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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Ukraine's top pro-Western parties prepare for parliamentary elections

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's top pro-Western political forces declared they are approaching the pre-term parliamentary elections as four separate blocs, leaving open the possibility they may merge as election day draws nearer.

Yurii Lutsenko's People's Self-Defense Bloc revealed its parliamentary lists on April 15, followed the next day by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Our Ukraine People's Union and the Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing led by Borys Tarasyuk.

Experts and pollsters expect the Tymoshenko Bloc and Our Ukraine People's Union will earn enough votes to qualify for Parliament, though the other two blocs are expected to pose strong competition to surpass the 3 percent barrier.

"Although currently the Right Wing very often doesn't reach 3 percent according to various sociological research, it has chances," said Andrii Yermolayev, president of the Kyiv-based Sofia Center for Social Research, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian corporations. "Everything depends on the campaign's capability and deliberation in not getting rolled up in the latest populist positions, which would muddle the bloc with other brands."

The most significant development in Ukraine's political realignment was the official implosion of the Our Ukraine bloc, triggered by Anatolii Kinakh's abandonment in late March, who took with him the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

In its place, the Our Ukraine People's

Union (OUPU) emerged and set the requirement that any members of the defunct bloc's other parties can only join its electoral list independently.

All four blocs excluded nationalists from joining, particularly the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (CUN) led by Oleksii Ivchenko, the Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense (UNA-UNSO) and the All-Ukrainian Union Svoboda led by Oleh Tiahnybok.

The OUPU refused to admit Mr. Ivchenko to its party list even on an independent basis, largely because of his tarnished reputation following his scandalous tenure as chair of Naftohaz, the government's natural gas distribution company.

Mr. Ivchenko was the only leader of an Our Ukraine party interested in joining OUPU independently, as the others refused to give up their political brands.

Among the others, Anatolii Matviiyenko merged the Sobor Ukrainian Republican Party into Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing along with Mr. Tarasyuk and the People's Rukh of Ukraine.

Volodymyr Stretovych merged the Christian-Democratic Union with Yurii Lutsenko's People's Self-Defense.

Once again, political observers warned that Ukraine's divided pro-Western forces would result in the less popular blocs failing to qualify, thereby chipping away votes that could otherwise bolster the influence of the Tymoshenko Bloc and the OUPU in a future Parliament.

"For the pro-presidential camp, their

(Continued on page 4)

## Political conflict in Ukraine shifts to Constitutional Court and Rada



UNIAN/Oleksander Kosariiev

Constitutional Court Judge Suzanna Stanik grips the court's metal gate as she tries to enter amidst a chaotic crowd of protesters and supporters on April 18.

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – As Ukraine's two warring leaders pleaded their cases before their concerned European neighbors, their rank and file back home fought on two critical battlefronts where the nation's future will be decided – the Parliament and the Constitutional Court.

A circus-like scene erupted in front of the Constitutional Court on April 18 as opposition deputies sparked massive brawling as they tried to physically block Suzanna Stanik from entering. The judge is suspected by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) of accepting \$12 million in bribes.

Later that evening, the Yulia Tymoshenko and Our Ukraine blocs announced their factions would be relinquishing their deputies' mandates, enough to ruin the coalition government's needed two-thirds quorum in an attempt to further ensure the Verkhovna Rada's dismissal.

The opposition's fierce attacks on the Constitutional Court, and the sudden move to dissolve their parliamentary factions, revealed their fear the court would rule the president's April 2 decree to dismiss Parliament was unconstitutional calling into question pre-term elections, observers said.

"This is all being done to ensure the court's decision is viewed as illegitimate," said Pavlo Bulhak, a political scientist at the Kyiv-based Stratehema Center for Practical Politics, which is funded by Western and Russian grants.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said the opposition was blatantly pressuring the Constitutional Court, while Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Moroz threatened criminal prosecutions against those engaged in the blockade (national deputies have prosecutorial immunity).

Acting Chair of the Security Service

## Nor'easter's flooding hits Ukrainian Orthodox center



One of the staff homes at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook, N.J., as it looked during the flooding on Monday, April 16.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – This town in central New Jersey's Somerset County was among the hardest hit during the Nor'easter that struck the area on Sunday and Monday, April 15-16, dumping more than five inches of rain. Among those affected by flooding was the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

For many parishioners of St. Andrew Memorial Church at the Metropolia Center, as well as members of the UOC-U.S.A., April 15, the second Sunday of Pascha, St. Thomas Sunday, was a sober reminder of a major flood that occurred eight years ago.

On the night of Saturday, April 14, the powerful rain storm that swept across the entire East Coast of the U.S. arrived in the area of the UOC-U.S.A. administrative and spiritual center. Thousands of faithful annually visit the center for the St. Thomas Sunday (Providna Nedilia) weekend pilgrimage each year – the vast majority on Sunday.

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## ANALYSIS

## Can the Constitutional Court of Ukraine be unbiased?

by Pavel Korduban  
Eurasia Daily Monitor  
April 17

On April 17 Ukraine's Constitutional Court (CC) began considering an appeal by a group of pro-government parliamentarians regarding President Viktor Yushchenko's April 2 decree on the dissolution of Parliament. The CC should decide not only on the question of early parliamentary elections, but also, indirectly, the fate of Mr. Yushchenko as president.

If the CC's verdict is not in his favor, it will mean that the president violated the Constitution. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich has indicated that his Party of the Regions (PRU) – which controls the largest caucus in Parliament – will push for President Yushchenko's impeachment. If, however, the CC upholds Mr. Yushchenko's decree then, Mr. Yanukovich argues, an early presidential election should be held simultaneously with an early parliamentary one.

Both Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich have both pledged to obey any verdict of the CC. There are, however, doubts about the integrity of CC judges, as both sides to the conflict have been exerting serious psychological pressure on them. Several judges have reportedly received threats, one has been accused of corruption, and the CC chair-

man wanted to resign immediately after Mr. Yushchenko's decree.

Chief Justice Ivan Dombrovskiy tried to resign on April 4, but the CC voted to reject his request. Mr. Dombrovskiy provided no public explanation for his decision, but the media reported that he took sick leave the same day his request was denied. A week later Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party (OU) issued a statement saying that Mr. Yanukovich had threatened the chief justice in a private conversation. OU did not specify the nature of Mr. Yanukovich's alleged threats.

President Yushchenko met with CC judges in late March – several days before his decree to dissolve Parliament – which prompted the PRU to accuse him of trying to exert pressure on the judges. On April 9 the PRU-dominated Parliament, whose legitimacy Mr. Yushchenko has not recognized since April 2, passed a statement accusing Mr. Yushchenko of putting pressure on the CC. The president, the Verkhovna Rada said, “openly meets with the judges, shamelessly imposing on them his view on the legality of his decree.” On the same day, Parliament set up an investigation commission to check the allegations of PRU member Ihor Myroshnychenko that the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) was wiretapping the telephone

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## Did the West pull up stakes in Ukraine too soon?

by Brian Whitmore  
RFE/RL Newsline  
April 13

Two years ago Viktor Yushchenko was hailed as a conquering hero in many Western capitals. The U.S. Congress, hosting the newly anointed Ukrainian president in April 2005, welcomed his arrival with boisterous enthusiasm, chanting his name and cheering as he thanked “the entire American nation” for its support.

That speech, and one in Germany's Bundestag a month earlier, were part of a post-revolutionary victory lap after the massive public protests of the Orange Revolution propelled Mr. Yushchenko into the Ukrainian presidency – and reduced his Moscow-backed rival, Viktor Yanukovich, to political ignominy.

Now Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich are once again locking horns. This time, however, Mr. Yanukovich is prime minister and head of the lynchpin party in Parliament's ruling coalition. And the cheers of Western support for Mr. Yushchenko? Nowhere to be heard.

“Any political questions in Ukraine need to be resolved by the Ukraine government,” said U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack, responding to President Yushchenko's dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada following the defection of opposition lawmakers to the coalition. And in Brussels, Adrian Severin, a member of the European Union-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, said this time around, Europe is putting its support behind “values,” rather than “people.”

Mr. Yushchenko himself appears to acknowledge he cannot turn to the West

Brian Whitmore is an RFE/RL correspondent based in Prague.

for support on this battle. In an interview with RFE/RL on April 11, he said Ukrainians must solve the current crisis “by themselves.”

Some observers say that many in the West have been disappointed by the inability of the Orange Revolution leaders to capitalize on their powerful public mandate and effectively lead the country down a new progressive path. “The lethargy that you see, the hesitancy, or even the frustration on the part of Brussels and Washington has to do with the degree to which the Orange Revolution itself collapsed or disintegrated or eroded,” said Robert Legvold, a professor at New York's Columbia University who specializes in post-Soviet politics.

Just months after the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yushchenko and his charismatic political ally, Yulia Tymoshenko, were reduced to constant bickering. By September 2005 Mr. Yushchenko removed Ms. Tymoshenko from her prime ministerial post. That move split the pro-Western Orange forces and opened the door for Mr. Yanukovich's political comeback and the victory of his Party of the Regions in the March 2006 parliamentary elections.

After months of haggling, Mr. Yushchenko, Ms. Tymoshenko and Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz appeared to revive the Orange forces and form a ruling coalition that would have returned Ms. Tymoshenko to the prime ministerial post. But, in the end, Mr. Moroz defected and instead formed a coalition with the Party of the Regions and the Communists. By August 2006 it was Mr. Yanukovich, and not Ms. Tymoshenko, who was confirmed as

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Constitutional Court opens hearings

KYIV – The Constitutional Court of Ukraine on April 17 opened hearings on a motion submitted by 53 Ukrainian lawmakers questioning the constitutionality of the presidential decree dissolving the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax reported. All the Constitutional Court's 18 judges attended the session. Ukrainian legislation requires the presence of at least 12 judges to convene a court session and does not set a deadline for issuing a verdict. Ivan Dombrovskiy, the Constitutional Court chairman, warned that the court will not rule immediately. “Everybody awaits the Constitutional Court's constructive work. However, given the number of claims and questions to the court, it will not be able to swiftly rule on the case,” Mr. Dombrovskiy said. At the beginning of the sitting, Judge Viktor Shyshkin made an application to remove Verkhovna Rada representatives from participating in the sitting. He argued that, after the presidential decree on dissolution of the Parliament took effect, the Verkhovna Rada is no longer legitimate. The court said it would consider the presidential decree at plenary meetings on April 17-19 and on April 23-26, and if needed on other working days. (RFE/RL Newsline, Ukrinform)

### SBU reveals questionable dealings

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) announced on April 16 it has established that \$12 million in property was transferred to an unemployed close relative of Judge Suzanna Stanik, the deputy head of the Constitutional Court, Interfax reported. “It has been established that one of the close relatives of the judge purchased during the past year land plots in Kyiv, Yalta, non-residential premises in Kyiv, Lviv and Yalta, and expensive cars,” SBU acting head Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told reporters. According to the SBU, a joint venture operating on the gas and oil market transferred 500 square meters of property in downtown Kyiv to the same relative of the judge. Mr. Nalyvaichenko said the SBU is looking into “why and how property [and] real estate worth almost \$12 million was transferred to a close relative who has not worked for a

long time.” Judge Stanik on April 16 denied the SBU accusations, Interfax reported the same day. She described reports on property transfers to her relative as “a plot to disrupt a meeting of the Constitutional Court.” Judge Stanik also accused Mr. Nalyvaichenko of violating in his statement the Ukrainian Constitution and the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. “The Ukrainian president has already drawn up, or perhaps, signed his decree on my resignation,” Judge Stanik said in a statement. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yushchenko seeks corruption probe

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko has asked Constitutional Court Chairman Dombrovskiy to investigate the possible involvement of Judge Suzanna Stanik in corruption, Interfax reported on April 17. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) obtained evidence that an unemployed close relative of the judge acquired property worth \$12 million last year. Ms. Stanik announced on April 17 that she will not disqualify herself from court hearings. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich described the accusations against Ms. Stanik as “the exertion of pressure on a Constitutional Court judge,” adding that they demonstrate that “law enforcement agencies also need treatment for corruption.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yanukovich warns of “disastrous defeat”

STRASBOURG, France – At the April 17 session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich warned of the possible consequences of the ongoing political crisis in Ukraine, Interfax reported. “Civil unrest and economic crises are already looming large. If they occur, it will be a disastrous defeat for everyone, both for Ukraine and for Europe,” Mr. Yanukovich said. He claimed that the ongoing political crisis should be solved through political means in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the ruling of the Constitutional Court. “We are categorically unable to agree and will not agree with a

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# ONE YEAR AFTER THE ELECTIONS: *The composition of the Verkhovna Rada*

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

The following is the final article in the three-part series "One Year After the Elections."

KYIV – Elected on closed party lists in March 2006, the fifth convocation of the Verkhovna Rada was most distinct



UNIAN/Mykola Lazarenko

**Party of the Regions Parliamentary Faction Chair Raisa Bohatyriova and Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chair Adam Martyniuk are among the most influential members of Ukraine's Parliament.**

for its unprecedented number of millionaires – more than half the 450-member deputy corps.

Ironically, the parliamentary elections of 1990, when the Soviet Union was still intact, allowed more opportunity for national democrats, political ideologues, citizen activists and average working people to qualify.

Since then, politicians have grown far more savvy and pragmatic, and the parliamentary coalition that emerged in August 2006, tactfully avoided drafting a concise coalition agreement or plan of action, giving it a legislative carte blanche, said Yurii Syrotiuk, an expert observer of Parliament.

"As the Ukrainian saying goes, it's easier to catch a fish in muddy water," said Mr. Syrotiuk, who edits the parliamentary analytical website Deputat ([www.deputat.org.ua](http://www.deputat.org.ua)).

The resulting Parliament was a rubber stamp for the Cabinet of Ministers led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, which had the ability to pursue whatever agenda it wanted, with the president's veto as its only obstacle.

To those Ukrainians who support the coalition, its mechanical ability to approve the Party of the Regions' initiatives without debate and minimal concessions to coalition partners, is political progress toward efficiency, compared with prior Parliaments marred by gridlock.

In the view of critics, a situation in which legislation is approved without any challenges, checks or balances is dangerous, because it gives the coalition leaders absolute power.

"The Verkhovna Rada, in my opinion, has been practically transformed into a department of legalizing the government's activities," Mr. Syrotiuk said. "That's very negative because the system of government has lost its balance."

When the coalition's three factions signed their pact to form the Anti-Crisis

Coalition on July 7, 2006, their agreement consisted of about 15 pages – six of which outlined a political program of vague, unspecific goals such as "stable and rational tax policy" and "reforming social standards and benefits."

"There was a certain ideology to the parliamentary coalition, and it was supposed to be embodied in their legislative acts," Mr. Syrotiuk said. "Unfortunately, there's no program of activities. Instead Yanukovich says we need a vote on this, and they vote."

President Yushchenko's attempt to establish a more specific, clarified program for the government, the Universal of National Unity, was signed by all coalition factions but wholly ignored by the coalition afterwards.

In violation of the Constitution, the coalition has neglected to create a program of activities. Without specific, declared goals and standards against which to judge the effectiveness of the parliamentary coalition, its leaders have free reign to pursue agendas other than the national interest, Mr. Syrotiuk said.

In the case of the Party of the Regions, that means expanding the power and access of its entrepreneurial and industrial sponsors.

"They use power as a mechanism for lobbying business interests," Mr. Syrotiuk said. "They've occupied state financial streams, they've occupied state monopolies, they've occupied oversight councils, they've occupied Oschadbank (the government-owned commercial bank)."

Of course, pursuing business interests isn't exclusive to the Party of the Regions. Despite the declared Orange Revolution ideals of separating business from government, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc secured millions in support and funding from notoriously wealthy and powerful businessmen who received parliamentary seats in return.

The Our Ukraine bloc and Socialist Party of Ukraine have their fair share as well. In the case of Our Ukraine's millionaires, they are widely believed to have caused the Orange coalition's downfall as they pursued their business interests at the expense of a pro-Western government.

However, the Verkhovna Rada isn't exclusively a millionaire's playground.

Many political scientists, spin-doctors and press secretaries qualified as well.

Rumors that chauffeurs and even mistresses made it onto the Party of the Regions party list are difficult to confirm, but it does consist of numerous retired pensioners, as well as 20-something neophytes.

An examination of the composition of the Verkhovna Rada's fifth convocation is a profile of Ukraine's most influential businesspeople and their supporting cast.

## Billionaires

Two of Ukraine's seven known billionaires are members of Parliament – Rynat Akhmetov, 40, and Kostiantyn Zhevago, 33.

Both rarely appear in the Verkhovna Rada or deliver speeches from the rostrum.

Mr. Akhmetov, whose assets are estimated at between \$4 billion and \$11.8 billion, is widely recognized as Ukraine's wealthiest man, having founded System Capital Management (SCM), an immense conglomerate of companies that range from mining and steel production to insurance and financial services.

He is the main financier and a key strategist for the Party of the Regions.

Mr. Zhevago's role in the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, on the other hand, is not nearly as influential, as he is one of numerous financiers. He acquired his wealth, estimated at between \$1 billion and \$1.9 billion, through investments in mining, truck-manufacturing and pharmaceutical businesses.

He joined the Tymoshenko Bloc in time for the 2006 elections in what was likely a calculated investment for a parliamentary seat. His other political involvement, perhaps even tighter, is with the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine United, a group synonymous with the rampant corruption of the Kuchma years in which Mr. Zhevago is widely reported to have been involved.

When the threat of criminal investigations of businessmen emerged following the Orange Revolution, many of Ukraine's wealthiest began acquiring national deputy status for the prosecutorial immunity it provided.

Both Mr. Akhmetov and Mr. Zhevago were newcomers to the Verkhovna Rada when elected last year.

## Millionaires

More than 250 millionaires comprise 56 percent of the Verkhovna Rada's national deputy corps ranks, according to Mykhailo Syrota, a former national deputy.

The most prominent millionaire among the Party of the Regions deputies is Mykola Yankovskyi, a partner in Strol, one of Ukraine's biggest chemical-pharmaceutical companies, operating 12 factories nationwide.

Strol produces 26 percent of Ukraine's ammonia market, and 25 percent of mineral fertilizer and monopolizes Ukraine's polystyrene market, according to Korrespondent magazine, a Russian-language weekly in Ukraine.

Mr. Yankovskyi, 62, whose wealth is estimated at \$442 million, actively works behind the scenes in the Party of the Regions, enjoying close ties to Mr. Yanukovich.

Valentyn Landyk, 60, whose wealth is estimated at \$177 million, is among the the Regions' original leaders in 2000, along with fellow Regions veteran Volodymyr Rybak and close presidential

ally Petro Poroshenko. Mr. Landyk is the main shareholder in Nord, Ukraine's top refrigerator manufacturer.

Though Yulia Tymoshenko portrays her bloc as the leading force against Ukraine's corrupt oligarchic and clan business structures, the reality is that dozens of millionaires finance the bloc and are members of its deputies' ranks.

Most noticeable are the Buriak brothers, Serhii, 41, and Oleksander, 36, whose combined wealth is estimated at \$354 million. Oleksander was running his first enterprise at age 23 and Serhii his first bank when he was 25. Their Brokbusinessbank is Ukraine's 10th largest and is worth an estimated \$700 million, according to Korrespondent.

Formerly allied with Anatolii Kinakh and Leonid Kuchma, the Buriak brothers began to assume a strong financing role for the Tymoshenko Bloc leading up to the 2006 elections.

Two businessmen also wielding significant influence are Bohdan Hubskeyi, 44, and Oleksander Feldman, 47, said Mykhailo Brodsky, a former close advisor of Ms. Tymoshenko who recently revealed her recruitment strategies to the Ukrayinska Pravda news website.

Renowned for his allegiance to Mr. Kuchma, Mr. Hubskeyi earned 10 places on the Tymoshenko Bloc's electoral list for his allies, claimed Mr. Brodsky, also alleging that Ms. Tymoshenko signed a secret pact with Mr. Hubskeyi assuring him of various government and commercial posts.

Mr. Feldman, meanwhile, owns Kharkiv's famous Barabashovskiy outdoor market, one of Ukraine's largest.

The Tymoshenko Bloc announced it excluded Vasyl Khmelnytskyi, 40, from its list this time around because he went against the faction on critical parliamentary votes.

Mr. Khmelnytskyi was able to establish his business empire, worth an estimated \$729 million, as a result of his close relations with Mr. Kuchma and other family insiders. His business holdings include energy companies, the Bank of Khreschatyk and vast real estate.

Our Ukraine also isn't immune to the power of money.

