti-Crisis Coalition government sought to restrain Mr. Lutsenko. Just three days after becoming prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich met with Mr. Lutsenko and informed him that he was creating a new structure to ensure Mr. Lutsenko would "coordinate" his work with his Cabinet of Ministers.

"We will work on a model of relations in which the Cabinet will control the situation in the nation, in every region," Mr. Yanukovich said. "I hope a constructive relationship will begin between the Cabinet and the ministry [of Internal Affairs]."

Once Mr. Yanukovich initiated his campaign to seize more power, Mr. Lutsenko became an obvious target of a ruling coalition intent on clearing from the government rank and file any officials who didn't toe the line.

Soon after the Verkhovna Rada dismissed him on December 1, 2006, the lifelong revolutionary launched the People's Self Defense movement with the stated intention of organizing citizens in Ukraine's cities to "resist the government's injustice and lawlessness."

The People's Self Defense (Narodna Samo-Oborona) was to be a national organization of citizen activists ready to engage in protests, and even civil disobedience.

Mr. Lutsenko on December 20, 2006, announced that a national "March for Justice" toward Kyiv to support the dismissal of Parliament and pre-term elections would be held in the spring.

Among the covert motives for organizing the People's Self Defense was to prevent the coalition government from forcibly taking control of Parliament should they defy the president's dismissal order, political observers said.

In preparing for the spring march, the People's Self Defense began holding protests in city centers throughout Ukraine and setting up local organizations of activists. People's Self-Defense rallies drew more than 10,000 protesters in Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk in early March.

The first sign the government was investigating Mr. Lutsenko's activities came on March 12, when the Procurator General's Office reported it is able to confirm with the Israeli government that Mr. Lutsenko was an Israeli citizen.

If the accusation proved true, Mr. Lutsenko would have violated Ukrainian law by serving as minister while a citizen of a foreign country.

Ukraine does not allow dual citizenship.

During the apartment search, Mr. Lutsenko showed to reporters a docu-

ment from an Israeli consul in Ukraine confirming he wasn't an Israeli citizen.

Most recently, Mr. Lutsenko traveled to Kharkiv, where hostile crowds burned effigies of him, and Dnipropetrovsk, where eggs were thrown at his head.

In Kharkiv, a local district court forbade the People's Self-Defense from con-

ducting a March 16 rally in the city's central square. Mr. Lutsenko and organizers moved to another public square, drawing an estimated 8,000 supporters.

The next day, Mr. Lutsenko drew 5,000 supporters in Dnipropetrovsk.

Police searched his apartment three days later.

Chernesky seeks Liberal Party's nomination for Parliament seat

TORONTO – Christina Chernesky, a popular 15-year broadcast veteran in Canadian radio and television, on March 13 announced she will pursue the Liberal Party nomination in the federal riding of Mississauga-Streetsville.

Renowned journalist, author and activist June Callwood has formally endorsed Ms. Chernesky's candidacy for Parliament. Ms. Callwood is one of Canada's most famous social justice advocates, the founder of the Toronto AIDS hospice Casey House as well as PEN Canada and the Canadian Civil Liberties Union.

As a resident of Mississauga for the last five years, Ms. Chernesky brings with her a wealth of community involvement and broad political experience. She began her broadcast career working throughout the Prairies as host, executive producer and anchor at numerous local radio and television stations. She went on to host a show on Rogers Television in Toronto and was a guest panelist for the CTV national network. Since 2002, Ms. Chernesky has hosted a show on CFRB, ranked the No. 1 talk radio station in the Toronto marketplace.

Ms. Chernesky was active also behind the camera, acting as senior producer for CBC's groundbreaking national debate program "Counterspin." The show tackled topics as diverse as globalization, two-tiered health care and political accountability.

Ms. Chernesky's broadcast experience has helped lay the foundation for

her long-term objective: serving her community and her country in public office. Her political aspirations no doubt were endowed in no small measure by her family's long history of place and public service in Canada.