No one doubts the enormous influence wielded by Mr. Poroshenko, 41, on Our Ukraine and the president earlier on. His business holdings, which include the Roshen confectionary giant and Lutsk automobile factory, are estimated at \$505 million.

While financing is critical to the success of many political efforts, Mr. Poroshenko is evidence that businessmen are also capable of ruining the political aspirations and prospects of blocs and parties.

Some political observers blame Mr.

(Continued on page 22)

## Memorial plaque unveiled in Kyiv in memory of Gongadze, colleagues

by Dmytro Zezyulin

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – A memorial plaque for slain journalist Heorhii Gongadze and his colleagues, the circumstances of whose deaths remain unresolved was unveiled March 20 in Maria Zankovetska Square on Velyka Vasylkivska Street in Kyiv.

The event was organized by the office of Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi, who unveiled the plaque. "I didn't know Gongadze personally," he said. "I only saw how he challenged the government – the government that killed him."

The mayor noted that practically all the city deputies of Kyiv voted in favor

of establishing the memorial.

Eventually, a monument of Gongadze will replace the plaque, Mayor Chernovetskyi said, and a contest is under way to determine a winning sculpture.

Among the 1,000 in attendance for the ceremony were a military orchestra, students, mass media representatives and students of the Institute of Journalism at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

"This monument is evidence that democracy is marching in Ukraine," said Mykola Melnychuk, a national deputy and a member of the Socialist Party. "This is a holy place, where those responsible for journalists' deaths have no permission [to be]."

## Ukraine's top pro-Western...

(Continued from page 1)

percentages [Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing and Lutsenko's People's Self-Defense] are worth their weight in gold," said Volodymyr Fesenko, board chairman of the Kyiv-based Penta Center for Applied Political Research, which is contracted by major Ukrainian political parties, as well as the Presidential Secretariat. "The president would not only lose potential allies in Parliament if they don't qualify, but he may find himself losing a few percentages that will cost him the majority as a result."

In fact, all the blocs officially state that they are interested in either accepting more parties to their bloc, or forming a mega-bloc with other blocs. However, their actions have yet to reflect their statements.

### Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing

At the Teacher's Building near Shevchenko University on the afternoon of April 16, Ukrainian People's Party Chair Yurii Kostenko joined Mr. Tarasyuk and Mr. Matviyenko in establishing the Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing (Rukh-Ukrayinska Pravvytsia) bloc, consisting of their respective political parties.

Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate opened the congress with prayer, and then made remarks admonishing Ukraine's patriotic political forces for infighting.

After the Ukrainian people lifted them to power, "they destroyed themselves from within," the patriarch said. "I believe that our patriotic, democratic forces who call for unity see before them Ukraine, its welfare and its people above all else, and put everything else on a secondary level."

In his opening remarks to the congress, Mr. Kostenko said Ukraine still isn't Ukrainian and is much further from Europe than in 1990. "Bandits will sit in prison not when the latest messiah arrives, but only when rule of law will govern Ukraine, and when only one force will be active, the force of the law," Mr. Kostenko said to applause.

More than 450 delegates attended the bloc's congress, including former Lviv Mayor Vasyl Kuibida, who earned fourth place on its electoral list, and longtime Kostenko ally Ivan Zayets, who earned fifth place.

Other candidates include Obolon president and shareholder Oleksander Slobodian, Soviet-era political prisoner

Stepan Khmara, noted cultural activist Les Taniuk and renowned ethnologist and folklorist Dr. Hanna Skrypnyk.

Noticeably absent were any leaders or candidates under the age of 50, with the exception of Pora Civic Campaign leader Andrii Yusov, who attended the congress but isn't on the Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing party list.

He told The Weekly that Pora, which split into two factions in recent weeks, is in consultations with Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing to cooperate. He didn't exclude becoming a candidate on the bloc's list as a result of these discussions.

Pora's split has essentially disintegrated its political party, as former leader Vladyslav Kaskiv has joined the Our Ukraine People's Union.

### Our Ukraine People's Union

Deciding to abandon the bloc concept for the time being, the OUPU met on the afternoon of April 17 at Kyiv Polytechnic University to declare it was approaching parliamentary elections on its own, despite official statements maintaining its leaders were still open to forming a bloc.

The party leadership revealed its electoral list, but in alphabetical order, without ranking its candidates.

All the president's many "kumy" (his godchildren's parents) remained on the list, as well as the party's standard set of insiders, functionaries and financiers, including the Poroshenko-Martynenko-Tretiakov triumvirate.

Among the new names on the party list are rock star Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, Holodomor Memorial architect Anatolii Haidamaka, Kharkiv opposition activist Oleksander Protas, former Pora Civic Party leader Mr. Kaskiv, Minister of Foreign Affairs Arsenii Yatseniuk, Institute of Mass Information director Serhii Taran and former Verkhovna Rada Chair Ivan Pliusch.

While Mr. Ivchenko was rejected, fellow CUN leader Yevhen Hirnyk was accepted.

Public opinion polls estimate anywhere between 4 and 11 percent of the electorate will cast votes for the OUPU, as the party's rating has reportedly improved following Mr. Yushchenko's decision to dismiss Parliament. Just like its main competitor, the Tymoshenko Bloc, the OUPU's ratings are directly related to the popularity of its honorary chair, Mr. Yushchenko.

### Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc

The most lavish congress among the pro-Western forces was held on the evening of April 17 at the Ukrainian Home by the Tymoshenko Bloc, which



Zenon Zawada

Leaders of the new Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing Bloc (from left): Anatolii Matviyenko of the Sobor Ukrainian Republican Party, Borys Tarasyuk of the People's Rukh of Ukraine, Yurii Kostenko of the Ukrainian People's Party.

enjoys significant financing from a large cadre of millionaire businessmen.

While they may be providing Ms. Tymoshenko with needed funds, they don't always pay much attention to what their leader is discussing.

During her introductory remarks to the congress, businessmen like Oleksander Abdullin and Oleksander Buriak huddled together in the hall's back rows, chattering and laughing among each other like schoolboys.

Meanwhile, Oleksander Feldman spent almost the entire congress talking on his cell phone.

Of all the four congresses held that weekend, Ms. Tymoshenko's offered the most well-defined agenda, consisting of pragmatic policies to support business. She outlined her bloc's platform, consisting of a revised Constitution, a government program to support small businesses and cancel the value-added tax (VAT), and support for Ukrainian culture and language.

Ms. Tymoshenko announced the inclusion of a third party in her bloc, which had previously consisted of her Batkivschyna Party and the Social Democratic Party - United led by Supreme Court Chair Vasyl Onopenko.

Viktor Pynzenyk of the Reforms and Order Party merged his force with the Tymoshenko Bloc.

Absent from the bloc list, however, was Soviet political prisoner and dissident Lev Lukianenko, a longtime ally.

Ms. Tymoshenko told reporters he remains the patriarch of Batkivschyna and had been included on the electoral list, but he decided to direct his efforts toward writing more books. At his dignified age of 79, it's become difficult for him to remain in the everyday rhythm of politics, she said.

The Tymoshenko Bloc kicked out the dozen or so national deputies who abandoned their political force to join the coalition government, including Oleksander Kovtunencko, who accused his former ally of collaborating with pro-Russian extremist Natalia Vitrenko.

Public opinion polls estimate that between 19 and 28 percent of the electorate will support the Tymoshenko Bloc, which has widened its voter base further at the expense of the OUPU.

Ms. Tymoshenko urged her bloc to target eastern and southern Ukraine during the election campaign, where support for the Party of the Regions has dropped following this winter's steep increases in utility and gasoline prices.

### Lutsenko's People's Self-Defense Bloc

Of the four pro-Western blocs compet-

ing for seats in the Verkhovna Rada, Yurii Lutsenko's People's Self-Defense has the newest, youngest leaders, representing the most reform-oriented platform.

While maintaining a strong European-integration position, its economic platform is more socialist-oriented and averts the free market policies favored by Our Ukraine.

Mr. Lutsenko is the former minister of internal affairs who was dismissed alongside Mr. Tarasyuk by the coalition government on December 1, 2006, as part of an aggressive campaign to usurp power.

Although criticized for not arresting criminals aggressively enough, Mr. Lutsenko said other politicians limited his ability, as did as a procurator general who refused to prosecute his ministry's arrests.

For example, Mr. Lutsenko arrested Crimean gang leader Oleksander Melnyk in September 2006 and brought him to Kyiv to face charges for murdering two Crimean businessmen. In following days, the accused was released by the Procurator General's Office led by Donetsk prosecutor Oleksander Medvedko, who cited a lack of evidence.

Second on People's Self-Defense list is Mykola Katerynychuk, the 39-year-old politician who abandoned the Our Ukraine People's Union after a November 13, 2006, party congress at which the old guard led by Roman Bezsmertnyi ignored the president's request to allow new leaders to take over. Mr. Katerynychuk currently leads the European Platform for Ukraine social-political movement.

Others in the bloc's top 10 include Channel 5 investigative journalist Volodymyr Arieiev, Orange Revolution field commander Taras Stetskiv and millionaire businessman David Zhvania, who left the OUPU to become the Lutsenko bloc's main financier.

Mr. Lutsenko's bloc also consists of other former Socialists who broke ranks after Oleksander Moroz led the party into forming the Anti-Crisis Coalition. Among them is Oles Donyi, the student leader during Ukraine's independence movement, who is chair of the Kyiv-based Center for Political Values Research, which is financed by Ukrainian citizens.

In sixth place on the party list is Ivan Spodarenko, the influential editor of Silski Visti, Ukraine's second largest newspaper, which supported the Socialist Party before the formation of the Anti-Crisis Coalition.

## Quotable notes

"... The Russian opposition is brave, its cause is admirable, and its members and methods are familiar. Unfortunately, the opposition's protest is not evidence of democratization in Russia but rather of its absence. The truth is that the Russian authorities have, through censorship, intimidation and even murder, largely eliminated genuine political debate in their country. As the police reaction to Saturday's [April 14] demonstration in Moscow well illustrates, even the tiny number of people who want to maintain some kind of public presence outside the mainstream must now be prepared to encounter violence.

"By contrast, Ukraine, though frequently condemned as a disorganized political basket case, does slowly seem to be transforming itself into a country where people can at least choose from two clear political options, after a more-or-less open debate. President [Viktor] Yushchenko's decision to call for new elections is indeed controversial. However, it is being examined by the Ukrainian Constitutional Court, and all sides have agreed to abide by the court's conclusions. Prime Minister [Viktor] Yanukovich's call for demonstrations in Independence Square was a stunt. However, the stunt was legal, nonviolent and one that he has every right to try.

"... Ukraine, for all of its multiple faults, is a free country in which anti-democratic forces can demonstrate. Russia remains an authoritarian country in which democratic forces are beaten up and arrested.

"Myself, I wish the Russians luck - but at the moment, I'm cheering loudest for Ukraine."

- Anne Applebaum, writing in *The Washington Post* on April 17, in a column headlined "Two Protests, One Sign of Hope," in which she compared two recent demonstrations - the first in Moscow and the second in Kyiv - and asked: "For which country should fans of 'democratization' cheer loudest?"

## Political conflict...

(Continued from page 1)

of Ukraine (SBU) Valentyn Nalyvaichenko dropped a political bombshell on April 16 when he told reporters the agency discovered a close relative of Ms. Stanik accumulated \$12 million in gifts during the past two years.

The Ukrayinska Pravda news website reported that Ms. Stanik's 74-year-old mother received the gifts, which included land and residences in Kyiv and Yalta, a 5,380-square-foot office in central Kyiv and several foreign automobiles.

The SBU carried out its investigation at the request of four national deputies, he said. He requested the Constitutional Court to investigate the matter and asked for an explanation from Ms. Stanik directly.

Procurator General Oleksander Medvedko, a Donetsk prosecutor, announced less than three hours after the SBU press conference that his office had reviewed the SBU's information regarding the million-dollar property transfer and determined it was false. "The SBU and procurator general are trading blows," political analyst Mr. Bulhak said.

The SBU's announcement, which included no proof of the alleged bribe, arrived on the eve of the day the Constitutional Court was to begin reviewing the president's decree to dismiss Parliament.

Ms. Stanik has close personal relations with former President Leonid Kuchma, who supported her nomination in 2004. Her husband, Vadym Dolhanov, had a television news program on the national station during the Kuchma era in which he criticized the Orange opposition.

Speaking from the Court's podium in her own defense, Ms. Stanik denied the accusation, offering to divide half the alleged bribe with the SBU acting chief.

Mr. Nalyvaichenko denied the SBU was pressuring the Constitutional Court on behalf of the opposition, stating he was merely acting on the request to investigate.

However, political observers said the announcement's timing was suspicious, and it's apparent Ukraine's law enforcement agencies are politicized.

Mr. Yushchenko has influence over the SBU, while the coalition controls the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Procurator General's Office.

"From one angle, it was a political move, perhaps the first time in Ukraine's history the SBU began to interfere with politics," Mr. Bulhak said. "But the procurator general supporting Yanukovich is also playing politics."

Nevertheless, "the SBU would not have made the statement if it weren't based on truth," he added.

Opposition leaders Yulia Tymoshenko and Viacheslav Kyrylenko were quick to take political advantage of the SBU statement. The following day they announced they are requesting Mr. Yushchenko to dismiss the Constitutional Court, given the credible suspicion of corruption.

"Yanukovich and representatives of

his majority have announced they won't execute the president's decree for the pre-term cessation of deputies' authority and pre-term parliamentary elections until the Constitutional Court examines their complaint and is explained only by the fact they know ahead of time what decision will be made by its judges, which belong to them based on private property rights," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "In this situation, the Constitutional Court is not able to make a just decision."

### Court chaos

Two days after the Security Service's statement, Judge Stanik defiantly strode to work, only to be greeted by a chaotic scene in front of the court, with opposition deputies and unidentified athletic men blocking the metal gate entrance amidst a throng of hundreds of supporters and detractors.

The scene was enough to cause Party of the Regions lawyer Olena Lukash to scale the eight-foot-tall fence at a space away from the entrance with the help of several strong men.

Undaunted, Ms. Stanik pushed and fought her way through the crowd, only to be blocked by deputies who refused to allow her to pass. As she struggled with them, she slapped one across the face and shook the metal gate in a feeble attempt to open it.

Meanwhile, coalition deputies pulled, pushed and shoved opposition deputies in order to get them out of the way.

Minutes later, more than 40 Berkut special force officers forcibly broke through the blockade and formed a corridor ensuring passage to the court.

Afterwards, Mr. Yanukovich asked Mr. Medvedko to secure the court's entrance. "This is evidence that the radical opposition won't stop at anything," the prime minister said. "The letter of the Constitution doesn't exist for them, only their personal opinion."

That night, 50 police officers began a round-the-clock guard of the court.

As the Constitutional Court began examining the dismissal decree, it remained unclear how long the process would take. Political experts suspected it would either reach a political ruling to appease both sides in the conflict, or rule in favor of the coalition.

Any ruling by the Constitutional Court won't resolve the conflict, said Oles Doniy, chair of the Kyiv-based Center for Political Values Research, which is supported by Ukrainian citizens. Therefore, a compromise will have to be reached between the warring factions that will set the date for pre-term elections, as well as changes to the elections law, he said.

Volodymyr Shapoval announced on April 19 that he will resign his post as the president's representative to the Constitutional Court once a ruling is made.

### Dissolving factions

Though opposition leaders don't recognize the validity of the Verkhovna Rada, which continues to convene on a daily basis under Mr. Moroz's guidance,

they announced on April 18 that both their factions would surrender their mandates and dissolve themselves.

If 150 national deputies surrender their mandates, then Ukraine's Parliament doesn't have the necessary two-thirds quorum and loses its authority – in which case new elections are required.

The next day, Our Ukraine Faction Chair Viacheslav Kyrylenko announced 150 opposition deputies have signed letters declaring their abandonment of their respective factions.

"In the event the Constitutional Court rules on postponing or declaring the president's decree illegitimate, the Verkhovna Rada's fifth convocation won't be able to continue its work after decisions reached at the congresses of Our Ukraine and the Tymoshenko Bloc," Mr. Kyrylenko said.

The tactic of breaking Parliament's quorum is more effective and convincing than Mr. Yushchenko's dismissal decree, political experts said.

Why the president hadn't pursued that option rather than dismissing Parliament lies in the rashness of his decision, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

"There wasn't much time to coordinate his actions with Tymoshenko," he said, adding that the president's team has not worked closely with their opposition ally, whom they don't trust very much ever since her dismissal from the prime ministership.

Dissolving Parliament through a lack of quorum almost ensures pre-term parliamentary elections will be held, although the date is almost certain to be postponed beyond May 27, as originally announced, political experts said.

President Yushchenko has already offered to hold the elections in June as a compromise, though the coalition parties may seek to push it as far back as the fall.

### Pleading before Europe

Both Mr. Yushchenko and Mr. Yanukovich traveled to Europe to plead

their cases with its leaders on April 17.

While visiting the European Commission in Brussels, President Yushchenko met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, telling him a Constitutional Court decision isn't enough to resolve the crisis and that parliamentary elections are necessary.

Prime Minister Yanukovich addressed the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg, France, acknowledging he's only a "beginner democrat" in a humorous ploy to gain some sympathy. He earned far more respect when he announced he supports PACE serving as an arbiter in the conflict.

On April 19 PACE issued a resolution on Ukraine's crisis in which it supported attempts at political compromise, as well as pre-term parliamentary elections. It disagreed with the Cabinet of Ministers decision to deny financing such elections, and stated the elections should be postponed beyond the May 27 date.

However, the resolution was carefully phrased as not to favor either party in the political crisis.

"Political reforms, which would support the rules of the game and create the preconditions for guaranteeing democratic rights and freedoms with legal institutions, and which would promote political competition, haven't been achieved thus far," the resolution stated.

While Mr. Yanukovich said he favors the intervention of European diplomats in Ukraine's political crisis, Mr. Yushchenko is opposed.

It's likely the president doesn't want to involve the international community at this point because such mediators would likely urge him to abide by a court ruling that declares his decree unconstitutional, Mr. Lozowy said.

Evaluating the PACE resolution, the Presidential Secretariat's first vice-chair, Oleksander Chalyi, said most of its recommendations had already been proposed by the president in an April 10 compromise offer.

## Ukraine and Poland to host soccer's Euro Cup 2012

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian soccer fans everywhere are rejoicing over the news that Ukraine and Poland will host the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Euro Cup 2012. The announcement was made in Cardiff, Wales, on April 18 by Michael Platini, president of UEFA tournament organizing.

This is the first time that either Poland or Ukraine will host a major soccer championship, which will boost the sport in Eastern Europe after decades of domination by Western European countries. It has been 31 years since any country located on lands once behind the Iron Curtain hosted an international soccer showpiece – the last one being Euro 1976 held in the former Yugoslavia.

Influencing the decision in favor of Ukraine and Poland was a match-fixing scandal and hooliganism during the past year in Italy – one of the other candidate host countries. Other candidates included a joint bid from Croatia and Hungary.

The Euro Cup, like the larger World Cup of soccer, is hosted every four years and gives the host country the opportunity to build new stadiums, improve infrastructure and boost tourism. President Viktor Yushchenko

said that the tournament could be worth as much as \$3 billion.

A statement released on April 18 by the Press Office of Ukraine's President said: "Together with our Polish brothers, Ukraine is inviting European football, our guests and friends to our home. We reassure you that our countries are ready to host the championship and will spare no effort to make it unforgettable and full of fair rivalry, joyful emotions, friendship and cordiality."

Currently, Ukraine has the highest league attendance of the four Eastern European bidders, at 8,892 per match. However, preparations to bring area roads and hotels to European standards are a concern. Based on the Michelin guide, only 23 kilometers of the 2,000 kilometers (1,243 miles) from Gdansk, Poland, to Donetsk, Ukraine, is considered a highway.

Joining Mr. Yushchenko in the talk with UEFA executives were record-breaking pole-vaulter and Ukrainian National Olympic Committee President Serhiy Bubka, soccer forward Andriy Shevchenko, boxer Vitali Klitschko, Ukrainian National Soccer Team Coach Oleh Blokhin, Ukrainian National Football Federation President Hryhory Surkis and National Athletics Federation President Valeriy Borzov.

## Ukrainian deputies to speak in NYC

NEW YORK – A delegation of national deputies from Ukraine, including Oleh Bilorus, Oksana Bilozir, Leonid Kozhara, Yevhen Kornichuk and Vladislav Lukianov, will meet with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora and its community organizations on Tuesday, April 22, at 6 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home

here on 140 Second Ave.

According to the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York, the delegation is visiting the United States on the invitation of the U.S. House of Representatives. The five Ukrainian deputies are all members of the deputies' group for interparliamentary contacts with the United States.