Her great-grandfather emigrated from Ukraine in 1903 as one of the first settlers of Saskatchewan – then part of the Northwest Territories. Her grandfather was instrumental in developing school districts, churches and local governments in the province of Saskatchewan. Her father, Morris Chernesky, was a well-known lawyer, community activist and a lifelong politician. He served the city of Saskatoon as deputy mayor and city councillor for over a quarter of a century.

Her education in communications and journalism, as well as political studies preceded Ms. Chernesky's move into broadcast journalism. Her career provided the opportunity to meet and interview opinion-makers, trendsetters, innovators and newsmakers. She has traveled the world, encountering people and politicians from all cultures and walks of life, and seeing first-hand the dynamics of different political systems.

Closer to home, Ms. Chernesky remains deeply committed to her Ukrainian roots and speaks of her love of Ukrainian arts and culture. She has worked for the Special Olympics, is active in fund-raising for breast cancer research, and has written extensively on the AIDS pandemic in Africa.



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University of Illinois students hold Ukrainian Night in Urbana-Champaign

by Volodymyr Chumachenko

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a steadily growing Ukrainian student population, which includes both students from Ukraine and American students of Ukrainian origin.

Their presence is becoming more and more visible on campus in many positive ways. They take Ukrainian language, culture and literature classes; they pursue undergraduate and graduate studies in law, medicine, biology, chemistry, mechanical engineering, computer science, mathematics, philosophy, political science, comparative literature and Slavic studies.

The Ukrainian Students Association brings them all together when they have creative ideas about how to make other

students of the university familiar with Ukraine and its culture.

One of the most recent events on UIUC campus was the Ukrainian Coffee Hour at the Cosmopolitan Club. Dozens of students came to the old house on 307 E. John St. in Champaign, Ill., on Thursday night, March 1, and were pleasantly surprised by an entertaining presentation, melodious music, and tasty Ukrainian food. The event was organized by Ukrainian students for whom the campus has temporarily become their second home.

Visitors enjoyed an interesting presentation about one of the biggest European countries with a population of 47 million. The presentation was done by Dmytro Yershov of Kharkiv, a Ph.D student in computer science. American students as well as students from other countries were surprised to learn that the biggest



“Tired but happy” Ph.D. students at the University of Illinois, (from left) Iryna Malyarchuk, Dmytro Yershov, Yulia Tkachuk and Olesia Shchur, who organized a successful Ukrainian night in Champaign, Ill.

Yushchenko addresses...

(Continued from page 3)

the State Archive Committee to bring such documents back to Ukraine, and called on Ukraine’s youth to help them collect Holodomor materials and data.

Mr. Yushchenko said a Holodomor Memorial Complex in Kyiv would be another “important step” and urged the government and Kyiv’s officials to ensure that it is built by the fall of 2008. He called on regional authorities to erect similar monuments and memorials in their regions.

The president insisted that the Education Ministry make pupils study the causes and aftereffects of the tragedy and requested Education Minister Stanislav Nikolayenko to hold a national

contest of Holodomor research papers among school pupils.

Our ultimate goal Mr. Yushchenko said, is to make “Ukraine remember and the world recognize” the Great Famine.

The Holodomor Council was created by a presidential decree of March 14 with the aim of organizing and conducting events and activities related to the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide. The council’s membership is to include national deputies, scholars, representatives of the public, as well as members of the International Coordinating Committee for the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide established by the Ukrainian World Congress.

airplane in the world called “Mriya” (Dream) was designed and assembled in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, in the 1980s; that Ihor Sikorsky was born in Kyiv and studied there before coming to this country and becoming a pioneer in the helicopter industry; that Sen. Joe Lieberman has his family roots in Ukraine; that the wife of the current Ukrainian president was born in Chicago; that Ukraine has very successful cooperation with the United States in space exploration, etc. The PowerPoint presentation included numerous pictures of Ukrainian cities,

historical sites and beautiful landscapes.