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Chornobyl's 21st anniversary

What with the ongoing political crisis in Ukraine, precious little attention will no doubt be focused on the 21st anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear accident – whose consequences continue to be felt even today by millions in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

Last year there was much ado about Chornobyl as the world marked its 20th anniversary. There were numerous conferences and articles around the globe that took a look at what happened 20 years prior and what the situation was 20 years later. Thus, in 2006 we were able to cite statistics indicating that more than 2.5 million residents of Ukraine were directly affected by the disaster and that millions subsequently became ill.

The situation in the year since then has not changed in any significant way. Ukraine continues to live with the aftereffects of the Chornobyl accident. Chornobyl's victims still number in the millions. And, they still need our help.

Within the Ukrainian community – and indeed, beyond our community – the work of the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund is well-known. This humanitarian organization was established in the years immediately after the Chornobyl accident; it grew out of ad hoc relief efforts spearheaded by local Ukrainian community activists in New Jersey that sent emergency shipments of medical aid to Ukraine.

Since then, the organization has expanded its activity, opening an office in Kyiv to better work in Ukraine and with the people of Ukraine to, as its mission statement says, “protect and save the lives of children confronting the human legacy of the world's worst environmental disaster.”

Its programs include medical training, provision of state-of-the-art equipment for hospitals, medical conferences, establishment of neo-natal intensive care centers, U.S.-Ukraine hospital partnerships, women's and children's health initiatives, and more.

It has partnered with many other groups to fulfill its worthwhile mission. Among them is the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., which since 1996 has worked with CCRDF. Most notably, the Church began an Orphanage Adoption Program whereby it provides assistance to two orphanages: one in Znamianka, Kirovohrad Oblast, and the other in Zaluchia, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast.

Five times now the UOC-U.S.A. has sent a Youth Mission Team composed of college-age students, to work with Ukraine's orphans. The missions are a vibrant example of Christianity in action, and, according to the testimonies of its young adult participants, a time of spiritual renewal. (A sixth and seven mission are planned for this year.)

Speaking at a 2006 hearing on “The Legacy of Chornobyl,” Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), then chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, underscored: “The bitter legacy of Chornobyl continues to be felt 20 years later, and its consequences will remain for the people of the region and beyond for a long time to come. We need to be vigilant of the latent health effects that still are expected to emerge and ensure that there is public awareness about the health threat.”

Those, dear readers, are words to keep in mind as we quietly mark Chornobyl's 21st anniversary and words to take to heart as we support the work of various charitable organizations.

April  
18  
2004

### Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, The Ukrainian Weekly reported the Verkhovna Rada voted on a controversial constitutional reform bill supported by 294 votes from the pro-government coalition, the Communist Party and the Socialist Party, as well as by

some independent deputies – just six votes short of the 300 votes required for approval.

In opposition, Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, which did not take part in the vote, on April 8, 2004, made their opinion of the result known by singing the Ukrainian national anthem in the session hall. Viktor Yushchenko was quoted as saying, “[The vote was] possibly one of the first victories of the democratic forces in Parliament.”

Stepan Havrysh, coordinator of the parliamentary pro-government majority, initially said that the result was the failure of the authorities, but quickly changed his tone after a conference with presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk, who was believed to be the author of the constitutional reforms.

Mr. Havrysh argued that lawmakers had voted on unregistered bill No. 1674-4 instead of No. 4105, as announced by Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn before the vote, which was quoted from the official minutes of the session.

However, Verkhovna Rada staff explained that both numbers refer to the same piece of legislation, but it was given different numbers due to different registrations – first under the Verkhovna Rada and then under the Ministry of Justice.

The bill also included an addendum by Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz that the bill would go into effect after the 2004 presidential elections. However, on April 7, 2004, the Verkhovna Rada adopted a new procedure that banned the introduction of amendments to the Constitution during the second and final reading.

Questions arose regarding the grounds for the pro-government coalition's demand for a repeat vote. Also, it was unclear whether the constitutional restriction forbidding the amendment of the country's Constitution twice within the same year could be applied to the vote in question.

In the event of a repeat vote, Ukrainian political observers argued that there would not be enough votes for the bill to pass. Pressure was reportedly applied upon deputies by the pro-government coalition elected under the first-past-the-post system in 2002, but these deputies resisted by not appearing in the session hall for the vote. In addition to the proposed constitutional reforms, these deputies disliked the all-proportional par-

(Continued on page 10)

## IN THE PRESS

### Dismissal of Ukraine's Parliament

“Viktor versus Viktor,” editorial, *Financial Times*, April 7:

“Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko has finally taken off his gloves in his long-running political conflict with Viktor Yanukovich, the country's power-hungry prime minister. In dissolving Parliament and ordering new elections, Mr. Yushchenko claims to have launched an all-out battle for Ukraine's fragile democracy.

“Sadly, it may be a case of too little, too late. In the immediate aftermath of the 2004 Orange Revolution, Mr. Yushchenko had the authority to shape his country's future. In the past two years, he has squandered much of his political capital through splits with former allies, indecision and fruitless efforts to cooperate with Mr. Yanukovich, his former bitter rival and the man whose supporters tried to rig the fraudulent 2004 presidential election that triggered the Orange Revolution.

“It would be wonderful if Mr. Yushchenko could recover the ground he has lost and put Ukraine on the road to a thriving, outward-looking democracy with strong ties to Russia and the West. However, his chances are not good. ...

“...The West must support democracy in Ukraine, mainly by keeping alive the hope of future EU membership. It should also confront any attempt by Russia to subvert political freedom. But Western governments should not involve themselves too closely in the current power struggle. The time is not right, the position is unclear and Mr. Yushchenko, unfortunately, is not the man he could have been had he capitalized better on the Orange Revolution.”

“Ukraine's Latest Test,” by Adrian Karatnycky, *Wall Street Journal*, April 5:

“... In the past, Mr. Yushchenko has earned a reputation for stoic patience and procrastination. Some have interpreted these traits as weakness. But, as the president made clear this week, when he decides to act there is no turning back. This time, as during the Orange Revolution, Mr. Yushchenko was spurred to action by the surprising level of public outrage at the growing domination of the Regions Party. On Saturday, with scant preparation, over 100,000 nonviolent opposition protesters gathered in Kiev's [sic] central square. Their enthusiastic expression of support for new elections appears to have turned the tide and settled the issue.

“The last few days have been filled with Sturm und Drang declarations on

both sides about ‘anti-constitutional actions’ and the ‘usurpation of power.’ And there is a danger that Russia will seek to exploit the disarray to promote economic and political reintegration.

“Notwithstanding such dangers, most factors point to a peaceful and democratic resolution, either through snap elections or through rulings by the Constitutional Court, heretofore deadlocked and unwilling to act to resolve the mounting dispute. ...

“Ukraine has seen the emergence of an engaged citizenry, has survived several government changes in contested elections, and has an emerging middle class and business elite interested in stability. All of this makes it likely that Ukraine will come through this crisis with its democratic institutions intact. There is even a chance that, after the people have spoken at the ballot box, it will be possible to accelerate the major economic reforms everyone expected after the Orange Revolution in 2004, when the world watched with hope and trepidation the difficult birth of Ukraine's democracy.”

“Yulia's Victory,” by Ivan Lozowy, *The Ukraine Insider*, Vol. 7, No. 2, April 4:

“... Yushchenko's decree itself is, however, on shaky legal ground. As Yanukovich's supporters have pointed out, the decree does not even refer to, much less rely on, the Constitution's Article 90, which sets forth three grounds for dissolving Parliament. Instead, the decree claims that the defection of MPs from BYT [Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc] and Our Ukraine to the coalition headed by the Party of [the] Regions ‘deforms the results of national choice through elections’ and is a ‘serious violation’ of the Constitution's Article 83, which foresees that governing coalitions are formed on the basis of election results and agreements between parliamentary factions, not individual members of Parliament.

“Unfortunately for the decree's authors, the Constitution is silent on the issue of individual choices by MPs to join or leave a governing coalition and nowhere does the Constitution foresee the president's right to dissolve Parliament, even if individual MP defections are a ‘serious violation,’ which seems an unlikely characterization.

“Political necessity has bred a bold move by Yushchenko, which sets the stage for a showdown that will decide whether the Party of [the] Regions will be broken or allowed to consolidate their power.”

### Hastings introduces resolution about Ukraine's political crisis

WASHINGTON – Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), on April 17 introduced a resolution concerning the Ukrainian political crisis that urges all sides in Ukraine “to act responsibly and use dialogue to resolve the crisis and ensure a free and transparent democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law.”

Co-sponsors of the measure currently include Reps. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), a co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.). The resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Rep. Hastings (D-Fla.) noted in his remarks to Congress that the power struggle between President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, which is “rooted in hastily conceived constitutional reforms, threatens to undermine Ukraine's hard-fought and substantial democratic gains, especially those won since the 2004 Orange Revolution.”

He underscored that “prolonged instability is clearly not in Ukraine's interests and that nation's political leaders need to find a transparent way out of the current impasse that all parties will abide by. I hope that responsible dialogue, consistent

(Continued on page 10)

## The sesquicentennial of Ukraine's man of letters extraordinaire: Ivan Franko (1856-1916)

To mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko, *The Ukrainian Quarterly*, a journal of Ukrainian and international affairs published by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, included a special section on Franko in its latest issue (Fall-Winter 2006). Reprinted below, with the permission of the author and *The Quarterly*, is Associate Editor Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky's lead article from that issue. (For more information about the journal, whose editor is Dr. Taras Hunczak, readers may contact: *The Ukrainian Quarterly*, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003; telephone, 212-228-4840; fax, 212-254-4721.)

by Leonid Rudnytzky

The present issue of *The Ukrainian Quarterly* is dedicated, in part, to Ivan Franko on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth, which was celebrated in Ukraine and outside its borders throughout the year 2006. This anniversary has prompted the re-publication of several works by the Ukrainian sage as well as the publication of numerous studies about him, the most important of which is reviewed in this issue, while some others are listed in the "Publications Received" section.

Of great significance are also the plans that have been made regarding future Franko scholarship. On the initiative of President Viktor Yushchenko himself, a 100-volume scholarly edition of Franko's works will be prepared for publication during the next decade together with a multi-tome "Ivan Franko Encyclopedia," which will include an English-language volume. These are but two (albeit the most important) academic projects that were conceived during the jubilee year; to be sure, there are many others of varying degree of significance.

In spite of the adulation accorded to him, especially in his native western Ukraine, the name Ivan Franko is hardly a household word in the cultural circles of the West. His oeuvre, as well as the entire body of classical Ukrainian literature, remains little-known outside the Ukrainian linguistic realm. The reasons for this rather curious and complex phenomenon, I have suggested elsewhere, and they shall not be repeated here. One can only hope that in the coming years this status quo will change; Franko and his work merit wider international recognition.

Blessed with a prodigious, photographic memory, an almost computer-like ability to recall and correlate data instantly, and with an extraordinary analytical talent, Franko was a man of amazing versatility and productivity.

In his native Ukraine, he left his indelible imprint on every major area of human endeavor, especially in the realm of the humanities. His literary and scholarly legacy is a veritable treasure trove for students of literature and language, culture and history, anthropology and folklore, economics and political science, and many other academic disciplines. Franko had an encyclopedic knowledge of world literature and philosophy, acquired through his voracious appetite for reading, and an indomitable Faustian drive in his pursuit of social justice for the Galician peasants and national sovereignty for his Ukrainian compatriots.

He was among the first leading Ukrainian intellectuals to advocate complete political independence of the nation, thus breaking with the federalist tradition advocated by Mykola Kostomarov and Mykhailo Drahomanov, who was young Franko's mentor in political and social matters.

As a creative writer, Franko was the author of lyric, epic and narrative poetry; he wrote satire, both in verse and prose; he published many short stories, novellas and full-length novels, he authored comedies, dramas, critical essays, scholarly studies, book reviews, as well as newspaper articles and political pamphlets, and, lest we forget, he wrote not only in Ukrainian, but also in Polish, German and Russian. Among his most important contributions to Ukraine's culture are his translations from world literature.

If one were to collect all of his works in this area and to arrange them chronologically, one would compile a comprehensive, well-annotated anthology of world literature, ranging from various ancient Oriental and Greek masterpieces to early 20th century German authors.

In a life fraught with repeated arrests and imprisonments, bitter career disappointments, tragic love affairs, an unhappy marriage, prematurely deteriorating physical health and a concomitant mental decline, Franko often found a reaffirmation of his existential purpose in writing poetry. He described some of his works as real "Schmerzskinder," entities born of pain and suffering, because like Goethe, who once asserted, "all my works are fragments of a great confession," Franko was essentially a confessional poet, who managed to transform often ugly and cruel reality into striking and ennobling beauty through the prism of his artistic temperament.



Ivan Franko

A deeper truth about people, including poets and thinkers, is often revealed through the appellatives bestowed upon them by the public. Ukraine's poet laureate, Taras Shevchenko, for example, is universally known as "kobzar" (the bard), not only because this is the title of his principal collection of poetry, but also because he embodies the emotional side of Ukrainian poetry. Indeed, it would be fair to state that Shevchenko's oeuvre is the heart and soul of the Ukrainian nation, while Franko's is its mind and its intellect.

Not counting the label, "revolutionary democrat," bestowed upon him posthumously (and rather inappropriately) by Soviet scholars, Franko is known exclusively by the two appellatives: "The Stone-hewer" and "Moses" – taken from his two famous poems, "Kamenari" (1878) and "Moisei" (1905). However, to limit Ivan Franko to these two designations is to do him an injustice. He could (and perhaps should) just as well be referred to as the "Great Conquistador," in accordance with his poem "Konkistador" (1904).

Here are the opening and concluding lines of the work in Percival Cundy's translation:

Across the stormy ocean,  
While billows seethe and roar,  
Our fleet sails onward, fighting,  
To reach an unknown shore ...

And, having landed in the unknown land, the conquistadores burn their vessels, for there is no return for them to the past. The last lines of the poem summarize their devil-may-care attitude:

We die or else we conquer!  
This is our battle cry.  
The world belongs to heroes,  
The devil take all fears!  
We win by blood and labor  
A home for coming years.

All three poems deal with the problem of leadership and the search for a better life. In the "Kamenari" the

collective is the dominant factor; in "Moisei" it is the lone individual that is of paramount importance. In both cases, however, the action of the protagonists is confined to a pre-set task, a definitive, predetermined goal: to remove impediments on the path to the future – in "Kamenari"; to find the promised land – in "Moisei."

In "Konkistador," the problem is formulated in an almost Kierkegaardian "either/or" fashion. The ethos of the poem is much more heroic, martial, almost imperialistic, and there is no conflict here between the leader and the masses, as is the case in "Moisei." On the contrary, a sui generis integration has been achieved here; the leader and his followers have established a congenial modus vivendi and the whole society seems to have matured.

In common, however, with the other two poems, is the motif of struggle for a better future, presented here in a rather upbeat optimistic way. In "Konkistador," perhaps more so than in any other of his works, Franko exhorts his compatriots to conquer new worlds of the intellect for themselves and to burn the ties that bind them to the dark epochs of the past.

Franko's intellectual legacy is universal as to its makeup and inexhaustible as to its content. To be sure, his collected works contain many ambiguities and contradictions. Working constantly under pressure, he was often unable to let his creation mature, to remove all its flaws, to attain stylistic perfection. Yet the moral and ethical dimensions of his writings remain firm and inviolable – he was always true to himself; he championed humanistic values, and he was aware of his duties and obligations to his fellow human beings. The latter principle is most palpably expressed in Franko's famous and frequently quoted dictum offered here (in a rather non-poetic translation) by the author of this introductory article:

Each of you should know that upon you  
Rests the well-being of millions,  
And that for the fate of millions,  
You will have to give account.

This stanza is, in fact, a simplified poetic rendition of Kant's Categorical Imperative, which in its most famous formulation states that the "maxim" implied by a proposed action must be such that one can will that it becomes a universal law. The spirit of this formal moral law in Kantian ethics informs many of Franko's writings. We find it rather explicitly present in the long narrative poem "Ivan Vyshensky," in some of his poetic collections, and implicitly in several of his novels and short stories.

These and other qualities of the mind of Franko (such as courage, sincerity and truthfulness), which he possessed perhaps even to an excessive degree, have made him a teacher of his people and the mentor of several generations of Ukrainian poets and scholars. The Franko section in the current issue of *The Ukrainian Quarterly* is but a modest contribution to the sesquicentennial of a man whose legacy will forever remain a precious jewel in the mosaic of Ukrainian culture.

It seems somehow fitting to conclude these brief remarks with the following stanza from Ivan Franko's version of the psalm entitled "The Righteous Man":

Blest is the man who, in times of decay,  
When even boldest spirits are all cowed,  
Will with his cries arouse the slumbering crowd  
And then before their eyes the truth display.

### The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: March

Amount	Name	City
\$2,000.00	Ukrainian American Club of the Palm Beaches	Palm Beach, Fla.
\$250.00	Marina Korchymsky Morari (in memory of Taisija Korchymsky)	Switzerland
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*The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.*

# On the road to Chernobyl: a journey to the exclusion zone

by Irene Zabytko

*In February 2007 I traveled with filmmaker Peter Mychalcewycz to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, to visit the people living in an abandoned village for a pre-production research trip. The following is a chronicle of our adventures.*

## PART II

### In the village of Opachychi

We were heading toward Chernobyl in a stylish Toyota driven by our Ukrainian contact Valerii, a veteran Chernobyl chauffeur who ferries journalists, scholars and filmmakers from all over the world. His English was limited to a comforting “no problem” whenever I drilled him about the dangers of the Chernobyl zone, but he always knew what to do and where to go.

Valerii thoughtfully bought sticks of kvbasa he found at a bazaar before picking us up. It was his suggestion to offer the food as gifts for the women we were going to meet in Opachychi since they were very poor. He also brought along a welcomed cache of Swiss bottled Alpine water and huge Jonathan apples for Peter and me.

The ride wasn't treacherous once we passed through the icy streets and congested traffic of Kyiv commuters on their way to work. It was refreshing to be out of the city and in the smaller towns where the population and homes grew sparser the closer we came to Chernobyl. But there was still evidence of community life – folks waiting for buses, children walking to school with knapsacks on their backs, and other cars now and then passing ours.

We drove the 60-plus miles toward the zone until all we saw on the roadsides were snowy dense forests with tall fir trees that looked desolate, forlorn and eerily beautiful. An army truck passed us by on the empty road, but otherwise our car was alone on that last long stretch on the highway.

Peter was constantly filming with his camera, zooming in on the passing scenes from the car window. I settled back with my notebook, more concerned about the cloudy day and the threat of a snowstorm that might hamper our trip than the radioactive homes we were going to visit.

We arrived at the exclusion zone check-point. Flashbacks from Soviet times when I first visited Ukraine flew into my mind – I fully expected to be searched or interrogated and forced to pay bribes to bullying soldiers. Peter half-expected to have his camera and film equipment manhandled or pilfered. But there was only a young baby-faced soldier in fatigues holding a rifle that pointed at the ground. He peered into the windows of the car and then ignored us.

Valerii collected our passports and went in to the administrative office while Peter and I waited in the car. “Hey, we're in Chernobyl,” I said. “Can you believe it?” We were elated, the sun had come out dispersing the gloom, but I was still feeling unsure about the authorities letting us in until Valerii returned and declared, “no problem.” He brought along our guide, Serhii, who had arranged the visit with the women we were going to visit in Opachychi.

Before we set out, Valerii suggested we warm up with the free coffee offered at the café bar in the town's center.



Peter Mychalcewycz

### Approaching Baba Valentyna's home.

People were walking around the town of Chernobyl, mostly in military fatigues. Others were dressed like regular civilians – where they were going, I had no idea. Inside the dingy café, I decided I needed a cognac to go with the coffee. I felt cold in my second-hand clothes, incredulous that I was finally in Chernobyl and a bit fearful about how dangerous it all was. The café's atmosphere didn't help – it was a definite holdover from Soviet times with half the room a fully functioning bar that was open for business, and the other half an actual “mahazyn” where a few measly items like laundry detergent and cheese were sold.

Soon, we were on our way. En route, we witnessed many abandoned and disheveled homes, some with empty stork's nests on the dilapidated roofs. I looked for signs of life and didn't see any until we were in Opachychi.

No one had plowed the deep snow on the road leading to the homes where the women lived. Valerii had to stop the car and Serhii, Peter and I walked the rest of the way to the first inhabited home. We came to a gate that had an Orthodox cross drawn with chalk. “That means the priest was here at ‘Yordan,’” Serhii explained. “This home was blessed.” He told us that there was a church near Chernobyl and a priest was around who visited the “samosely,” as the returnees to the zone are known.

An exuberant older woman in a babushka appeared at the doorway and recognized Serhii who had worked at the Chernobyl plant and grew up in the area. They hugged. She introduced herself as “Baba Valentyna” and was very cordial and kind. We came inside and sat in the modest kitchen. I asked her to relate how she returned to her home after being evacuated.

“I was in Vyshhorod. That's where I was sent,” she said. “But in 15 days I came back. Thanks to my daughter who worked security at Chernobyl. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have been able to return.”

She explained that her daughter had gotten her a job as a cleaning woman in the town of Chernobyl. “We all slept in the store there, but I sneaked away and returned to my village. I cleaned and washed out everything in my house, and in a few days, I moved back in. Nobody stopped me. They didn't know I moved back in.” I thought about the store she referred to. It must have been the depressing place where we had coffee

that morning. No wonder she preferred her own home.

“Weren't you afraid,” I asked.

“No. What for? I'm safer here than anywhere else,” she laughed. “These days it's much better because we get our pensions and a car comes around with food for us to buy.” She then got up and began bustling around her kitchen. “I have such important guests, I have to do something ...” she said and before we could protest she placed a jarful of pickled mushrooms that she said were “clean” on the table along with a plateful of pure white salo, a loaf of wheat bread and a potent bottle of her homemade “samohon.”

We enjoyed the modest lunch, but of course I kept thinking about what sort of radioactive calories were going through me, but soon the moonshine vodka alleviated my fears in the deceptive way it usually does.

Baba Valentyna shared recent photos of her family in Kyiv and talked about how they often come to Opachychi to see her. “But I would never live anywhere else,” she said. She offered a tour of her home which consisted of two rooms: the kitchen where her modest bowls and pans were hung alongside holy pictures and a huge poster of Yulia Tymoshenko, and another room where she slept on a traditional “pich” – a wood-burning stove with a platform that served as her bed. I've read stories by 19th century writers who mention such stoves and people sleeping on them, but I had never seen one up close before! It was comfortably warm.

The old fashioned pich wasn't the only marvel in that room. Across from it, in sharp ironic contrast, stood a huge, modern flat-screened television. “I can see the shows I like,” Baba Valentyna proudly said, zooming through the screen with her remote. “We have electricity here too.”

We followed her outside to her backyard where she showed us a hose with running water. “See? Clean. It runs all the time.” Her yard was plentiful with stacked wood, chickens burrowing beneath the house and ample land covered by the fresh powdery snow. “Wait until summer. Come back and see how beautiful my garden will be then,” she said.

She walked us through her gate to the house of her next door neighbor Pani



In Opachychi (from left): Pani Olha, Baba Valentyna and Irene Zabytko.

(Continued on page 10)



## NEW RELEASE: "Crossroads" documents triumph of democracy in Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The feature documentary, "Crossroads – Ukraine and the Triumph of Democracy," was released for sale to the public in DVD format on March 28.

Through the eyes of six Ukrainians, "Crossroads" examines the history and current events of Ukraine as context for exploring the even deeper question of democracy and what it means to be – or to become – an autonomous, free and self-governing people. Produced by Alaya Productions, this one-hour documentary is available online through a number of general interest and Ukrainian diaspora websites and catalogues.

Of the film, Washington Post film critic Ann Hornaday wrote that "filmmaker Paul Tremblay has made a sensitive, surprisingly intimate documentary about

Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, contextualizing the struggle for democracy within a history of outside encroachment and juxtaposing candid profiles of revolution participants with poetic footage taken by Ukrainian filmmaker Aleksandr Dovzhenko."

What are the dreams and what are the challenges that make up this struggle for democracy? That was the question that first intrigued the producers.

"There's no real beginning or end to the answer," said Mr. Tremblay, the film's director. "It's like the history of Ukraine itself. The themes repeat themselves in cycles, which is why we structured the story the way we did, to immerse the viewer in that context. It's a complex story but in Ukraine, they live that complexity on a daily basis."

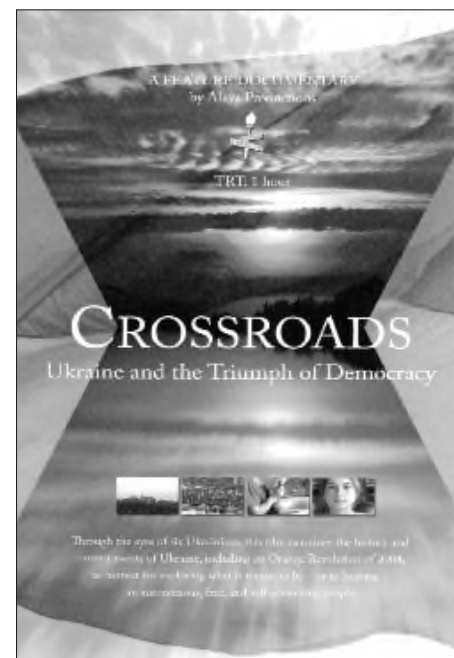
The film "takes the story of our country

to a very human level, and makes it accessible and compelling not only to the mind, but also to the heart," says Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States. "As diplomats, that is one of our own most important objectives, to show the human face of our people, our land, our traditions, our nation. This thoughtful film accomplishes exactly that."

The film has been screened in Washington, New York, Los Angeles and London. It was an official selection at the 2006 Philadelphia Documentary and Fiction Festival and the 2006 Asheville Film Festival.

Adrian Erlinger, who was in Ukraine during the Orange Revolution as an interpreter for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, wrote: "I learned so much about the [Orange] Revolution from the six interviewees, even though I lived through it." Mr. Erlinger saw the film in Washington, where he now works as a Eurasia Analyst for a press agency. "I was impressed at the scope of the film and how it touched so many aspects – history, culture, politics, economics," he added.

Interested members of the public can go to any of the following websites to purchase the documentary: Alaya Productions, [www.alaya-productions.com](http://www.alaya-productions.com); Amazon.com, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); Film Baby, [www.filmbaby.com](http://www.filmbaby.com); Yevshan,



[www.yevshan.com](http://www.yevshan.com); All Things Ukrainian, [www.allthingsukrainian.com](http://www.allthingsukrainian.com).

The film is available also by writing directly to Alaya Productions, 504 Fillmore St., Herndon, VA 20170-3312, or by calling 571-278-6081.

Alaya Productions is an independent documentary production company dedicated to producing stories about people, as told from and through their personal experiences. More information is available at [www.alaya-productions.com](http://www.alaya-productions.com).

## BOOK NOTE: Plyushch's innovative study of charismatic writer Mykola Khvylioviy

"Yoho Taiemnytsia, abo 'Prekrasna Lozha' Khvyliovoho" (His Mystery, or Khvylioviy's 'Beautiful Lodge') by Leonid Plyushch. Kyiv: Fakt Publishers/Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 2006. 872 pp. \$59.95 (hardcover).

by Marko Stech

Published by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press (CIUS) in association with Fakt Publishers (Kyiv), "Yoho Taiemnytsia, abo 'Prekrasna Lozha' Khvyliovoho" (His Mystery, or Khvylioviy's Beautiful Lodge) by Leonid Plyushch is a groundbreaking and innovative study of the literary legacy of the charismatic leader of the Ukrainian cultural renaissance of the 1920s, Mykola Khvylioviy.

A brilliant writer and essayist, Khvylioviy also played a key role in the creation and life of Ukrainian literary and cultural organizations. One of the founders in 1923 of the literary group Hart, he soon became dissatisfied with its toeing of the official line and left to establish the group Urbino and, later, the elitist Vaplite.

Khvylioviy was the primary instigator of "The Literary Discussion" of the 1920s (a pivotal event in Ukrainian intellectual history, one whose significance reaches far beyond issues of literary form and style) and a true leader of the Ukrainian cultural movement of the time. His suicide in 1933 was interpreted as a desperate act of protest against Stalin's terror in Ukraine and the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Because of his personal charisma and the influence he exerted on his contem-

poraries, as well as the complexity of his lyrical-ornamental texts, in the minds of most interpreters of his legacy, Khvylioviy the writer was for many years overshadowed by Khvylioviy the cultural leader. Mr. Plyushch's revolutionary interpretation of Khvylioviy's prose, poems and essays shows him not as a political figure and sympathizer of Communist ideology (albeit with a strongly Ukrainian national character), but as a master prose writer and a mystic who developed a sophisticated code of transcendent symbols and ideas closely linked to the mystical teachings of anthroposophy.

Focusing on Khvylioviy, Mr. Plyushch reinterprets much of what has been assumed about the Ukrainian culture of the 1920s and uncovers mystical elements in the works of other Ukrainian and Russian "revolutionary" writers.

A mathematician by education, Mr. Plyushch is well-known as a former Soviet dissident and an outspoken critic of human rights abuses in the USSR, who was arrested by the KGB in 1972 and incarcerated in a psychiatric institution. Pressure from French mathematicians led to his release and expulsion from the USSR in 1976. Since then Mr. Plyushch has resided in France.

His autobiography "U Karnavali Istoriyi" (History's Carnival) was published in 1977 and has been translated into English, French, Italian and German. Mr. Plyushch debuted as a literary scholar with his "Ekzod Tarasa Shevchenka" (Taras Shevchenko's Exodus), published by CIUS Press in 1986. He is also the author of numerous essays and articles of literary scholarship and criticism.

The Ukrainian-language book features an introduction by Dr. Marko Robert Stech of CIUS Press titled "In Search of the Key to Mykola Khvylioviy's Mystery."

"Yoho Taiemnytsia" is available in hardcover for \$59.95 (plus taxes and shipping; outside Canada prices are in U.S. dollars). Orders can be placed via the secure CIUS press online ordering system (<http://www.utoronto.ca/cius>), by e-mail ([cius@ualberta.ca](mailto:cius@ualberta.ca)), phone (780-492-2973), fax (780-492-4967) or by writing to: CIUS Press, 450 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2E8, Canada.



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## Nor'easter...

(Continued from page 1)

Due to advance predictions of the huge storm, approximately 1,000 people arrived for the pilgrimage on Saturday, April 14. Only a few hundred braved the storm on Sunday.

The nearby Raritan River poured over its banks and slowly moved toward the Memorial Church, flooding the driveway and St. Andrew Cemetery entrance gates, and surrounding the Orthodox center's monument to St. Olha.

Several of the homes located on the Metropolia Center's property also were flooded as of Monday, April 16. They are located along Main Street near the Memorial Church and include the historic Hendrick Fisher home – the oldest historical building (dating to 1688) in Somerset County and a valued treasure of the Revolutionary War period.

Four families – all of them members of the Metropolia Center staff – lost val-

ued personal items, according to a press release issue by the UOC-U.S.A. Office of Public Relations. These homes, or at least portions of them, will remain uninhabitable until major repairs are completed.

Thankfully, the flooding this year did not equal that of 1999, when the waters came within 10 feet of the Memorial Church, noted Father Daniel Zelinsky, a spokesman for the UOC-U.S.A.

The Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A. has appealed to all parishes and faithful to contribute to the Flood Damage Repair Fund as the Church immediately begins the rebuilding process. "So many were so generous in our last appeal of this nature – that very deluge of 1999 – that we were able to make all the repairs necessary without borrowing finances. May the Holy Spirit guide you all in your decision to assist," the UOC-U.S.A. appeal stated.

Contributions may be sent to: Consistory of the UOC of the U.S.A., Flood Damage Repair Fund, P.O. Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880.



Flood waters surround the monument to St. Olha, grand princess of Ukraine, which is located at the entrance to St. Andrew Memorial Church at the spiritual headquarters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

## Can the Constitutional...?

(Continued from page 2)

conversations of CC judges.

Meeting with his allies on April 10, President Yushchenko expressed his concern over what he described as pressure on the CC. Yulia Tymoshenko, speaking at the meeting, made a statement essentially characterizing the attitude of both sides toward the CC. As the judges were being intimidated and bribed, she said, "The court is unable to make any law-based ruling."

Ms. Tymoshenko spoke several hours after five out of the Constitutional Court's 18 judges had dramatically announced that they would refuse to work until the state guaranteed their security. After that, the government supplied the judges with guards. The five – four of whom had been appointed to the CC under the quotas of Mr. Yushchenko and OU – did not pretend impartiality. They said that Mr. Yushchenko's decree was fully in line with the Constitution of Ukraine. This prompted Justice Minister Oleksander Lavrynovych to accuse them of violating the law on the CC by making their position public before the court's hearing of the case.

In a pre-recorded statement that aired on several TV channels on April 13, Constitutional Court Judge Suzanna Stanik complained of being the target of a smear campaign. SBU acting head Valentyn Nalyvaichenko on April 16 announced that a relative of Ms. Stanik had illegally received property worth \$12 million, apparently from the government. The Procurator General's Office on the

same day, however, announced that it had investigated the bribery allegations against Ms. Stanik and found them groundless. Ms. Stanik accused the SBU of interfering with the work of the CC.

This, however, did not prevent Mr. Yushchenko from turning to the CC with a request to consider the SBU accusations against Ms. Stanik and relieve her of the duties of judge-rapporteur. The Procurator General's Office, like the Internal Affairs Ministry, appears to be dominated by people loyal to Mr. Yanukovych's coalition, while Mr. Yushchenko controls the SBU.

The Constitutional Court is not legally limited in its decisions by any timeframe, so it is entirely possible that no decision on the Parliament's dissolution decree will be passed by May 27, the date President Yushchenko has chosen for the new elections. There are signs, however, that Mr. Yushchenko may back down as far as the election schedule is concerned. National Security and Defense Council Secretary Vitalii Haiduk was the first official from his team to openly admit the possibility of re-scheduling the election, speaking at a briefing on April 11.

President Yushchenko probably has no choice, as Prime Minister Yanukovych's government has so far refused to allot funds to hold the election, and the local electoral commissions have not been formed on time.

Sources: Channel 5, April 4, 9, 13, 17; ICTV, 1+1 TV, Ukrayinska Pravda, April 10; NTN, April 13; ProUA, April 16.

## Hastings introduces...

(Continued from page 6)

with the rule of law, leads to a positive outcome for the Ukrainian people and the democratic path they have chosen."

H. Con. Res. 115 notes that Congress, which "has consistently demonstrated strong bipartisan support for an independent and democratic Ukraine":

"(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine since the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991;

"(2) urges all sides to the current political crisis in Ukraine to act responsibly and use dialogue to resolve the crisis;

"(3) urges all sides to adhere to the rule of law and resolve disputes in a peaceful manner consistent with Ukraine's democratic values and national interest, in keeping with its commitments as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

"(4) expresses strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to establish a full democracy, the

rule of law and respect for human rights;

"(5) pledges its continued assistance to the strengthening of a free and transparent democratic system in Ukraine based on the rule of law and the continued development of a free market economy in Ukraine; and

"(6) reaffirms its commitment to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and assumption of Ukraine's rightful place as a full member of the international community of democracies."

On April 18 Rep. Hastings sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to members of the House of Representatives asking for their support of the measure.

"Please join me in supporting democratic processes and the rule of law in Ukraine by co-sponsoring H. Con. Res. 115, which addresses the current political crisis in that country. This resolution is a demonstration of Congress' interest, concern and support for Ukraine as that strategically important country perseveres towards full democracy and the rule of law," he wrote.

## Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

liamentary-election law that was adopted in March 2004 as the pro-government coalition's concession to buy support for the constitutional reforms from the Socialist and Communist parties.

The essentially democratic proposals in the reform bill, which reduced the powers of the president and empowered the government and Parliament, were devised as a way for the forces aligned with President Leonid Kuchma to preserve the political establishment in the country as a response to the threat of losing the 2004 presidential election.

Analysts predicted that the collapse of the constitutional reform would make the 2004 presidential election as one of the country's harshest and toughest political campaigns, and many suggested that it

was possible that Mr. Kuchma would choose to run for president a third time – a scenario made possible by a ruling of the Constitutional Court in December 2003.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, who was supported by 15 percent of the electorate, seemed better-equipped to challenge Mr. Yushchenko, but many analysts felt it was unlikely that pro-Kuchma oligarchs would unite behind Mr. Yanukovych against the Yushchenko threat. Mr. Kuchma was more likely to be seen by the oligarchs as a guarantor of stability and continuity, while Mr. Yanukovych was, in the eyes of the oligarchs, no less a risk than Mr. Yushchenko.

Source: "Constitutional reform bill fails to pass: What's next in the Verkhovna Rada?" by Jan Maksymiuk, RFE/RL Newsline, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, April 18, 2004.

## On the road...

(Continued from page 8)

Olha, who was waiting for us at her kitchen table. Her home was smaller but adorned with the vibrant Ukrainian embroidery she sews.

Pani Olha also slept on a pich that dominated the front room, but hers was occupied by a mangy cat. It purred at us, but when I held it, I found that its ears were bloodied and mangled. It reminded me of the sickly cat I wrote about that befriends Marusia in my novel. I let the cat go and rubbed my hands against my coat.

Pani Olha's return to Opachychi after the nuclear explosion differed from her neighbor's. She came back a year after Chernobyl erupted. She and her husband, Alyosha, were evacuated to Volyn in the Makorivsky raion where they lived with strangers in a one-room house. Meanwhile the Soviet government was building homes in that area just for the Chernobyl evacuees.

"We moved into a house far away from everyone," she recalled. "It was horrible because they gave us a coal stove. We didn't know how to use it. We always heated our home with wood. None of the neighbors knew how to work the coal stove either." She said she nearly froze to death that winter. There was frost on the walls, and the water pipes burst. It also didn't help when more people moved into her tiny Soviet shack. "There was no room, and we were all cold," she said. "I was afraid to be with strangers."

"My husband wanted to leave," she continued. "He went ahead of me back to this house. He planted the garden and got

things ready for me. A few months later I returned too. I came back to Opachychi in August 1987, and already the potatoes in the garden were ready to dig up."

Her husband died soon after. "If I knew he was going to die, I would've stayed in Volyn because it was so lonely here. I was left to do all the work in the garden and gather wood." She has since resigned herself to living in Opachychi. "It's better now than before. My children come once a year to chop wood for me. They live in Odesa and Zaporizhia with their families."

For Pani Olha, wood gathering was the most difficult chore until the head of the village council gave her two horses to help collect the wood. "One of my neighbors has a cow, so we get milk too. And I have chickens, so we can live better," she added. I also asked Pani Olha if she is afraid of the radiation. She shook her head. "I'm still here," she said while preparing the table with platefuls of salo, bread, fresh eggs and a bottle of that dangerous samohon that seemed stronger than Baba Valentyna's. "This is what keeps us safe from the radiation," Pani Olha said with laughter when she poured us all a round.

We spent many hours filming and talking with the two women before we left them. Meanwhile, the sun was disappearing and the sky was clouding up, and we still had to make it back to Kyiv by early evening for an appointment.

Dr. Myron Stachiw, the director of the Fulbright Office in Kyiv had invited me to talk to the Fulbright fellows about the Chernobyl documentary film project and my book, and I was worried that the snow and icy roads might make us late.

## Post-doctoral fellowships awarded by Shevchenko Scientific Society

by Denys Sohor

NEW YORK – After a rigorous review of all submitted applications, the Scholarship Committee of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in America (NTShA) recommended two young scholars for the \$35,000 post-doctoral fellowships for the academic year 2007-2008. The awards were made to Dr. Maria Rewakowicz and Dr. Mark Andryczyk.

Dr. Rewakowicz received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in 2001. The host institution for her post-doctoral fellowship will be the department of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Dr. Rewakowicz has done extensive research in various areas of Ukrainian studies, especially on the literary works of the New York Group of poets. During her fellowship year she will be a welcome addition to the University of Washington, which is seeking to expand its scholarly activities and course offerings in Ukrainian language and culture.

In addition to studies of Ukrainian diaspora literature, her research will be on Ukrainian post-Soviet literature and on the impact of disasters, such as Chornobyl, on the cultural and political fabric of the affected societies.

Dr. Mark Andryczyk received his Ph.D. in Ukrainian literature from the University of Toronto in 2005. The host institution for his post-doctoral fellowship will be the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University in New York. During his fellowship year he will research the phenomenon of the Ukrainian intellectual in the post-Soviet years, especially the role of intellectuals in the 2004 Orange Revolution.

The Ukrainian community in the U.S. greatly values the scholarly work of the NTSh. Over the years many of those familiar with the activities of NTSh in America established endowments during their lives, others left funds in their wills. To disburse these funds according to the wishes of those who established these endowments, a Scholarship Committee and a Publications Committee were established at NTSh in America.