Everybody also enjoyed Ukrainian folk songs and popular contemporary music. The hit of the program was traditional Ukrainian ethnic food, especially varenyky and borsch made by Ph.D. students in comparative literature Iryna Malyarchuk, Yulia Tkachuk and Olesia Shchur.

The organizers of the event later commented that they were a little tired but extremely happy to see so many guests, who showed a genuine interest in Ukrainian culture and traditions.

The Council of Bishops and Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA cordially invite all Christ-loving faithful, in particular our youth of all ages to participate in this year’s SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE.

Come and share in the light, grace and Gospel of the risen Lord with others!

Bright Saturday: April 14, 2007

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy in Saint Andrew Memorial Church.
11:00AM “Iconography” Educational Seminar (sponsored by the UOL)
2:00PM “Iconography” Educational Seminar (sponsored by the UOL)
6:00 PM Vespers and Confessions in Saint Andrew Memorial Church.

St. Thomas Sunday: April 15, 2007

9:00AM Greeting of the Hierarchs.
9:30AM Eucharistic Liturgy. His Beatitude Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod and pastors of local parish communities followed by:

11:30AM A procession to the Cemetery’s Great Memorial Cross for the celebration of a Panakhyda for the repose of the souls of the departed servants of God, His Holiness Patriarch Mstyslav, His Beatitude Metropolitan John and all departed hierarchs, clergy and faithful of our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church of USA, along with the victims of Stalin’s genocidal famine of 1932-33, the victims of the Chernobyl disaster, those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and independence of Ukraine and the USA and the victims of the 11th September 2001 terroristic attack upon America.

May the souls of our beloved find rest and their memory be eternal!

St. Thomas Sunday

Провідна Неділя



St. Thomas Sunday Youth Activities

1-2:30PM: Teens and Young adults.

2:00-2:30PM: Children 4-12 years of age.

2:30-3:30PM: Meet our Father Bishops during an Ice Cream Social (all ages).

PARKING REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS

As directed by the Consistory, all parking on Memorial Church and Cemetery grounds is strictly prohibited on Saturday, 14 April and Sunday, 15 April 2007. Parking is permitted only on Consistory grounds located at 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ (Cultural Center lot and grounds). Round trip transportation of pilgrims to the Memorial Church and Cemetery will be provided.