The two post-doctoral awards of \$35,000 each are examples of the use of such funds. It is only through the generosity of its supporters that NTSh in America is able to promote Ukrainian studies and sponsor scholarship.

## Program to select student of the year

NEW YORK – The USA/USA-УКРАМЕПЕЖА (Ukramerezha) Program has helped gifted students from Ukraine earn scholarships to leading American prep schools and colleges since 1992. In 2007 the program will select its second North American Ukrainian Student of the Year.

The winner will be chosen according to the following criteria:

- Registration by the candidate with name, address (no post office boxes accepted), date of birth, high school and year of high school graduation, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address (where available).

- Materials relating to the Ukrainian origin of the student, for example, active or expired Ukrainian passport, proof of membership in a Ukrainian North American organization or house of worship, proof of attendance in a Ukrainian-language Saturday program, genealogy records, etc.

- Official certificate of good standing and of expected graduation from high school in the spring of 2007. This certificate must come directly from the high school the student expects to graduate from in the spring of 2007.

- Official transcript of grades from the ninth through 12th grades. The transcript must arrive directly from the schools in question. The transcript must transparently provide the calculated GPA and the subjects

taken up to and including the date of graduation.

- Official SAT Reasoning and Subject Test score reports. The student must submit a new SAT Reasoning Test official report and three subject test scores. Reports must come directly from ETS and the College Board. The official ETS institution code for the USA/USA Program is 9000. Students can forward these scores online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or via a paper request. ETS uses Ukrainian Scholarship as the name of the USA/USA Program. In the case of multiple test taking, the USA/USA Program will use the highest scores submitted.

- An essay on the education plans of the student.

The deadline for the submission of all materials is July 15. All materials must arrive by mail to: USA/USA-УКРАМЕПЕЖА, P.O. Box 250093, Columbia University Station, New York NY 10025-1531.

- The prize will be \$1,000. The winner will be announced by September 1.

Interested parties should submit inquiries to the above address, call 212-475-5326 or e-mail [info@ukrainianscholarships.org](mailto:info@ukrainianscholarships.org). More information about the USA/USA-УКРАМЕПЕЖА Program is available at [www.ukrainianscholarships.org](http://www.ukrainianscholarships.org).

The USA/USA-УКРАМЕПЕЖА Program is a not-for-profit program that benefits from the 501 (c) 3 status of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine Inc. (USA).

## Chornobyl Charity Bazaar to be held at U.N.

NEW YORK – The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations will sponsor the annual Chornobyl Charity Bazaar on April 26 at the U.N. Headquarters in New York.

The bazaar, which commemorates the 21st anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, the largest technological catastrophe of the 20th century, will raise funds to support medical institutions in Ukraine and renew international attention to the issues associated with the events at Chornobyl.

It has become an annual tradition of the Ukrainian community to participate in this event and organizers are looking forward to continued support. In addition

to monetary gifts, individuals may contribute books, crafts, art, gift items, food, beverages and other things to be sold during the bazaar.

Donations should be sent to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine, 220 E. 51st St., New York, NY 10022. If sending donations by check, please indicate payment is for the Chornobyl Bazaar and include brief information about yourself for a list of benefactors to be presented to all guests and participants of this event.

Those wishing to attend must phone the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations at 212-759-7003, ext.100 or 118, so that appropriate arrangements for entrance passes can be made.



Photo by Pavlo Mulyk

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#### 4th Annual Adoptive Parents Weekend JUNE 15-17, 2007

Sponsored by the Embassy of Ukraine and the UNA, this itinerary consists of Ukrainian crafts, entertainment and demonstrations.

Overnight Room Rates- starting at \$65+tax & gratuities

#### 23rd Annual Father's Day Program & Luncheon JUNE 17, 2007

This year's program will feature 'SYZOKRYLI DANCE ENSEMBLE' from New York City, Tenor ROMAN TSYMBALA, a graduate of the State Theater in Lviv & band 'VIDLUNNIA' featuring violinist Marian Pidvirnyj.

Luncheon- \$20+tax & gratuities/per person at 1 pm, followed by program.

# Ukrainian student competes at U.S. National Short-Track Speedskating Championships

by Halyna Kuzyszyn-Holubec

CLEVELAND – “I started speedskating in second grade and haven’t stopped since!” said Sophia (Sonia) Milan of her passion for speedskating. The 20-year-old North Royalton, Ohio, native finished ninth among the elite set of speedskaters at the U.S. National Short-



Speedskater Sophia (Sonia) Milan

Track Speedskating Championships in Cleveland on February 25.

Living the dream of many young athletes, skating among such Olympic greats as Apolo Anton Ohno and Allison Baver, Ms. Milan regularly competes at the highest levels of the sport’s national events for the right to represent the United States in international competitions.

Ms. Milan’s love of short-track came about at a very early age, when she saw her brother Roman’s interest in the sport. When she turned 8, she decided to give it a try and instantly became addicted to fast skating and competition. “As I got older I realized that speedskating was so much more than just going fast and there was so much more to learn and improve,” Ms. Milan noted.

Growing up in the greater Cleveland Ukrainian community, Ms. Milan not only skated and trained, but attended St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral School, danced with the Kashtan ensemble, played the piano and the harp, competed in softball and found time to write poetry. She credits her Ukrainian upbringing and the encouragement of family, friends and teachers as giving her the strength to progress in her speedskating career.

Ms. Milan recalls the words “nasha zirka” (our star) from a former teacher at St. Josaphat’s, which have remained with her throughout her competitions and into her high school and college studies. She currently attends Northern Michigan University, where she intends to major in international studies and minor in economics and French. She has lived in the nearby town of Marquette since the beginning of her training in August 2004. She did, however, return to Padua Franciscan High School, in her native Cleveland, for graduation in the summer of 2005.

At Northern Michigan, Ms. Milan lives in a dorm with the rest of the speedskating team and the United States Olympic Education Center (USOEC) athletes. There are five training groups that make up the USOEC, including speedskating. The athletes attend Northern Michigan University on scholarships.

“A typical day for me is waking up at 5:30 a.m., practicing from 6 to 9 a.m., going to school from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., then practicing from 3 to 6 p.m.,” said Ms. Milan. She also became involved in Campus Ministry and attends church in Marquette whenever possible.

Ms. Milan has skated in numerous national and international competitions that took her to many places, including Turin, Italy (for the World University Games), the Netherlands (for World Cup 5); Budapest, Hungary (for World Cup 6); Korea and China. She also competed in World Cup 3 (Saguenay, Quebec) and World Cup 4 in Montreal. It was at the Saguenay World Cup 3 that Sonia placed 12th overall in the 1500 meter race. “That was an amazing feeling,” Ms. Milan said, “to be in that final with those other amazing skaters and to skate so well. I was very proud of myself.”

The requirements to make the World Cup team were to place in the top six at the American Cup 2 in Midland, Mich. The criteria for the University Games Team were to be a top five athlete between the ages of 18 and 25 and enrolled in a university. The American Cup, which serves as a qualifier for the short-track speedskating World Cup team and the University Games team, saw Ms. Milan place sixth in the 500-meter, fourth in the 1,000, eighth in the 1,500, and third in the 300.

“My skates have a blue and yellow stripe on them,” Ms. Milan said, adding that she especially requested those colors to symbolize her Ukrainian upbringing and how proud she is of her family and her community.

It was her family, including brother Roman, who gave her support in December 2005 during the Olympic trials in Michigan, when Ms. Milan injured her leg on the rink after a collision with another skater. After receiving 24 stitches in her left leg, Ms. Milan begged her trainer to let her finish the last day of racing trials despite her injury. Even though he advised against skating, Ms. Milan swallowed the pain and finished the trials. “I finished, and that was what really mattered to me,” she noted. “I have put my fears aside and just skate with a scar on my leg as a daily reminder to skate smartly and well, every day.”

Ms. Milan says she’s inspired to perfect her skating and loves watching other skaters, especially the Koreans whom she saw at the World Cup in Montreal. “They make it look easy and effortless, but I can only imagine the training that they had to go through to skate like that.” She said, “A great speedskater is someone who wakes up ready to push themselves one-tenth faster on the ice that day,” and those athletes according to Ms. Milan – mostly co-competitors, inspire her every day.

Ms. Milan plans to continue to speedskate, train hard and continue her studies. Once in a while she takes a break from her busy schedule to relax her muscles and ready herself for training. Ms. Milan is well aware of the old saying “I’ll rest when I’m dead,” but added “life is short and, as long as I’m enjoying it, then I’m not wasting a moment.”



Sophia Milan in one of her recent shorttrack speedskating races.

## SPORTSLINE

### Heroes of Sports 2006

Ukraine’s top athletes were honored on April 13 as Heroes of Sports 2006. The honorees included gymnastics coach Inna Korbchynska, named best coach; track-and-field champion Ivan Heshko, best sportsman; gymnastics world champion Iryna Krasianska, best sportswoman; Ukrainian fencing team, best team; and wrestling champion Ibrahim Aldatov, best breakthrough athlete. Other athletes were recognized with Olympic Pride of Ukraine awards, including ice dancers Olena Hrushyna and Ruslan Goncharov and biathlete Lilya Yefremova.

### Soccer

Ukraine’s preliminary performance in the UEFA EURO 2008 included a 2-0 win on March 24 against the Faroe Islands. Scoring for Ukraine were Volodymyr Yezerskiy in the 20th minute with a shot

from outside the penalty area and Oleg Gusev in the 57th minute from close range off a header from Andriy Nesmachniy. On March 28 Ukraine beat Lithuania 1-0 with another goal by Gusev in the 47th minute off a cross by Maxym Kalynychenko. Ukraine is tied with France and Scotland in Group B with 12 points after five games played. Other contenders in Group B include Georgia and Italy. Ukraine will face off against France on June 2.

### Swimming

• Ukrainian swimming coach Mychaylo Zubkov was given a six-year ban by FINA after a scuffle with his daughter Kataryna was caught on film by Channel 9 television cameras during the World Swimming Championships in Melbourne, Australia. An announcement came on March 29 from the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO) that charges against the swim coach were with-

drawn after “evidence produced in the court highlighted the gross overreaction and exaggeration of the media.” Members of the Australian Ukrainian community voiced concern over what was called the overzealous coverage by the media. Mike Tkaczuk and Stephan Romaniw of AFUO also said they were concerned for the safety of Mr. Zubkov upon his return to Ukraine. On April 2, as the Zubkovs left Melbourne International Airport, AFUO handed over legal transcripts and other documentation to assist them in rebuilding their “damaged image.”

• Ukrainian swimmer Oleh Lysohor, 28, won gold in the 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 27.66 seconds at the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships in Melbourne, Australia. Lysohor had set the world record time of 27.18 seconds in August 2, 2002, in Berlin. Other Ukrainian medal winners included Anna Khlystunova, who won bronze in the

women’s 100-meter breaststroke on March 27. Khlystunova holds the current world record for the event: 1:00.07.

### Chess

Ukrainian chess player Vasyl Ivanchuk won bronze at the 16th Amber Blindfold and Rapid Chess Tournament on March 16-30 at the Fairmont Monte Carlo Hotel in Monaco, with a rank of 2750 and a total of 13 out of 22 points. Ivanchuk finished fourth in the blindfold chess games, with 6.5 points out of 11; in rapid chess games he tied for fourth place with 6.5 points out of 11.

### Boxing

• Ukrainian boxer Yuriy Nuzhnenko (24-0, 13 KO) remained undefeated during 12 rounds against Uzbek Farkhad “Masa” Baikirov (24-0-2, 14 KO), to

(Continued on page 16)

# Students establish Ukrainian Society at Boston College

by Peter Woloschuk

BOSTON – A Ukrainian Society has been established here at Boston College, with formal elections of officers taking place on April 3. Twenty-six students thus far have signed up as members.

Spearheaded by freshman communications major Deanna Rakowsky of Maplewood, N.J., this year's Miss Soyuzivka, preparatory meetings were held with the Dean of Student Services Mer Zovko, herself of Croatian ancestry. Paperwork was filled out, a statement of purpose and a constitution were drafted, and in early March the group received official university recognition.

This entitles the new Ukrainian Society to use all of the university's facilities including various function rooms and the 1,000-seat theater without charge; it also makes the group eligible for operating funds supplied by the university.

Several members of the school's established Slavic Club protested the new entity, saying that there was a danger that it would lose membership and that there was no need for a separate Ukrainian club. In spite of this, the Ukrainian students opted to proceed.

On Wednesday, March 28, the new group co-sponsored a pysanka, or Ukrainian Easter egg, workshop with the fine arts department and the Student Art Club as its first formal event. The workshop was held in one of the university's art studios and was conducted by Sonia Kowal and Tamara Nary.

Ksenia Rakowsky of Maplewood, N.J., provided the students with dyes, "kistky" and wax – the supplies needed to make pysanky. Slavko Nowytski's film "Pysanka" was shown, a brief lecture on the history and symbolism of the art form was given, and then participants were encouraged to try their hand at this Ukrainian art form, either by creating their own designs or following illustrations of traditional Ukrainian motifs. Thirty students spent four hours designing pysanky.

The first business meeting of the new society took place on Tuesday, April 3, and a total of 26 students joined – including a number who have been very active in Ukrainian activities in their home communities. Almost half of the students are graduates of schools of Ukrainian studies, and most of them attended for at least 12 years.

There are also nine students on full scholarship at Boston College from Ukraine, including a number of graduate students, and they were well represented at the business meeting. Andriy Tsintsiruk of Brody in western Ukraine, who earned a master's in philosophy at BC and who is currently working on a second master's in political science, indicated that there were at least another 10 to 20 students with Ukrainian backgrounds on campus. Mr. Tsintsiruk is a past president of the college's Slavic Club.

Elections were held and Deanna Rakowsky was elected president, with Laryssa Kramarchuk of Mt. Vernon, N.Y., elected vice-president, Natalie O. Horbachevsky of Yonkers, N.Y., secretary, and Chris Rusyniak of New Fairfield, Conn., treasurer.

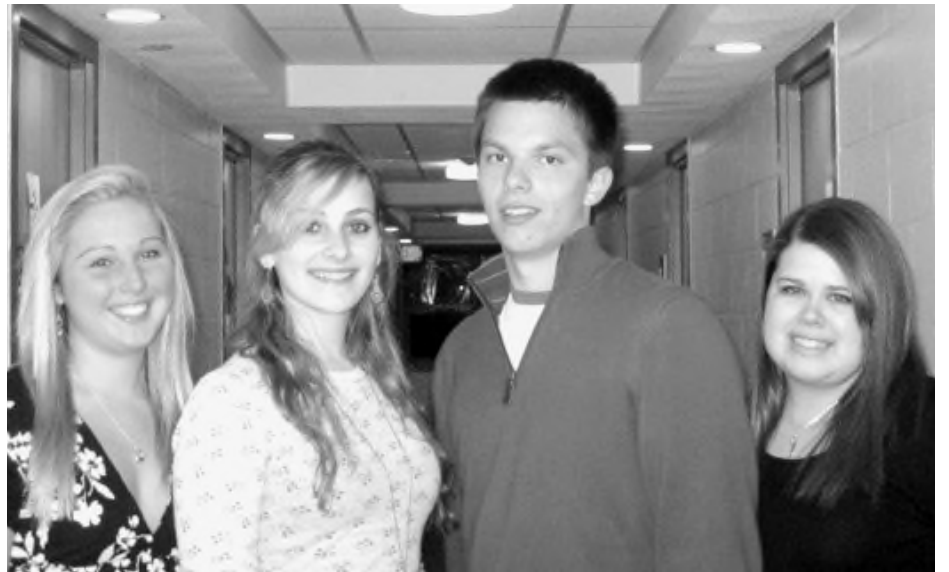
The group discussed its agenda for the rest of this academic year and for next year as well, setting some ambitious goals. Before the end of the semester the Ukrainian Society hopes to send a representative to the SUSTA (Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America) conference at Rutgers, sponsor a guest speaker in the middle of April, and take over the annual Ukrainian liturgy and reception in May.

Among the events planned for the next

academic year are two dances, a weekend at Soyuzivka, two liturgies, a panakhyda (requiem service) and memorial concert commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, a fund-raising performance by the dance group Syzokryli for a Ukrainian scholarship at Boston College, a Ukrainian cooking class, a pysanka workshop and several guest speakers.

The group also discussed several service projects and talked about hosting prospective Ukrainian high schools students interested in BC for a weekend on campus in conjunction with the college's Admissions Department; working with children from Ukraine in various Boston hospitals; and working with USA-USA to help students from Ukraine gain admission and financial aid to Boston College and other local universities.

Finally, the students decided to continue the book drive for the Ukrainian Catholic University and other universities in Ukraine for another academic year and they also voted to launch a petition drive asking BC administrators to include courses in the Ukrainian language, culture and history in the general



Officers of the newly founded Ukrainian Society of Boston College (from left): Laryssa Kramarchuk, vice-president; Deanna Rakowsky, president; Chris Rusyniak, treasurer; and Natalia Horbachevsky, secretary.

curriculum beginning in the fall semester.

For information about the Ukrainian Society at Boston College, readers may contact faculty advisor Peter Woloschuk

at: e-mail, wolop2032@aol.com; cell phone, 617-953-5281; and at the Boston College communication department, 617-552-4280.

## Boston College: a Ukrainian presence since the 1920s

by Peter Woloschuk

BOSTON – Boston College ranks third among Catholic universities in the United States and is among the top 30 of all full time, four-year liberal arts universities in the country. Although the first Ukrainian attended the university in the late 1920s, and there has been a Ukrainian presence on campus ever since, there was never any organized Ukrainian activity until the year 2000, although there have been at least two tenured Ukrainian faculty members at Boston College including Prof. Wolodymyr Bandera in economics and Prof. Andrew Buny in history.

Up until that time perhaps the most prominent Ukrainian at Boston College was Daniel Sullivan who played varsity football throughout his four years at the Heights in the mid-1960s and who went on to a distinguished career with the then Baltimore Colts. Sullivan's mother was Stephania (Stella) Zaborski of Savin Hill (Dorchester/Boston) and he grew up in a Ukrainian atmosphere; living in an apartment building that also housed his grandparents, his uncle and aunt and their families. Three years ago Sullivan was inducted into the BC Football Hall of Fame.

In the fall of 2000, the chair of the Slavic and Eastern languages depart-

ment, Prof. Michael J. Connolly, and Adjunct Prof. Peter T. Woloschuk, who teaches communications, came together and recommended that it was time for the university to have a visible presence of the Ukrainian students on the campus. The first step was to hold a Ukrainian Catholic liturgy once a semester in St. Mary Chapel, the university's main chapel, followed immediately by a reception featuring Ukrainian foods. Starting out with the attendance of some 50 students, the event has slowly grown and the liturgy for St. Nicholas' Day last December drew more than 150 students.

Since the beginning, the main celebrant of each of the liturgies has been Father James Morris, pastor of St. John Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Salem and a graduate of Boston College. At times there have been up to four concelebrants, including Jesuits who have biritual faculties and Father Michael Moisin, pastor of the Romanian Byzantine Rite mission in the greater Boston area.

Members of the Boston Ukrainian community have been very supportive of the effort. Students from the local School of Ukrainian Studies have done the readings at the liturgy in both English and Ukrainian, and choristers and parishioners from Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic

Parish in Boston have put together an ad hoc choir under the direction of Luba Gentek to sing the responses. Josephine Didiuk, Sophie Grintchenko, Oksana Kyrychok, Pelagia Bashenska, Zina Hajda, Nadia Hoshovska, Evgenia Oryskiv and Andriy Kekosh have been very generous with their time and culinary talents, and have helped prepare the foods for each of the receptions.

Over time a group of Ukrainian students has slowly formed and in addition to the liturgies, two exhibitions of the photographic work of Tania Mychajlyshyn D'Avignon have been held – one showing scenes and people of the various regions of Ukraine and the second highlighting the Orange Revolution; a general exhibition of Ukrainian art and culture was launched in conjunction with the Slavic department and remained on display for an entire academic year; a concert of Ukrainian songs was given by the Kyivan male quartet Yavir; a reception was held for Sister Anatolia Dmytryshyn, superior and coordinator of development for the new motherhouse of the Sisters of the Most Holy Family in Hoshiv, who spoke about her participation in the events of the Orange Revolution in Kyiv; and a group of 10 students, assisted by Larissa D'Avignon Poliakov, dressed in Ukrainian embroidered shirts and blouses and accompanied by two professors, visited the president of the university, Father William Leahy, SJ, and presented him with a small basket decorated with Ukrainian embroidered Easter "rushnyky" and containing a small paska and eight pysanky after Easter last year. The school photographer was on hand for the presentation, and BC's homepage featured pictures of the basket for the next month.

A decision was made in the fall of 2004 to allow students to fulfill their language requirement with Ukrainian if they took an exam to show a sufficient level of proficiency.

In December 2006 Father Boris Gudziak, Ph.D., rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, was invited to BC and had two separate meetings with Father Leahy. As a result, Boston College has agreed to partner with UCU. Students who desire will be able to do a semester abroad in



St. Nicholas student liturgy at Boston College.

Rev. Vasile Tofanu, SJ

(Continued on page 17)

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## Did the West...?

(Continued from page 2)

prime minister.  
"The Orange Revolution alliance quarreled so much, it didn't have the sort of inner dynamism to create a government of its own," said Eugeniusz Smolar of the Warsaw-based Center for International Relations, who says he watched the months of haggling with a mixture of "sympathy and horror." The fighting, he says, "destroyed, on the one hand, the cohesion – and, on the other hand, some of the support – of the population toward the government."

Some analysts and politicians suggest the West could have done more to support pro-European forces in Ukraine by expediting the country's bid to join Western institutions like the World Trade Organization, the European Union and NATO.

Brussels, which acknowledges expansion fatigue, has been firm in its refusal to bolster Ukraine's hopes of membership. But U.S. President George W. Bush on April 10 signed legislation backing NATO membership for five countries, including Ukraine.

The fact remains, however, that Ukraine's eastern regions remain largely loyal to Russia, which adamantly opposes NATO expansion. As a result, Ukraine itself is deeply divided over whether it wants to join either the EU or NATO. Some polls have indicated that most Ukrainians would reject membership in either if the issue was put to a referendum. "There is quite a large group of public opinion in Ukraine that is not terribly interested in joining the European Union, understanding that it has an important economic, social and cultural interest in staying close to Russia," says Mr. Smolar.

So did the West fail, or was it Ukraine? "It's a complex situation," Mr. Smolar says. "I believe that the Ukrainian public and the Ukrainian elite didn't do enough. Whether the West could do more ... I believe it could do more, but I am not sure it could do much more."

Ukraine's inconstancy regarding the West may prove an inconvenience elsewhere in the former Soviet Union – particularly in Georgia, whose NATO bid also got President Bush's blessing this week.

Georgia kicked off the wave of colored revolutions with its 2003 Rose Revolution, and President Mikheil Saakashvili has traditionally kept close ties with Ukraine's President Yushchenko. But Prof. Legvold at Columbia University says Georgia's own Western ambitions may be hampered by the ongoing Ukrainian stalemate. "I don't see any prospect that Georgia can be considered for NATO membership – even if it seems in some fashion more qualified – until the Ukrainian issue is settled," he says. "You can't jump over Ukraine and address the Georgian question separately." Ultimately, U.S. and EU support for Mr. Yushchenko and Ukraine's pro-Western forces may also be muted because the current composition of the Ukrainian government is the product of elections that were universally judged to be among the fairest and cleanest in post-Soviet Ukraine. The Orange Revolution had a clear villain in Mr. Yanukovich, whose backers blatantly falsified election results. This time around, he is the legitimate head of government and leads the most popular party in the country.

Marek Siwiec, deputy chairman of the European Parliament, said on April 11 that Mr. Yushchenko can no longer expect the unequivocal Western support he enjoyed in 2004. "All parties have a legal democratic mandate now," Mr. Siwiec said. And that makes a "huge difference."

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

situation where the president approves a decision to disband the Parliament based on his personal political preferences instead of the law," Mr. Yanukovich said. President Viktor Yushchenko said the same day in Brussels that the Constitutional Court's decision alone will not solve the crisis. "There are a number of political decisions that should be found outside the court," he added. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Court attempts to continue hearings

KYIV – The Constitutional Court of Ukraine on the morning of April 18 could not start its hearings into the constitutionality of the president's decree to dissolve the Verkhovna Rada because it was lacking a quorum, the CC press service reported. Only six judges had arrived as of 9:30 a.m.; to carry on the hearing at least 12 judges are needed. (Ukrinform)

### Change of venue for CC?

KYIV – The first vice-chairman of the Constitutional Court, Ivan Pshenychnyi, said on April 18 that he believes it is possible that the court's sittings could be moved to another venue. He said this was possible since the majority of the court's judges could not gain entry into the court's building. National Deputy Yuriy Miroshnychenko of the Party of the Regions said 30 men who are security officers for national deputies of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc blocked the side entrance. In addition, some 200 members of the Bars and Berkut special forces are gathered near the building and 500 supporters of the ruling coalition continue to hold public meetings near the entrance to the court. At the same time, some 3,500 supporters of the Our Ukraine People's Union, the Tymoshenko Bloc and the People's Self-Defense are blocking the main entrance into the Constitutional Court. (Ukrayinski Novyny)

### President urges decree's enforcement

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko met on April 16 in Kyiv with the heads of law enforcement agencies and called on them to systematically implement his decrees, in particular the one dissolving the Verkhovna Rada, Interfax reported. "Don't waste time. The president has endorsed the decree. I expect you to implement that decree efficiently. It is your function to demonstrate to [Ukraine's] 48 million citizens that the law works in Ukraine and that the fundamental human right to vote will be realized," Mr. Yushchenko said. The president also asked the Procurator General's Office to formulate a clear-cut position on decisions by some regional councils to formally reject his decree dissolving the Parliament. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Yushchenko and EC president meet

BRUSSELS, Belgium – President Viktor Yushchenko met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels on April 17, the presidential press service told Ukrinform. The two men spoke about the political crisis in Ukraine and ways to develop the country's ties with the European Union. Speaking about the situation in Ukraine, Mr. Yushchenko said during a joint press conference, "Ukraine will find a democratic response to this challenge." He added that Ukraine's political leaders would most probably compromise on the need to pass an opposition law and a law based on the Universal of National Unity, adopt changes to the Cabinet law and create a commission to amend the Constitution. "The integral component of how to resolve the crisis is an early election," he reiterated. President Yushchenko characterized the situation in Ukraine as democratic, saying that the country should react to challenges on its democratic path

lawfully and politically. He promised again there would be no use of force to settle the situation. When asked about the role of the Constitutional Court in helping end the standoff, Mr. Yushchenko expressed confidence that "each side of the conflict will accept a ruling by the Constitutional Court," but added that there were some nuances that should be resolved politically. Mr. Barroso said Ukraine should settle the crisis both politically and constitutionally, for "it is always possible to find a flexible solution and make compromises through constitutional means." He said Europe was closely monitoring developments in Ukraine. "Our message to Ukraine and its people is that we support democracy and stability in Ukraine," he said. (Ukrinform)

### PM says he and president have one goal

STRASBOURG, France – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said he believes he supports the president's goal to develop Ukraine, it was reported on April 17. He offered those comments at a press conference in Strasbourg, France, after a meeting with Council of Europe General Secretary Terry Davis. Mr. Yanukovich stressed that both he and the president seek a common goal: to develop independent Ukraine and promote its Euro-integration. As far as regulation of the current conflict is concerned, Mr. Yanukovich said he and the president have different opinions. "The main idea is for democracy and the rule of law to win. I believe we should operate within this field," the prime minister said. (Ukrinform)

### Our Ukraine approves election list

KYIV – The fifth congress of Our Ukraine, which took place in Kyiv on April 16, has approved a 450-strong election list. The decision was backed by 589 delegates; two voted against and six abstained. The list of candidates was approved in alphabetical order, the priority will be approved during the second stage of the party congress. In addition to Our Ukraine members, the list also includes Chairman of the Poltava Regional State Administration Valerii Asadchev, musician Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, Vladyslav Kaskiv, national deputies of the Rada's 4th convocation Ivan Pliusch and Georgii Manchulenko, and UNIAN President Iryna Heraschenko. The Our Ukraine congress resolved to include on the list Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko, while the head of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, Oleksii Ivchenko, was excluded. (Ukrinform)

### YTB congress opens in Kyiv

KYIV – The capital city played host to an inter-party congress of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc on April 16. The congress was attended by 252 delegates from all over Ukraine. The rally was supposed to approve the list of candidates from the bloc. The YTB is expected to embrace the Batkivschyna (Fatherland) Party, Reforms and Order and the Ukrainian Social-Democratic Party. (Ukrinform)

### Ukrainian Right picks top three

KYIV – The top three on the election list of the Rukh-Ukrainian Right Wing includes the leaders of the political parties that have entered the political force, including Borys Tarasyuk of the People's Movement of Ukraine (Rukh), Yuriy Kostenko of the Ukrainian People's Party and Anatolii Matviyenko of the Ukrainian Republican Party Sobor. The bloc will hold an interparty rally to distribute shares among political parties. Mr. Tarasyuk did not rule out the possibility that the bloc will comprise individual politicians. Mr. Matviyenko called establishment of the Ukrainian Right bloc a move toward creation of the single national-democratic bloc. (Ukrinform)

### Lutsenko election bloc established

KYIV – At an inter-party congress of the

Forward Ukraine party and the Christian-Democratic Union, the political bloc People's Self-Defense Yuriy Lutsenko's was established. Its founding act was signed by Yuriy Lutsenko, Volodymyr Stretovych and Viktor Musiyaka, respective leaders of the political forces People's Self-Defense, Christian-Democratic Union and Forward Ukraine. According to chairman of the bloc's political council, ex-Minister of Internal Affairs Lutsenko, "we stand for social democracy in social politics, for liberal steps in economics and conservative Christian approaches in morality and spirituality." Mr. Lutsenko commented that these approaches must speed up Ukraine's development and its European prospects. The bloc's program focuses on changes in law enforcement, the judiciary and anti-monopoly bodies of Ukraine. According to Mr. Lutsenko, the new political force is open to cooperation with Our Ukraine and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. (Ukrinform)

### President offers action plan to PM

KYIV – During their April 10 meeting, President Viktor Yushchenko offered Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich a 15-point action plan to resolve the political crisis in Ukraine, Interfax reported on April 11. Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich agreed not to publish details of the plan before a decision by Yanukovich supporters on how to proceed. Mr. Yushchenko said that one part of the plan concerns accurately assessing the steps that led to the crisis. "The second part is substantial. This is the essence of the compromises we should take in the context of effects of the decree on the Verkhovna Rada's dissolution to rebalance the system of power," Mr. Yushchenko said. "The third part is dedicated to systematic consultations, which should be resumed between the political forces in the Parliament," he added. (RFE/RL Newline)

### PM wants simultaneous elections

KYIV – Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said while addressing supporters of the ruling coalition at an April 11 rally in Kyiv that early parliamentary elections in Ukraine are possible if they are held simultaneously with early presidential elections, Interfax reported. "If elections are held, they should be held simultaneously – both parliamentary and presidential – and they should be held within the framework of law," Mr. Yanukovich said. He also warned his supporters that early elections could result in the previous government returning to power. Mr. Yanukovich later told journalists that President Viktor Yushchenko should not enforce his decree dissolving Parliament until the Constitutional Court rules on its compliance with the Constitution. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Holovaty: hold off on negotiations

KYIV – National Deputy Serhii Holovaty said he believes the ruling coalition and the Cabinet of Ministers should not negotiate with the president on his 15 demands, it was reported on April 12. Speaking at a Verkhovna Rada session, he added that negotiations are impossible until the president cancels his order on the dissolution of the Rada. Mr. Holovaty also noted that the president said his dissolution of the Rada was ordered because of a threat of national security. "I just can't understand how the Verkhovna Rada, being legally elected, could threaten the national security of Ukraine," Mr. Holovaty said. A former member of Our Ukraine, Mr. Holovaty shifted to the majority coalition. He is a vice-president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and a member of the Venice Commission Bureau. (Ukrinform)



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

(Continued from page 24)

announce that this year's Vasyi and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture will be given by Tatiana Tairova-Iakovleva, professor of Ukrainian history and director of the Center for Ukrainian Studies, St. Petersburg State University. Her lecture will be held at 4-6 p.m. in Room S-020 (Belfer Case Study Room) 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.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Friday, June 15

**ROCK HALL, Md.:** The Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. (UANAI) will hold its annual three-day Chesapeake Sail on June 15-17. If you have your own boat, we'd love to have you join us. We have chartered two sailboats. A few crew spots are still available (cost: \$335/person). For further details, please contact Petro at 610-225-0211 or e-mail June07Sail@uanai.com.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication 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](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com).

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## SPORTSLINE

(Continued from page 12)

retain his WBA international welterweight title. Despite a cut over his forehead and significant facial swelling, he remained in the fight and maintained a strong pace. At the end of the bout, all three judges voted in favor of the Ukrainian.

• The proposed WBC title bout between Vitali Klitschko (35-2, 34 KO) and Oleg Maskaev (34-5, 26 KO) has been changed, and Klitschko will not face Maskaev as was originally planned. Maskaev will fight Samuel Peter (28-1, 22 KO) of Nigeria, the next scheduled contender, with Klitschko, WBC champion emeritus, taking on the winner of that match later this year. The decision ends months of wrangling between Klitschko and Peter, which included the Nigerian refusing \$2.5 million to step aside and let the Ukrainian sign for a lucrative title bout in Moscow.

• Ukrainian bantamweight boxer Wladimir Sidorenko (18-0-1, 6 KO) retained his WBA title in a 12-round bout against Ricardo Cordoba in Hamburg, Germany, on March 11. The judges' close decision had two judges declaring a tie at 114 each, while one marked 118:111 for Sidorenko. Later this year Sidorenko will face Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym of Thailand, who in 2005 beat Cordoba in a split decision.

• Wladimir Klitschko (48-3, 43 KO) will defend his IBF heavyweight title against Lamon Brewster (33-3, 29 KO) on July 7 in Cologne, Germany, according to an announcement by Klitschko's management on April 16. Brewster stopped Klitschko in the fifth round in April 2004. Brewster, who lost his last fight a year ago in a 12-round decision, said, "I will knock out Klitschko again, and no one will be able to say the first one was a fluke."

## Gymnastics

Members of Ukraine's gymnastics team visited St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School in Minersville, Pa., on March 23. Marina Proskurnia, 21, Valentina Holenkove, 14, and coach Svetlana Skrypchuk were in the area for the Pottsville Gymnastic Training Center-sponsored Friendship Classic on March 23-25. Proskurnia won second place in the Senior Elite division, winning second place in vault, uneven bars and balance beam. Holenkove won first place in the Junior Elite division, winning second place in vault and uneven bars, and first in balance beam.

## Cycling

Ukrainian cycling champion Yaroslav Popovych, 27, won the fifth stage of the Paris-Nice race, which stretches 178 kilometers from Sorgues to Manosque, France. Popovych, who rides with the Discovery Channel team, said of his breakaway from the pack, "I attacked because I saw the others were tired. It's the kind of stage I like, with bumps and changes of pace, but not so hard as yesterday when the last climb was too grueling for me." The Discovery Channel team also includes Levi Leipheimer and Alberto Contador, who were recognized as the third best team overall. Popovych finished the 1260.2-kilometer race in 44th place while his teammates Contador and Leipheimer finished fifth and sixth overall, respectively.

## Figure Skating

Ukrainian pairs figure skaters Tatiana Volosozhar and Stanislav Morozov won fourth place with a score of 173.62 at the 2007 World Figure Skating Championships in Tokyo, on March 20-25.

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Friday Evening:  
Saturday Evening:  
Sunday Morning,

Welcoming Hospitality Reception  
Legal Presentations & Election of Officers & Board  
Reception at the Ukrainian Embassy  
Gala 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Banquet  
Meeting of the Newly Elected Officers and Board

**The Madison Hotel reservations:** Call (800) 424-8577 for a special UABA rate of \$159/night, limited availability.

**UABA Convention Registration:** Register and pay your membership dues online at [www.uaba.org](http://www.uaba.org) or send with your check to: George Pazuniak, Esq. UABA Treasurer. Current members who pre-register by August 15, 2007 will be entitled to discounted registration fees. Please register *separately* for the Friday Evening Embassy of Ukraine Reception, limited capacity.

**UABA-related questions:**

Contact UABA President, Andrew Pidgirsky, Esq. at (713) 308-0138, or Board Chairman, Andrew E. Stecki, Esq. at (215) 564-2466.



## UNWLA branch in Florida celebrates two anniversaries

by Ann-Marie Susla

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Milena Rudnycky Branch 56 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) in North Port, Fla., celebrated the 80th anniversary of the UNWLA and the 15th anniversary of the branch at a banquet and dance, "Vyshyvani Vechernytsi," at St. Mary Parish Hall on Saturday, February 17.

Guests were welcomed by Iwana Holowata, president of Branch 56, and by Iwana Martynetz, vice-president and committee chairwoman. The guest of honor was Iryna Kurowyckyj, president of the UNWLA, accompanied by her husband, Jaroslaw. Lida Bilous, the mistress of ceremonies, spoke of the personal friendship she and Mrs. Kurowyckyj share and of the numerous achievements of this remarkable woman.

In addition to leading the UNWLA, Mrs. Kurowyckyj was vice-president of the National Council of Women – U.S.A. and is the representative for the International Council of Women to the United Nations, where she has been honored for her work on human rights, especially on women's issues, family affairs, mental health issues and UNICEF.

In her address to the assembled guests, Mrs. Kurowyckyj touched on the history behind the formation of the UNWLA and of its relationship with the National Council of Women – U.S.A., the International Council of Women and, most recently, with the National Council of Women – Ukraine.

The UNWLA has worked diligently throughout its history in educating the world about the plight of Ukraine and its people under its occupation by foreign governments, Mrs. Kurowyckyj noted. It continues to educate the world about the tragedy of the Holodomor and Akcja



UNWLA Branch 56 presents a gift to the organization's national headquarters; from left are: Iwana Martynetz, Iryna Kurowyckyj, Dr. Maria Dycio and Iwana Holowata.

Wisla and even now is part of the campaign to save the 12th century Church of St. Cyril of Alexandria in Kyiv from destruction.

She spoke proudly of the role of the UNWLA in the founding and continued support of The Ukrainian Museum in New York and of its publication of the monthly journal, Our Life.

The UNWLA president concluded by commending the work of North Port Branch 56 for its continuous hard work and many achievements, and presented the Milena Rudnycky Branch with an award of appreciation.

Roxolana Yarymovich concluded the speeches with a summary of the accomplishments of Branch 56, chief among them the purchase of a mobile mini-clinic for the Children's Hospital in Lviv and the hosting of the UNWLA national con-

vention in 2002. In addition, she noted that the branch presents educational and cultural programs locally, and is a viable and strong presence in the southwest Florida community.

In its 15 years of existence, Branch 56

has raised over \$120,000 for the various causes of the UNWLA, including its scholarship fund and funds to aid the needy. Mrs. Yarymovich gave special acknowledgement to the 18 women who founded the Milena Rudnycky branch 15 years ago.

The evening continued with the colorful Vyshyvani Vechernytsi as the guests danced in beautiful Ukrainian embroidered dresses, blouses and shirts to the music of Merena.

The 80th anniversary of the UNWLA and the 15th anniversary of Branch 56 continued to be commemorated at a special meeting held at St. Mary Parish Hall on Monday morning, February 19, as the members gathered to hear Mrs. Kurowyckyj speak in further detail of the achievements of the UNWLA, its current agenda and its plans for future endeavors.

She commended the hard work and successes of Branch 56, noting that its purchase of a mobile mini-clinic for Lviv inspires the UNWLA to work toward providing another for the children who are suffering from the Chornobyl disaster. Mrs. Kurowyckyj also took questions and comments from the floor and thanked the women of the Milena Rudnycky Branch of the UNWLA for a beautiful and successful anniversary celebration.

### Boston College...

(Continued from page 13)

Lviv and get full academic credit for it; financial officers from UCU will come to BC's Carroll School of Management for training, and BC, in cooperation with the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), has begun sending scholarly works and textbooks to UCU. To date, the value of these books is approaching \$15,000.

The students at Boston College are for-

tunate because HURI is less than five miles away and serves as a tremendous resource. HURI Associate Director Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, Executive Director Tymish Holowinsky and Programs Administrator Tamara Hutnik Nary have been especially supportive, lending materials and participating in events at Boston College.

After the St. Nicholas liturgy and reception in December 2006, students at Boston College began to discuss the possibility of setting up a Ukrainian students club on campus.

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## A tribute to Prof. Taissa Bohdanska, accomplished pianist and pedagogue

by Adriana Helbig

NEW YORK – When I pause to think about people who have worked hard throughout their lives to share their love of Ukrainian music with others, Prof. Taissa Bohdanska crowns the top of my list. Prof. Bohdanska has worked tirelessly to ensure the continued success of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America, which she helped found in 1952. For more than 55 years, she has devoted herself to her piano students, referring to them affectionately as her children.