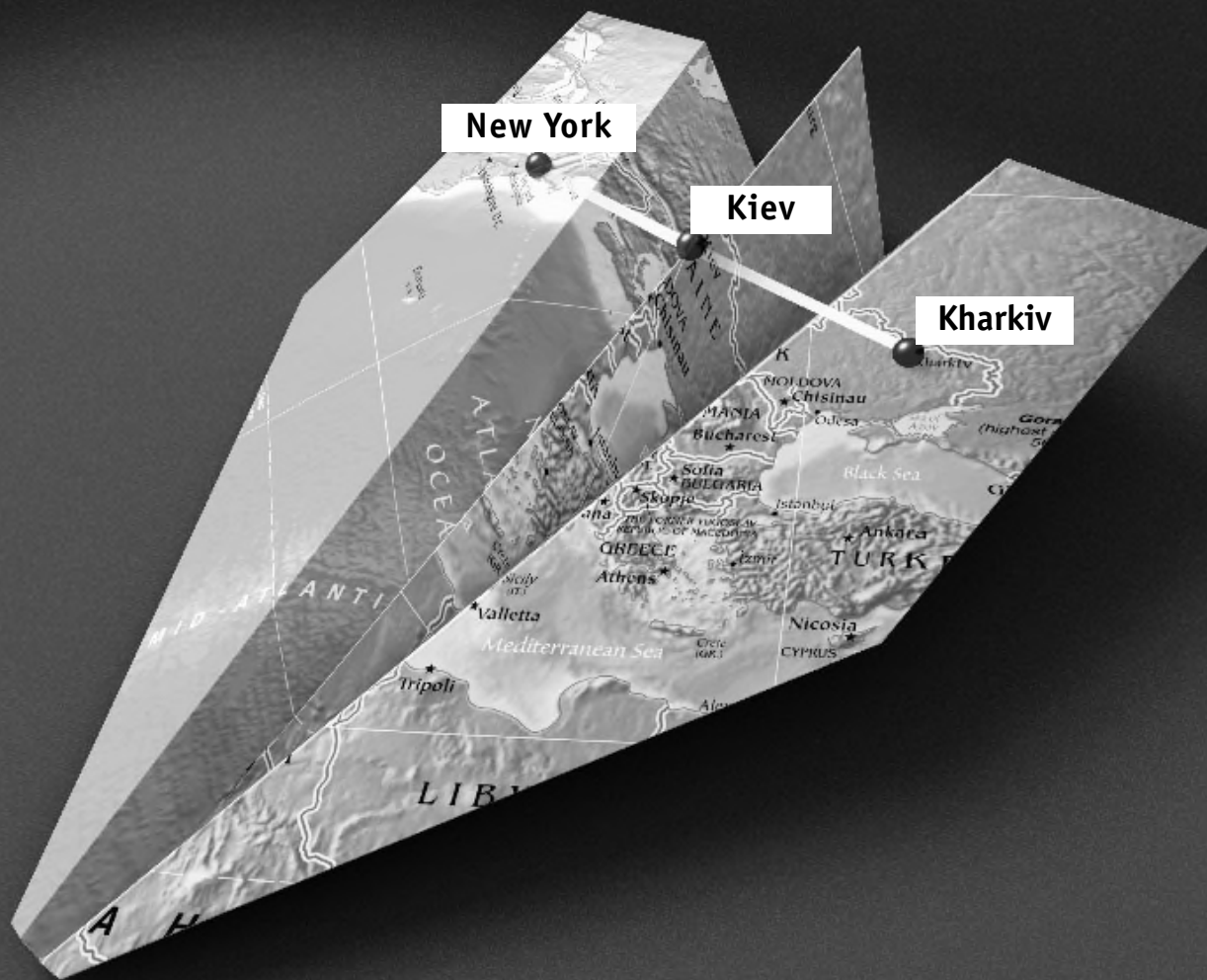
Cultural exhibits and all commerce will take place on Saturday, 14 April from Noon to 6 pm and Sunday, 15 April from Noon to 6 pm in the main auditorium of the Cultural Center. Permits for sales must be obtained from the Consistory. No business will be transacted during the Liturgy and Panakhyda. Any individuals conducting unauthorized sales will be removed from the property.

The Council of Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, the clergy and the Office of Youth Ministry encourage children and youth of our Holy Metropolia to enrich their lives by participating with their parents and family members in the various liturgical services, especially the Holy Mystery of Confession and the Holy Eucharist during this year’s Holy Pilgrimage. Youth activities scheduled for Sunday, April 15 will emphasize a relationship based on our relationship to Christ.

All other Panakhydy (Memorial Services) are permitted only after the conclusion of the above Panakhyda at the Great Cross.

PLEASE NOTE: MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING BRIGHT WEEK - MONDAY TO FRIDAY (9 APRIL - 13 APRIL 2006). THESE DAYS ARE RESERVED FOR GRAVE CLEANING AND CEMETERY PREPARATION FOR ST. THOMAS SUNDAY (PROVIDNA NEDILA).