I remember my teacher as selfless, optimistic and full of jokes. April Fool's Day continues, in her 80th year of life, to be her favorite holiday. She was always ready, at a moment's notice, to walk the few blocks from her house to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School on Sanford Ave. in Newark, N.J., to play for choir rehearsals for Shevchenko programs, Christmas concerts, etc.

Because I grew up very close to both the school and Prof. Bohdanska's house, her walks often took her to our house as well, twice a week, to be exact. Indeed, particularly during my teenage years, it seemed to me that Prof. Bohdanska appeared ... everywhere.

During my year studying abroad at the Conservatorium der Stadt Wien where she had studied more than 50 years prior with Profs. Hans Neff, Andrij Korolkow, and the prominent concert pianist and pedagogue Prof. Roland Raupenstrauch, Prof. Bohdanska sent me a box of her signature cookies to honor our more than 20-year tradition of celebrating my birthday together (my first piano lesson was on my fifth birthday).

Born in Lviv, Prof. Bohdanska began her studies with Madame Tetiana Lepka in Stanislaviv, today's Ivano-Frankivsk, and continued with the distinguished pedagogue Prof. Roman Sawycky at the Lysenko Music Institute in Lviv. She graduated from the Conservatorium der Stadt Wien with honors in 1951, moving to the United States thereafter.

Residing in Newark since 1952, Prof. Bohdanska has played an instrumental role in shaping the musical life of the Ukrainian community in the New York metropolitan area. She has been a faculty member of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America, serving as its president for many years. She also has been a member of the Music Educators Association of New Jersey, and of the Associated Music Teachers League of New York Inc. Noted colleagues have included Jan Gorbaty, Seymour Bernstein, and many other distinguished professional pianists and music teachers.

Prof. Bohdanska has enjoyed a successful career as a performing artist, giving concerts in Newark, Philadelphia, New York, Miami, Rochester, Toronto, Grand Cayman, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Curacao. In 1976 she made a successful debut in Carnegie Recital Hall that received critical acclaim in The New York Times.

She also released two piano albums: in 1983, the first recording of Ukrainian piano works presented by a Ukrainian pianist in the West, and in 1987, an album featuring three piano sonatas by Beethoven, recorded in loving memory of her husband, Petro.

In 1993 Prof. Bohdanska returned to her native Ukraine with a series of concerts in Lviv, Sambir, Ivano-Frankivsk



Pianist and pedagogue Taissa Bohdanska

and Drohobych, and performances at the Kyiv Conservatory and the Lysenko Museum in Kyiv. Ending the concert tour in Vienna, she returned the following year for her solo debut with the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2000 she returned to Lviv once again with a solo program that featured works by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Kosenko and Kos-Anatolsky and performed to critical acclaim Beethoven's Piano Concerto in C Major, Op.15 with the Lviv Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of maestro Ivan Yuziuk.

To describe her in musical terms, one might say that Prof. Bohdanska exhibits the temperament and perseverance of Beethoven. In her playing, she embod-

ies the emotional depth of Mendelssohn and the ethnic drive of Kos-Anatolsky. Yet perhaps it is wrong to seek musical parallels for Prof. Bohdanska from the past – because Prof. Bohdanska has always lived in the presence of each moment, reveling in her love for those around her.

In my piano bench, I still keep the numerous booklets of piano parts that Prof. Bohdanska wrote out during my elementary school days when I accompanied the choir at St. John School. For me, these booklets served as patriotic excuses to joyfully play Ukrainian folk songs rather than stress over the polyphonic complexities of Bach's fugues. Whatever significance they truly held for me then, today they bear testament to Prof. Bohdanska's endless talent, devotion and sincerity of cause.

Rather than draw symbolism from her beloved piano to attest to the continuation of her life's melodies that each of her students carries forth, my thoughts turn to the bells of St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church. Let their chimes remind us that when we consider the contributions of extraordinary personalities from our community such as Prof. Bohdanska, it serves to remember that oftentimes, a single note can ring louder than a symphony.

A concert honoring Prof. Bohdanska's professional achievements and her 80th birthday, the 55th anniversary of the Ukrainian Music Institute, and the 100th anniversary of Prof. Roman Sawycky's birth (1907-2007), will be held on Sunday, April 29, at 3 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home in Irvington, N.J. All are invited to come celebrate with us.

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## NOTES ON PEOPLE

### Skiers shine at Vermont races

CANTON, Mass. – Katia and Damian Kozak, children of Andrij and Christa Kozak of Canton, Mass., have raced for the Ascutney Mountain Ski Team in Vermont for several years, and their training was rewarded this year.

Katia placed eighth among J4 girls (age 11-12) and Damian placed fourth among J5 boys (age 9-10) in the final regular season slalom race held on March 4 at the Suicide Six Ski Area.

Ascutney racers compete in the Mid-Vermont Council of the Vermont Alpine Racing Association. Teams from Ascutney, Killington, Middlebury, Okemo, Pico, Quechee and Suicide Six ski areas compete in eight races held at the various ski resorts during the winter.

They earn place points at each of

female racers from Vermont competed. Her combined time in giant slalom put her in 24th place. She was close to a similar performance in slalom when she hooked a gate, lost a ski, and was forced off the course.

Katia's and Damian's ski season ended with a final race at Loon Mountain in New Hampshire, where they competed in the Mountain Dew Vertical Challenge (MDVC) race, a series of races held at 35 different ski areas during the course of the 2006-2007 season. The top three racers, in each age group, from each ski area, were then invited to the finals held at Loon Mountain. At the finals, Damian finished second among the 7- to 9-year-old boys, and Katia came in third among the 10- to 12-year-old girls.

Both skiers are members of Ukrainian National Association Branch 134, as well as Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.



Katia and Damian Kozak with their coach, Kurt Meyerrose.

these races. Based on the seasons' race results, the top-ranked racers from Southern, Mid-and Northern Vermont Councils are then invited to the state championship.

Damian won the "Attack from the Back" medal for the second consecutive week. This is awarded to the racer who has the best finish compared to his overall ranking.

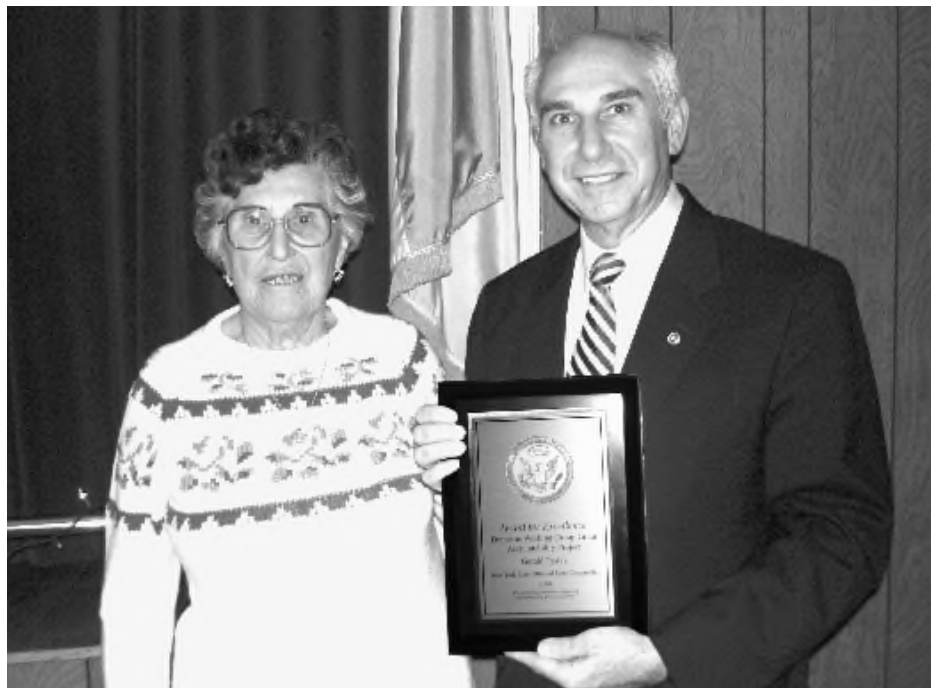
Katia was named to the Vermont State Team and raced in the J4 Vermont State Championships held on March 10-11 at Burke Mountain, in which 68 of the top

### Manager honored at D.C. ceremony

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – Slavko Tysiak, manager, New York State Office of the State Comptroller in Albany, N.Y., was presented with an "Award for Excellence" from the President's Council

Opportunities for improving Grant Accountability,' should become an essential reference to all those who work in the administration and management of grant programs."

Mr. Tysiak, a longtime member of the Ukrainian National Association, is chairman of the UNA Auditing Committee, having been elected an auditor at the 2006 UNA Convention



Slavko Tysiak with his mother, Kalyna Tysiak.

on Integrity and Efficiency. The presentation was made during the ninth annual awards ceremony in Washington on October 24, 2006.

Mr. Tysiak's hard work, commitment and participation in one of the largest intergovernmental audit projects ever undertaken was a great success. Participants from 19 federal, four state, and two local agencies were part of the Domestic Working Group Grant Accountability Project, in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was the lead agency.

In a letter to Mr. Tysiak, the inspector general noted: "Your active participation on this project led to much discussion and great interest in the audit community. Already, organizations have begun to request oral presentations and copies of this handy reference tool. This successful and high demand document, 'Guide to

held at Soyuzivka. Mr. Tysiak is also president of St. Nicholas Brotherhood (UNA Branch 13) in Watervliet, N.Y., and secretary of the UNA's Albany District.

He is also very active in other Ukrainian organizations. Last year he was appointed to the supervisory committee of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, and serves as trustee of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club in Watervliet.

Mr. Tysiak was acknowledged by the Ukrainian community in Watervliet during a dinner on December 9, 2006, sponsored by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the Ukrainian American Citizens Club, when club President Nicholas Fil showed Mr. Tysiak's recently awarded plaque to the public and congratulated him for his hard work and dedication to excellence.

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Інші обмеження включені

"Notes on People" is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian community. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person's UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt.

# SUMMER CAMPS AT SOYUZIVKA!

## TENNIS CAMP AGES 10-18

Intensive two weeks instruction and competitive play directed by George Sawchak. Limited to 45 participants.

Weeks: June 24– July 6, 2007  
\$670 UNA Members  
\$720 Non UNA Members

## EXPLORATION DAY CAMP AGES 7-10

Six hours of fun-filled activities in this day camp, which focuses on the outdoors.

Session 1: June 25– June 29, 2007  
Session 2: July 2– July 6, 2007  
\$100/per week or \$25/per day

## PLAST CAMP-TABIR PTASHAT

A Plast day camp held at Soyuzivka. Please contact Plast for registration & Soyuzivka for room bookings.

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

## ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY UKRAINIAN DANCE WORKSHOP AGES 16 and UP



For over 30 years, Workshop has been a popular summer dance program and this year it will be held at Soyuzivka! Continuing her mom's legacy, this workshop will be directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych. Campers hard work will be highlighted at our Ukrainian Film & Cultural Festival weekend.

Session : July 1– July 15, 2007  
\$910- UNA Members  
\$960- Non UNA Members

**A \$75 deposit is required to register a child into camp (For Sitch camp- register directly with Sitch Sports School. For Plast camp- register directly with Plast) For more information & for camp applications call: (845) 626-5641 or check out our website at: [www.Soyuzivka.com](http://www.Soyuzivka.com)**



## UKRAINIAN HERITAGE DAY CAMP AGES 4-7

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

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

## DISCOVERY CAMP AGES 8-15

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

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

## SCUBA DIVING COURSE AGES 12-ADULTS

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

Pre registration is required.

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

## UKRAINIAN "SITCH" SPORTS CAMP AGES 6-18

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

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

## ROMA PRYMA BOHACHEVSKY UKRAINIAN DANCE CAMP AGES 8-16

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

Session 1: July 22– August 4, 2007  
Session 2: August 5– 18, 2007  
\$910- UNA Members  
\$960- Non UNA Members



## Ukrainian League of Philadelphia to host Spring 2007 Art Show

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia will host its Spring 2007 Art Show on Friday, April 27, and Sunday, April 29. The Art Show, featuring artists of Ukrainian ancestry, will be held in the upstairs hall, at the following times: April 27, 6-9 p.m., and April 29, 2-6 p.m.

A wine and cheese opening reception for the participating artists will take place on Friday at 7 p.m. Additionally, the league will be participating in the Fairmount Arts Crawl on Sunday, April 29. The Fairmount Arts Crawl is a community-based open house where the entire Philadelphia Art Museum area is transformed into a showplace for local art and music, displayed in restaurants, bars, cafés and other local businesses.

This year the Ukrainian League's Art Show will be exhibiting jewelry and art. The following artists are scheduled to participate.

- Tamara Farion graduated from the Philadelphia College of Textiles with a bachelor's degree in textile design. She held a management position with Klein's Co. for 20 years. She lived for two years in Singapore where she also studied the art of jewelry design and observed old world craftsmanship from some of the finest gemologists and designers. While in Singapore, Ms. Farion became a certified senior instructor for art clay silver. Already an established master of beadwork, this newly acquired skill enabled her to take her jewelry designs to a new level. In 2003 she partnered with Maita Shinefiled and started a business called Emunah Designs. They can be seen at [www.EmunahDesigns.com](http://www.EmunahDesigns.com) and are found in many galleries in the U.S. Ms. Farion's studio is located a few miles outside of Philadelphia, in Gwynedd Valley.

- George Litynsky works as a graphic artist in Philadelphia. He began doing art in elementary school, when he took private lessons and studied under Susan Wilson at the Painter's Nest in Warminster, Pa. He later graduated with a B.S. in art education from Kutztown University. Now he teaches at Today Inc. His drawings were published in RELIX magazine. Most of his work consists of drawing done in black and white, using media such as pencil, charcoal pencil and colored pencil. Mr. Litynsky focuses on individual and musical themes; he attempts to captivate the viewer by incorporating subliminal images. Mr. Litynsky

also constructs and designs recreational tables for festive occasions.

- Yuriy S. Horechyy was born in Ukraine in 1959. He was introduced to photography in high school as a member of the photo club. From 1977 to 1982 he studied electro-mechanical engineering at Lviv Polytechnic Institute. His love for photography stayed alive and during the same period he volunteered as a photo reporter for a university newspaper. He and his family moved to the United States in 2000. In 2005 he was the winner of a National Photo Awards Annual Photo Contest. He was also a finalist in the 25th Annual Spring Photography Contest sponsored by Photographer's Forum Magazine. In 2006 he won awards in two categories in the National Photo Awards Annual Photo Contest. Mr. Horechyy explains: "Photography for me is a feeling, a moment of life that I can bring back home and enjoy. Every picture has an amazing story to it. Life moves too quickly, and I'm glad that I have my camera with me to make the fleeting moments last for a lifetime."

- For the past five years, Nina Sofia Bilynsky has produced artwork stemming either from an internal source of inspiration or from external observation. She has begun to create work that involves a combination of the two. In addition, she is experimenting with various disciplines and media: stimulating assortments of 3-D construction, needlework, acrylic painting, bookmaking, digital photography and technology manipulation, as well as salvaged discarded items and more. She will receive her B.A. in art with a studio concentration from Temple University in the spring of this year.

Much of the exhibited jewelry and art work in the show are available for purchase or special order.

\* \* \*

The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia was founded in 1917 to organize American citizens of Ukrainian descent and to cultivate respect for the Constitution of the United States of America. The Ukrainian League works to preserve Ukrainian culture and offers its membership a forum that cultivates social consciousness among Ukrainians. This year the league is celebrating its 90th anniversary. For information readers may log on to [www.ukiebar.com](http://www.ukiebar.com) and [www.fairmountartscrawl.org](http://www.fairmountartscrawl.org).

## Second annual 'Ukrainian Night' to be held at Cornelia Café

NEW YORK – The world-famous Cornelia Street Café in New York's West Village will host a second annual "Ukrainian Night" on Saturday, May 5, at 6-11 p.m. with two separate programs that will showcase Ukrainian-related films, poetry and fiction in English and Ukrainian.

Irene Zabytko, award-winning fiction author of "The Sky Unwashed" and "When Luba Leaves Home, Stories," and the forthcoming "She Was Exotic and Strange," and Alexander Motyl, author of "Whiskey Priest" and "Who Killed Andrei Warhol" will host the evening.

The evening's first set (6-8:30 p.m.) will feature readings by Pushcart Prize-winning poet Dzvinia Orlowksy, author of "A Handful of Bees," "Edge of House," "Except for One Obscene Brushstroke" and the forthcoming "Convertible Night, Flurry of Stone." Films by cinematographer and director Andriy Parekh, winner of the Grand Marnier Prize, New York Film Festival for his Ukrainian short, "Roosters," will be featured. Also, producer and director Roxy Toporowych will show excerpts from her first feature-length documentary, "Folk!," about Ukrainian dancers who studied with the renowned choreographer Roma Pryma Bohachevsky.

The second set (9-11 p.m.) will include readings by Ms. Orlowksy and by the Shevchenko Scientific Society's resident poet and playwright, Vasyly Mahkno,

author of "38 Poems About New York and Other Things," and the play "Coney Island." Ukrainian Studies professor and director of the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University, Yuri Shevchuk, will present recent films from Ukraine.

Readings by Ms. Zabytko and Dr. Motyl will be featured throughout the evening.

Admission is \$10 per set, which includes one house drink. DVDs and books will be available for purchase. The café is located at 29 Cornelia St. and can be reached via the 1, 9, A, C, E and F subway lines. For more information contact [www.corneliastreetcafe.com](http://www.corneliastreetcafe.com) or [ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu](mailto:ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu).

\* \* \*

The Cornelia Street Café is an award-winning restaurant and New York City landmark that also houses a famous performance space in the downstairs section where the tradition of theater, performance, music and poetry is alive and well. The café has presented an enormous variety of artists, from singer-songwriter Suzanne Vega to poet-senator Eugene McCarthy, from members of Monty Python to the members of the Royal Shakespeare Company. It also has offered a performance home to the Songwriters Exchange, the Writers Room, the Writers Studio, the Greek-American Writers Association, the Italian-American Writers Association, the New Works Project/Theater and many others.

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## The composition...

(Continued from page 3)

Poroshenko's battle with Ms. Tymoshenko over the post of prime minister following the 2006 parliamentary elections as a critical factor in Oleksander Moroz's decision to abandon the Orange forces to form the Anti-Crisis Coalition.

It is widely agreed that Ms. Tymoshenko deserved to become prime minister after her bloc outperformed Our Ukraine in those elections.

Mr. Poroshenko's bitter enmity with Ms. Tymoshenko is also blamed for ruining the Orange government in 2005, leading President Yushchenko to decide to dismiss his Cabinet of Ministers in September – a decision that decimated Our Ukraine politically.

Fedir Sphyh, 51, is Our Ukraine's other big shot. He is partner in Aval Bank who made a fortune from its 2005 sale to Austrian bank Raiffeisen International for about \$1 billion. Aval Bank was Ukraine's second largest at the time, and Mr. Sphyh's wealth is now estimated at \$305 million.

### Political scientists and spin-doctors

Ukraine's high-profile politicians all depend on the expert advice of political scientists and spin-doctors.

The closed party list electoral system in 2006 enabled the power brokers to reward their advisors with seats in Parliament, with Ms. Tymoshenko being the most generous.

In fact, political scientists Mykola Tomenko, 42, and Hryhorii Nemyria, 47,

have emerged as Ms. Tymoshenko's closest and most trusted advisors, aside from longtime ally Oleksander Turchynov.

Mr. Tomenko built his political career operating think-tanks such as Ukrainian Prospect Fund and the Institute of Post-Communist Society.

Having served as chair of the political science department at Kyiv Mohyla Academy for a year, Mr. Tomenko is now first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and is ranked third on the Tymoshenko Bloc list for pre-term elections.

A Donetsk native, Mr. Nemyria acquired vast international experience, having worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and the International Institute for International Studies in London. He served as vice-rector of the University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy between 1996 and 1998.

Other political scientists who became Tymoshenko Bloc national deputies include Dmytro Vydrin, 57, a former advisor to Mr. Kuchma and director of the European Institute for Integration and Development.

Volodymyr Polokhalo, 58, directed the Sociovymir Center for Sociological and Political Research that conducted many public opinion polls during the 2006 elections. His book, "Political Analysis of Post-Communism: Understanding Post-Communist Ukraine," was published in 1997 by Texas A&M University Press.

The Party of the Regions, meanwhile, rewarded its press secretaries, namely Yanukovich spokesperson Hanna Herman, 48, and Olena Bondarenko, 32, who served as Borys Kolesnikov's press secretary.

In unveiling its new list for the pre-term elections, Our Ukraine included the president's former press secretary, Iryna Heraschenko, who currently serves as president of UNIAN, a leading newswire in Ukraine, and Tetiana Mokridi, former party secretary.

### Family ties

Nepotism is as essential to Ukrainian politics as beets are to borsch.

Despite his attempts to east himself as a defender of Western standards and ideals, Mr. Yushchenko is among the politicians most guilty of nepotism. His brother Petro, 60, is a national deputy of the Our Ukraine bloc, while nephew Yaroslav has appeared on the list for pre-term elections.

Since Mr. Yushchenko is godfather to many children of national deputies, and his five children have national deputies as godparents, he earned a reputation as a practitioner of "kumism" ("kum" is the Ukrainian word for godfather).

His fellow parliamentary "kumy" include Mr. Poroshenko, Oksana Bilozir, Zhytomyr State Administration Chair Yuri Pavlenko, Zaporizhia State Oblast Administration Chair Yevhen Chervonenko, Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha, AZHIO Bank Administration Chair Stanislav Arzhevitin, as well as fuel and energy businessmen Oleksander Tretiakov and Mykola Martynenko.

Another kum qualifying for Our Ukraine's 2007 pre-term election lists is Ivan Pliusch, the chair of Ukraine's first Verkhovna Rada.

Presidential kums in competing parties include Tymoshenko Bloc Deputy Serhii Buriak and David Zhvania of Yuri Lutsenko's People's Self Defense Bloc, who retains close ties to Our Ukraine.

The Party of the Regions is not immune to nepotism either, as Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's very own son, Viktor, is a national deputy at the tender age of 25.

The junior Mr. Yanukovich's most distinct political effort was a campaign to support the Russian language becoming the state language through a national text-messaging poll.

### Celebrities

To make their bloc more attractive to voters, Our Ukraine resorted to including on its electoral lists celebrities who suddenly became politicians when they were elected.

Most notably, they were Ukrainian pop music sensation Ruslana Lyzhychko, 33, who consistently attended parliamentary sessions, and 1980s pop star Ms. Bilozir, 49, who served as minister of culture under Ms. Tymoshenko's government.

Olha Herasymiuk, 48, is a popular television talk show host who has emerged as a very active member of Our Ukraine, recently leading marches and demonstrations to the Constitutional Court. Her show, "Bez Tabu" (Without Taboos), is known for exposing the amusing and shocking aspects of Ukrainian society.

The celebrity formula appears to work for Our Ukraine, which revealed on April 16 that rock star Sviatoslav Vakarchuk has been added to the party list for pre-term elections.

While pop stars may attract votes in elections, it's the businessmen and political veterans that ultimately have the most influence in drafting and passing laws.

The five most influential deputies include those in the Ukrainian Parliament's first convocation in 1990, as well as newcomer Mr. Akhmetov, who decided to get involved in politics after maintaining a low-key image in Donetsk for years.

### Rynat Akhmetov, PRU

It's no coincidence that Ukraine's wealthiest man also happens to be its most influential member of Parliament. Mr. Akhmetov is the financial engine behind the Party of the Regions of Ukraine (PRU), as well as a key strategist, making the decision to break with Russian political technologists.

He is credited with recruiting American political technologists Paul Manafort and Richard Davis in refurbishing the PRU image after Mr. Yanukovich's loss in the 2004 presidential elections.

The Party of the Regions consists of two essential factions, led by Mr. Akhmetov and Mr. Yanukovich, political experts said. At least half of the PRU deputies are under Mr. Akhmetov's direct control, Mr. Syrotiuk said, many of whom are either his employees or business partners.

### Raisa Bohatyriova, PRU

Among Mr. Akhmetov's key operatives in Parliament is Raisa Bohatyriova, 54, the Party of the Region's parliamentary faction chair.

An ethnic Russian who earned a medical degree from the Kharkiv State Medical Institute, Ms. Bohatyriova is among a handful of deputies serving in the Ukrainian Parliament ever since its first convocation in 1990.

She is known from her humble background, working as a seamstress in the Kramatorsk Sewing Factory in the Donetsk Oblast when she was 17 years old. She eventually became a gynecologist and served as Ukraine's assistant health minister in 1994.

Ms. Bohatyriova was tapped to lead the parliamentary faction because she is among the few prominent PRU deputies whose biography is untainted by involvement in crime or corruption.

She also projects a positive, photogenic image in the media and is among the few PRU deputies who can speak eloquent Ukrainian for the television cameras.

### Oleksander Moroz, SPU

No other Ukrainian politician has managed to remain at the center of the political scene for as long as Oleksander Moroz, 63, who launched the Socialist Party of Ukraine (SPU) after the Communists were briefly outlawed.

Mr. Moroz changed the course of Ukrainian politics last year when he

decided his party would be better off forming a parliamentary coalition with Russian-oriented factions, rather than the parties he aligned himself with during the Orange Revolution.

He served as Verkhovna Rada chair between 1994 and 1998, and is believed to have agreed to joined the Anti-Crisis Coalition last July because it allowed him to return to the coveted, powerful post.

Under Mr. Moroz's leadership, the Verkhovna Rada is recognized for passing legislation that largely served the interests of Mr. Yanukovich and the Party of the Regions.

Most notable was the Cabinet of Ministers law passed in January, in which the Tymoshenko Bloc helped the coalition override the president's veto. The law significantly enhanced the authority of the Cabinet of Ministers at the expense of the Ukrainian presidency.

Under Mr. Moroz's leadership, the Cabinet of Ministers also postponed Ukraine's moratorium on the sale of agricultural land until January next year.

### Adam Martyniuk, CPU

A national deputy since 1998, Adam Martyniuk, 56, a member of the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU), has served as the Parliament's first vice-chairman since November 2003.

The lifelong Communist served as the party's assistant chairman for propaganda and agitation in Lviv during the 1980s.

In 1989 Mr. Martyniuk was elevated to lead the CPU's ideological division. He edited the newspaper, Communist, during the 1990s and served as the party's second secretary between 1995 and 2000.

Ever since the coalition began leading the Parliament in July, Mr. Moroz has delegated Mr. Martyniuk a far higher degree of responsibility in running its sessions than in the prior convocation.

Given his experience in the post, Mr. Martyniuk has honed the ability to abet or obstruct the passage of legislation through techniques such as setting or re-ordering a particular session's schedule or regimen.

"Martyniuk is among the authors of a new parliamentary regimen, and he knows how to manipulate it very well," said Mr. Syrotiuk, an observer of the Rada.

### Yulia Tymoshenko, YTB

The parliamentary opposition leader, Ms. Tymoshenko, 46, is Ukraine's most popular national deputy, drawing unparalleled recognition and support both nationally and internationally. She is also the national deputy with the most potential for being elected president, having served as prime minister in 2005.

In leading the opposition during the fifth convocation, Ms. Tymoshenko directed her deputies to resort to highly unconventional tactics in disrupting Parliament's activity.

They blockaded the rostrum on numerous occasions, cut electricity to the session hall and organized an all-night guard to blockade access to the electrical control unit to prevent the lights from being turned on again.

Ms. Tymoshenko's supporters said these tactics were the only way for the parliamentary coalition to take heed of the opposition's concerns, particularly regarding steep utility bill hikes. Her detractors said the tactics were public relations stunts that impede the peaceful, efficient functioning of legislature.

Most recently, her opponents accuse her of pressuring and manipulating President Yushchenko toward his decision to dismiss the Verkhovna Rada, which is expected to benefit her political force with a higher share of the vote in subsequent elections.

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Kyiv, Lviv, Karpaty, Prague  
June 27 - July 11

**MINI UKRAINE II**  
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# OUT AND ABOUT

- |                            |   |  |   |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| April 24<br>New York       | Meeting with national deputies of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukrainian National Home, 212-371-6965   | April 29<br>New York   | Spring Dances, featuring students of the dance schools sponsored by the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation and the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Washington Irving High School, 917-301-8355 or 215-822-5111 |
| April 24<br>Washington     | Conference, "The New Eastern Europe - Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova," Johns Hopkins University, 202-663-5730   | April 29<br>Whippany, NJ   | Art exhibit, sale and silent auction, sponsored by Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 75, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-376-7956 or 973-376-4829   |
| April 25<br>Whippany, NJ   | Wine, spirits and beer tasting fund-raiser for the Ukrainian American Youth Association and the Morris County Volleyball Club, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-479-8715 or 973-713-6956 | April 29<br>Lehighton, PA  | Easter luncheon - "Sviachene," Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-3709 or 610-377-4621  |
| April 25<br>Washington     | Film screening, "The Orange Chronicles" by Damian Kolodiy, George Washington University, 202-994-6240   | April 30<br>Cambridge, MA  | Lecture by George G. Grabowicz, "Ivan Franko's Reception of Shevchenko," Harvard University, 617-495-4053   |
| April 26<br>Winnipeg, MB   | Lecture with Denis Hlynka and Robert Klymasz, "Chornobyl: As Commemorated in North American Popular Songs," Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218   | May 2<br>Washington  | Recital with pianist Thoma Hrynkiw, National Gallery of Art, 202-737-4215   |
| April 26<br>New York       | "Post-World War II Polish-Ukrainian Relations: Remembering the 1947 Forced Relocation Campaign 'Akcja Wisla,'" Columbia University, 212-854-4697  | May 3, 6, 10<br>San Francisco  | Film screening, "Orange Revolution" by Steve York, San Francisco International Film Festival, Sundance Kabuki Cinema, <a href="http://www.orangerevolutionmovie.com">www.orangerevolutionmovie.com</a>                            |
| April 27<br>Chicago        | Concert, "An Evening with Young Bandurists: The Bandura, Unplugged," Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020  | May 4<br>Washington  | Spring Social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 703-548-8534 or 240-381-0993   |
| April 27<br>Washington     | Film screening, "The Orange Chronicles" by Damian Kolodiy, Johns Hopkins University, 202-994-6240   | May 5<br>Troy, NY  | Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church centennial concert featuring the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, 518-273-0038                                   |
| April 27<br>Washington     | Lecture by Vasyl Lopukh, "The Experience of Migration in Contemporary Ukraine - Trends and Statistics," Embassy of Ukraine, <a href="http://www.thewashingtongroup.org">www.thewashingtongroup.org</a>        | May 5<br>New York  | Lecture by Mark Stech, "Mykola Khvylioviy as a Mystic: in the Light of New Research," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   |
| April 28<br>Toronto        | 60th anniversary of "Akcja Wisla," Ukrainian Cultural Center, <a href="mailto:mjkret@rogers.com">mjkret@rogers.com</a>  | May 5<br>New York  | "Ukrainian Night," featuring readings and film screenings, Cornelia Street Café, 212-989-9319   |
| April 28<br>Winnipeg, MB   | Presentation by Sophia Kachor, "Ukrainian Ritual Breads and Korovai (wedding bread) Workshop," Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218  | May 5<br>Toronto   | Concert and Fun Fair for Families: "Kotiache Vesilia," Svitlychka Ukrainian Cooperative Nursery School, <a href="mailto:svitlychka@hotmail.com">svitlychka@hotmail.com</a>  |
| April 28<br>Whippany, NJ   | "Hrim Rocks the Center," dance with music by Hrim, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 862-754-6329 or 973-585-7175   | May 6<br>New York  | Concert, "Bandura - The Soul of Ukraine," Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 212-477-0729 or 917-559-8629  |
| April 28<br>Jenkintown, PA | Book presentation, "Ukrainians of Chicagoland" by Myron Kuropas, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166  | May 6<br>Philadelphia  | Reading and discussion by Irene Zabytko on film-in-progress "Life in the Dead Zone," Big Blue Mountain Bookstore, 215-844-1870 or 215-844-1066  |
| April 28<br>Whippany, NJ   | Ping-pong tournament, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-599-1836 or 973-585-7175  | May 6<br>Dickinson, ND   | Heritage Day, Ukrainian Cultural Institute, 701-483-1486  |
| April 28<br>New York       | Poetry reading, "Poetry Without Borders," featuring Valzhyna Mort and Vasyl Makhno, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   | May 7<br>Cambridge, MA   | Vasyl and Maria Petryshyn Memorial Lecture featuring Tatiana Tairova-Iakovleva, Harvard University, 617-495-4053  |
| April 28<br>Alexandria, VA | Vladimir Rosenblat performs with the Slavic Men's Chorus of Washington and the American Balalaika Symphony, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 703-351-1331                                  | <p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Please send e-mail to <a href="mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com">staff@ukrweekly.com</a>. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.</i></p> |   |
| April 28<br>Washington     | Art exhibit and sale, sponsored by Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 78, The Field School, 703-271-9672 or 301-854-2062   |  |   |
| April 28<br>New York       | "Celebrating Les Kurbas," presentations by Dr. Irena Makaryk and Virlana Tkacz, with a concert by Julian Kytasty and Bandura Downtown, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110                                     |  |   |
| April 29<br>Alexandria, VA | Ihor Leshchishin and Friends, sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund and the Embassy of Ukraine, The Lyceum, 202-244-8836  |  |   |

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# Soyuzivka's Datebook

## MONDAYS, June 25-August 27, 2007

Steak Night w/music by Soyuzivka House band located on Veselka Patio

## WEDNESDAYS, June 27-August 29, 2007

Hutsul Night w/music by Soyuzivka House band located on Vorochta Lawn

## FRIDAYS, June 29-August 31, 2007

Odesa Seafood Night w/music by Soyuzivka House band located on Veselka Patio

## SATURDAYS, June 30-September 1, 2007

Ukrainian Zabavas (dances) featuring a live Ukrainian band

### 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  
Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

### May 13, 2007

Mother's Day Luncheon 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., \$15++

### 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  
Weekend 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 15, 2007

Walkill High School Retirement Party

### June 15-17, 2007

4th Annual Adoptive Parents Weekend

### June 16, 2007

Party

### June 17, 2007

Father's Day Luncheon and program featuring Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, tenor Roman Tsybala and band Vidlunnia with Marian Pidvirnyj, 1 p.m., \$20++

### 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

### July 1-8, 2007

Plast Camp – Tabir Ptashat, Session #2

### July 1-15, 2007

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop, Ages 16 and up

### July 2-6, 2007

Exploration Day Camp, Session #2, ages 7-10

### July 6-8, 2007

Fourth of July Festivities  
Tiki Bar Entertainment, Concerts, Zabavas

### July 8-10, 2007

Discount Days, 25% off all room rates

### July 11-15, 2007

Ukrainian Film & Cultural Festival – featuring Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop, Ukrainian films coordinated by Yuri Shevchuk, founding director of UFCCU, Ukrainian arts and crafts, and more

### July 13-15, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion  
Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

### July 15-20, 2007

Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp, Session #1, ages 4-7

### July 15-21, 2007

Discovery Camp, ages 8-15

### July 22-27, 2007

Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp  
Session #2, ages 4-7

### July 22-28, 2007

SITCH Sports Camp, Session #1, ages 6-18

### July 27-29, 2007

Ukrainian Language Immersion  
Weekend offered at SUNY New Paltz

# PREVIEW OF EVENTS

## Monday, April 23

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by Michael Moser, associate professor, Institute of Slavic Studies, University of Vienna. His lecture, " 'Movo Ridna, Slovo Ridne': How the Galician Ruthenians Were Taught to Become Ukrainians," 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.

## Friday, April 27

**WASHINGTON:** The District of Columbia branches of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, and The Washington Group, under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, present a lecture by Vasyl Lopukh of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York, on "The Experience of Migration in Contemporary Ukraine: Trends and Statistics," to be held at 7 p.m. at the Embassy of Ukraine, 3350 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20007. The lecture will be delivered in Ukrainian. Donations are appreciated; refreshments will be available after the lecture. RSVP by calling 202-349-2977; for further information call 202-514-1822 (day).

## Friday, April 27, and Sunday, April 29

**PHILADELPHIA:** The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia will be hosting its Spring 2007 Art Show showcasing artists of Ukrainian ancestry. A wine and cheese reception for the participating artists will occur on Friday, April 27, at 7-9 p.m. in the club's hall. After the reception, musical entertainment will be provided in the downstairs club. Admission is free. The league will be participating in the Fairmount Arts Crawl on Sunday, April 29, at 2-6 p.m. The Arts Crawl is a community open house during which the entire Philadelphia Art Museum area becomes a showplace for local art and music. See <http://www.fairmountartscrawl.org/> for details. For information on the Ukrainian League and its programs call Ihor Bilynsky, 215-656-8521. The Ukrainian League of Philadelphia this year celebrates 90 years in the community; visit <http://www.ukiebar.com/> for more info.

## Saturday, April 28

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum in conjunction with its exhibition "Crossroads: Modernism in Ukraine, 1910-1930" and the Yara Arts Group will present a mini-festival, "Celebrating Les Kurbas," with two presentations about the innovative Ukrainian theater director. The first presentation, "On the World Stage: The Berezil in Paris and New York," will be given by Dr. Irena Makaryk of the University of Ottawa. Virlana Tkacz, artistic director of the Yara Arts Group, will follow with "A Light: Kurbas and His Theater Productions," a presentation and slideshow. The program begins at 3 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. Admission: \$15; \$13 members and seniors; \$10 students. Seating is limited; to reserve a place contact the museum, 212-228-0110.

**WASHINGTON:** Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) Branch 78 invites the public to the "Choose Your Muse" spring art exhibit and sale featuring the works of 11 women artists. Choose from oils, watercolors, pottery, tiles, mixed media and photography. Participating artists: Krystyna Marchak-Baransky, Andrea Cybyk, Irene Fedyshyn, Natalia Gawdiak, Chrystyna Kinal, Natalia Kormeliuk, Marta Legeckis, Christina Saj, Natalia Sluzar, Ilona Sochynsky and Martha Hirniak-Voyevodka. The one-day only exhibit, sale and reception will be held at 2-8 p.m. Address: The Field School, 2301 Foxhall Road NW, Washington, DC 20007. Admission: dona-

tions welcomed. Proceeds to benefit the charitable, educational and cultural endeavors undertaken by UNWLA Inc. For information call Tania Terleckyj, 703-271-9672, or Sophia Caryk, 301-854-2062.

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a Ukrainian-Belarusian poetry reading titled "Poetry Without Borders," featuring Valzhyna Mort and Vasyl Makhno. Ms. Mort is a Belarusian poetess, prose writer and translator. She is the author of a collection of poetry titled "Ya Tonenkaya yak Tvaye Vyeiki" (Minsk: Lohvinau, 2005) and a laureate at the International Festival of Literature "Vilenica – 2004." Her poetry and prose have been translated into the English, Bulgarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, German, Polish and Ukrainian languages. Since 2005 she has been living in Washington. Dr. Makhno is a Ukrainian poet, essayist and translator. He is the author of six collections of poems, the latest of which is "38 Poems About New York and Some Other Things" (Kyiv, Krytyka, 2004). The poems and essays of Dr. Makhno have been translated into Polish, English, German, Serbian, Romanian, Slovenian, Russian, Lithuanian and Malayalam. He has been living in New York since 2000. 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.

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum invites you to attend two special events in conjunction with its exhibition "Crossroads: Modernism in Ukraine, 1910-1930." At 3 p.m., there will be a mini-festival celebrating Les Kurbas, with presentations by Dr. Irena Makaryk and Virlana Tkacz. Admission: \$15; members and seniors, \$13; students, \$10. At 7:30 p.m., in "Echoes of Ukrainian Modernism," Julian Kytasty and the New York Bandura Ensemble will feature contemporary compositions and improvisations, interspersed with poetry in translation inspired by the great explosion of modern Ukrainian culture in the 1920s. Admission: \$15; members and seniors, \$13; students, \$10. Join us at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. Refreshments will be served. For reservations call 212-228-0110 or e-mail [info@ukrainianmuseum.org](mailto:info@ukrainianmuseum.org).

## Sunday, April 29

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.:** The Washington Group Cultural Fund, under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, invites the public to a "Sunday Music Series" concert: "Igor Leschishin and Friends." Mr. Leschishin, the principal oboe of the Washington National Opera, will be joined by five of his musician friends (viola, violin, cello, piano and bassoon) who will perform a program of music by Mozart, Poulenc and Kalliwoda. Venue: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Time: 3 p.m. Seating is unreserved; suggested donation: \$20. For more information call 202-244-8836.

## Monday, April 30

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute will host a lecture given by George G. Grabowicz, Dmytro Cyzevskiy Professor of Ukrainian Literature, Harvard University. His lecture, "Ivan Franko's Reception of Shevchenko," 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.

## Monday, May 7

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute is pleased to

(Continued on page 16)



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