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OUT AND ABOUT

<p>March 26-29 Detroit</p>	<p>"Ukraine Week," featuring lectures and workshops, Wayne State University, 313-577-3266</p>	<p>March 31-April 1 Silver Spring, MD</p>	<p>Art exhibit, "The Hetman Series," featuring works by Bohdan Soroka, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 703-819-9783 or mpereyma@aol.com</p>
<p>March 27 Lawrenceville, NJ</p>	<p>Art exhibit, featuring sculpture by Petro Kapschutschenko, "Life's Journey Through Sculpture," Rider University, 215-364-1799</p>	<p>March 31-April 1 Cleveland</p>	<p>Easter bazaar, featuring pysanky, supplies and demonstrations, Ukrainian Museum Archives, 216-871-4329 or www.umacleveland.org</p>
<p>March 29 New York</p>	<p>Lecture with Chrystia Freeland and Ann Cooper about media freedom in Ukraine and neighboring countries, Columbia University, 212-854-4697</p>	<p>April 1 Washington</p>	<p>Pysanka workshop and Easter bazaar, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine, 240-426-0530 or 202-526-3737</p>
<p>March 30 Washington</p>	<p>Lecture by Dr. Eugene Stakhiv, "Hurricane Katrina - What Went Wrong (and How to Fix It) - Lessons Learned," Embassy of Ukraine, 202-349-2977 or olex@ukremb.com</p>	<p>April 1 Silver Spring, MD</p>	<p>Easter Bazaar, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 301-593-5316 or 301-384-9192</p>
<p>March 31 Chicago</p>	<p>Women's World Music Festival, featuring the Kitka women's vocal ensemble, Chicago Cultural Center, www.ccchoir.org</p>	<p>April 1 Houston, TX</p>	<p>Easter bazaar, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 118, Pokrova Ukrainian Parish Hall, 713-973-8848</p>
<p>March 31 Port Charlotte, FL</p>	<p>Ukrainian Heritage Day Celebration, Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida, Mid-County Regional Library, 941-613-5923</p>	<p>April 1 St. Catharines, ON</p>	<p>Concert, "Bandura - The Soul of Ukraine," Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Black Sea Hall, 905-684-5062 or 905-687-1954</p>
<p>March 31 Washington</p>	<p>Slavic Festival, featuring performances by Ruslana and Janoshik/Monique Legare International Dance Company, George Washington University, 617-792-4400</p>	<p>April 1, 4 Chicago</p>	<p>Film screening, "Orange Revolution" directed by Steven York, Chopin Theater, 773-486-9612</p>
<p>March 31 New York</p>	<p>Pysanka-writing demonstration, featuring Anna Gbur and Sophia Zielyk, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110</p>	<p>April 2 Buffalo, NY</p>	<p>Easter bazaar, Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, Ukrainian Home Dnipro, 716-847-6655</p>
<p>March 31 Horsham, PA</p>	<p>Wine-tasting seminar and dinner, Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub, 215-362-5331 or 215-860-8384</p>	<p>April 2 Cambridge, MA</p>	<p>Lecture by Johannes Remy, "Censorship of Ukrainian Publications in the Russian Empire, 1847-1876," Harvard University, 617-495-4053</p>
<p>March 31 New York</p>	<p>Evening honoring memory of donors and major benefactors of Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130</p>	<p>April 6 Washington</p>	<p>Spring social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 703-548-8534 or 240-381-0993</p>
<p>March 31 Jenkintown, PA</p>	<p>Easter bazaar, Ukrainian Educational Cultural Center, 215-663-1166</p>	<p>April 7 Chicago</p>	<p>Film screening, "Orange Revolution" directed by Steven York, Portage Theater, 773-486-9612</p>
<p>March 31 Syracuse, NY</p>	<p>Concert, "Bandura - The Soul of Ukraine," Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Fowler School Auditorium, 315-471-4074</p>	<p>April 8 Mississauga, ON</p>	<p>Easter and spring ritual songs and dances, the Levada Choir Ukrainian Youth Ensembles, Holy Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church, 905-212-9708</p>
<p>March 31 New York</p>	<p>Concert featuring the Maia String Quartet, performing works by Beethoven, Grieg and Virko Baley, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660</p>	<p>April 9 Lehighton, PA</p>	<p>Easter bazaar, Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621</p>
		<p>April 9 Cambridge, MA</p>	<p>Lecture by Tarik Amar, "Underground Upturned: Manipulation of Memory and the Soviet Quest for Legitimacy in Western Ukraine," Harvard University, 617-495-4053</p>

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Please send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.



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This camp is for Ukrainian speaking 6-7 year olds who already belong to Plast, already have received their "xustka" and are attending their first novatskiy tabir. This specialized tabir takes place at Vovcha Troja in East Chatham, NY from July 22 to 28, 2007. The camp is limited to approximately 16 campers. Campers will be accepted on a first come basis. The cost of the camp is \$370.

To sign up please fill out the form below and mail it along with a \$100 deposit (non-refundable) paid to Plast Spartanky to:

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Address _____

Parents _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Stanytsia _____ Date Zayava Vstupu (received xustka): _____

Hnizdovij/va _____ Telephone _____

Soyuzivka's Datebook

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
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 27

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J.: The one-day exhibit "Petro Kapschutschenko (1915-2006): Life's Journey Through Sculpture" will be on view thanks to the Rider University Slavic Club. The exhibit, featuring bronze and terracotta statues, will be in the Fireside Lounge (Room 245), Bart Luedeke Center, Rider University, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. A reception is scheduled for 6:30-9 p.m. This exhibit will allow the viewer to take a step back in time to the Ukrainian steppes, where the Kozak brotherhood rode, to Argentina and its rich and colorful culture, which was part of the late Mr. Kapschutschenko's journey, and to the United States, which became the artist's adopted homeland. For more information contact Lada Pastushak, 215-364-1799 or lpastushak@yahoo.com.

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) invites all to an evening dedicated to the memory of the inheritance donors and other major benefactors of the NTSh in America. The program will feature a commentary by the president of NTSh, Dr. Orest Popovych, and a video showing by Prof. Vasyl Lopukh. The program will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Saturday, March 31

NEW YORK: Demonstrations in the art of making pysanky will be held from 1-5 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. 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 age 12 and seniors, \$8; museum members, \$6; free for children under 12. The fee includes admission to all museum exhibitions – "Crossroads: Modernism in Ukraine 1910-1930"; "Ukrainian Sculpture and Icons; A History of Their Rescue"; and "Pysanka: Vessel of Life." For information call 212-228-0110, e-mail info@ukrainianmuseum.org or log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Saturday-Sunday, March 31 and April 1

NEW YORK: An Easter Bazaar will be held at The Ukrainian Museum on Saturday at 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sunday at 11 a.m.-5 p.m. On sale: home-made traditional Ukrainian Easter breads such as "babky," "tsvibaky," delicious tortes, cakes, cookies and other baked goods. Also on sale: embroideries, paintings and many other decorative items. The Museum Gift Shop will be open for all pysanky needs – beautifully decorated eggs and supplies to make the eggs. For information call 212-228-0110, e-mail info@ukrainianmuseum.org or log on to www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

SILVER SPRING, Md.: The "Pershi Stezhi" Plast Sorority, Washington branch, will host an art exhibit featuring paintings by Bohdan Soroka from the "Hetman Series." The exhibit will open with a reception at 4-8 p.m. on Saturday at the Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church, 16631 New Hampshire Ave. On Sunday the exhibit will be on view at 2-4 p.m. Admission is free. A Lviv native, Mr. Soroka is a graphic artist and painter-monumentalist. His works have been exhibited widely in Ukraine, throughout Europe and North America. For more information call 703-819-9783 or e-mail mpereyma@aol.com.

Monday, April 2

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.: The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by Johannes Remy, lecturer in Russian and East European studies, Renvall Institute for Area and Cultural Studies, University of Helsinki, and Eugene and Daymel Shklar Research Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard. His lecture, "Censorship of Ukrainian Publications in the Russian Empire, 1847-1876," 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.

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; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment 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.

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An open invitation to local community activists

Would you like fellow Ukrainians to know about events in your community?
Would you like to become one of The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondents?
Then what are you waiting for?

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes submissions from local community activists. You may reach The Weekly by phone, (973) 292-9800; fax, (973) 644-9510; e-mail, staff@ukrweekly.com; or mail, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.